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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARNAHAN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 27, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RUSS CARNAHAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL COMPETING IN THE WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZENS AND THE CONSTITUTION NATIONAL FINALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to acknowledge an accomplished, dedicated group of students from my district. They are from Mount Carmel School on the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, and they're here in Washington participating in the 22nd We the People: The Citizens and the Constitution National Finals. The program is funded by Congress through the Education for Democracy Act and administered by the Center For Civic Education, based in Los Angeles and in Washington.

Each year high school students around the Nation take part in a rigorous course of study to prepare themselves for We the People. One thousand one hundred of them earned the right to come to Washington for the finals, which began over the weekend, by competing against other schools in their congressional districts and States. Today the top 10 groups compete in the championship round right here in the Cannon House Office Building.

In the competition, students serve as expert witnesses, testifying on constitutional issues as if in a congressional hearing. They are scored on their opening statements and on their answers to follow-up questions.

Yesterday I heard these students speak with knowledge and insight about our Constitution and Bill of Rights. They were impressively well versed in the historical and philosophical antecedents of these profound documents, and they were able to field the most complex questions on these issues from panels of State Supreme Court justices, university scholars, attorneys and journalists.

The Mount Carmel students earned the right to represent the Northern Mariana Islands by competing against other schools in my congressional district. They succeeded because they worked together and because each one of them gave their individual best for their team.

I'd like to recognize them by name. Alfred Acosta, Kevin Bautista, Jalayne Benavente, Keolester Buenpacifico, Armalen Cabreros, Lourence Camacho, Cedie Chan, Augustine Chang, Hazel Doctor, Chiaki Hirosawa, Kevin Kim, Su Yoon Lee, Daniel Macario, Ryan Ortizo, Vanessa Sablan, Keno San Pablo, Jonathan Sanchez, Louise Villagomez, Rita Villagomez, A. Ram Yoo.

I'd also like to acknowledge their teacher, Mr. Rosiky Camacho, their attorney coaches Joaqin Deleon Guerrero Torres, Judy Deleon Guerrero Torres, Vince Deleon Guerrero Torres and their coordinator Mr. Alfred Ada.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge an accomplished and dedicated group of students from my district.

They are from Mount Carmel School on the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands; and they are here in Washington participating in the 22nd We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals. The program is funded by Congress through the Education for Democracy Act and administered by the Center for Civic Education, based in Los Angeles and Washington.

Each year high school students around the Nation take part in a rigorous course of study to prepare themselves for We the People. 1,100 of them earn the right to come to Washington for the finals, which began over the weekend, by competing against other schools in their congressional district and States. Today, the top 10 groups compete in the Championship Round right here in the Cannon House Office Building.

At the closing banquet this evening Vermont Senator PATRICK LEAHY will be honored with the 2009 Dale E. Kildee Civitas Award for his contributions to the field of civic education.

In the competition students serve as expert witnesses testifying on constitutional issues as if at a Congressional hearing. They are scored on their opening statements and on their answers to follow-up questions.

Yesterday, I heard these Mt. Carmel students speak with knowledge and insight about our Constitution and Bill of Rights. They were impressively well-versed in the historical and philosophical antecedents of these profound documents. And they were able to field the most complex questions on these issues from panels of State Supreme Court Justices, university scholars, attorneys, and journalists.

The Mt. Carmel students earned the right to represent the Northern Mariana Islands by

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competing against other schools in my congressional district on February 14. They succeeded because they worked together and because each of them gave their individual best for their team.

I'd like to recognize them by name:

Alfred Acosta
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Jalayne Benavente
Keolester Buenpacifico
Armalen Cabreros
Lourence Camacho
Cedie Chan
Augustine Chang
Hazel Doctor
Chiaki Hirosawa
Kevin Kim
Su Yoon (Karen) Lee
Daniel Macario
Ryan Ortizo
Vanessa Sablan
Keno San Pablo
Jonathan Sanchez
Louise Villagomez
Rita Villagomez
A. Ram Yoo

I'd also like to acknowledge their teacher Mr. Rosiky Camacho; their attorney-coaches Joaquin Dlg. Torres, Judy Dlg. Torres, and Vince Dlg. Torres; and their coordinator Mr. Alfred Ada.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Lord God of covenant love, Your light brightens our day and presents new opportunities to serve You in faith and serve this Nation with freedom.

Grant the Members of Congress penetrating peace and patient understanding of family life and the problems facing this Nation.

Help all of us to embrace our limitations, and yet never lose hope to marshal the forces within us and the powers You give us to establish a new order of personal dignity and integrity and world security that will give You glory, both now and forever.

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 Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FLEMING 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 24, 2009, at 10:01 a.m.:

That the Senate disagrees to the amendment of the House; agrees to Conference and appoints conferees S. Con. Res. 13.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 101.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 86.

Appointments:

Senate National Security Working Group.

Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, The Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 27, 2009, at 9:39 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 586.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

PRESIDENT OBAMA SHOULD REMEMBER WE ARE FOUNDED ON FAITH

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

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I was very disturbed to read about the administration's request to cover up a monogram symbolizing the name of Jesus at a recent speech given by President Obama at Georgetown University. The White House justified this by saying they asked for all symbols to be covered up at the lecture hall; however, this was the only one clearly visible near him during the speech. The covered monogram ''IHS'' comes from the Greek for Jesus and was covered with a black triangle of plywood.

I join my fellow Christians in expressing my outrage at this request. This administration has no problem spending money imprinted with the phrase ''In God We Trust''—and parenthetically, above us here is the words ''In God We Trust''—but won't have our President speak with any symbol of Christ in public view. We begin each day in this Chamber with a prayer, and clearly visible in the House is the same phrase I mentioned before.

With our country having such problems, people turn to faith for help in this time of uncertainty, as they should. This country was founded on the solid principles of Judeo-Christian ethics. Why should our President cover this important symbol of our heritage and values?

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF CORPORAL WILLIAM CRAIG COMSTOCK

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young man beloved by his family, friends, and his community. I rise to remember Corporal William Craig Comstock of the United States Marine Corps, who was taken from us while honorably serving our country in Iraq.

Craig grew up in the Third District of Arkansas, going to Cedarville High School and graduating from Alma High School. He made a big impression on his classmates. On a Facebook page created in his honor, one friend wrote, ''I can't stress enough that you changed my life. You are such an inspiration to me.''

Craig is an inspiration to all of us. He was raised in a single-parent home and later in foster homes, but he has always had the drive to succeed.

Craig joined the Marine Corps in January of 2007 and was trained as an ammunition technician. He volunteered to go back to Iraq after being shot while deployed there earlier in his career.

Madam Speaker, at the young age of 21, Craig made a tremendous sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

TOO MUCH SPENDING

(Mr. CHAFFETZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Just a few weeks ago, the Democrats slammed through a $1 trillion stimulus bill by scaring the American people, by declaring that the economy would collapse without it. This so-called ''recovery plan'' grew government and not jobs. It created 33 new Federal programs and gave record money to 73 other Federal programs. Forgotten in this mix is the American taxpayer.

A few days ago, the President, in his first Cabinet meeting, asked his administration to find $100 million—that's million with an ''m''—in savings. So the President asked for and got $1 trillion and now wants to save $100 million. How much is $1 trillion? If you spent $1 million a day every day, it would take you nearly 3,000 years to get to $1 trillion.

The Federal Government spends $100 million every 13 minutes. Our government cannot be all things to all people. We have got to stop running this government on a credit card. I urge my colleagues to find ways to cut spending. And remember, it is the American taxpayers' money, not Congress' money, not the government's money.

THE WISDOM OF WASHINGTON

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, this week we will see the 2009 budget coming before Congress for a final vote. In the wisdom that only the City of Washington, D.C., can bestow, this budget borrows record-setting sums, raises taxes, and spends taxpayer money at an unprecedented clip. This so-called wisdom produced a budget that places our children and grandchildren in a state of perpetual servitude to the national debt and is a perverse sort of wisdom indeed.

This reality brings to mind something that Thomas Jefferson penned in 1781. He said that ''every government degenerates when trusted to the rulers of the people alone. The people themselves, therefore, are its only safe depositories.''

The current conventional wisdom in Washington of borrowing and spending doesn't work for American families, and it won't work for the Federal Government.

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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACCIDENT OF SS SULTANA

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 329) recognizing the anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution, as amended.

The text of the resolution, as amended, is as follows:

H. RES. 329

Whereas the explosion of the SS Sultana on April 27, 1865, is considered the worst maritime disaster in American history;

Whereas the steamboat ship SS Sultana exploded on the Mississippi River 7 miles north of Memphis, Tennessee, at 2:00 a.m.;

Whereas roughly 1,800 of the 2,400 passengers lost their lives in the tragedy;

Whereas 2,000 passengers on the SS Sultana at the time of the explosion were Union prisoners of war recently released from the Confederate Andersonville and Cahaba Prison Camps in Alabama;

Whereas several of the former prisoners of war were suffering from disease and extreme malnutrition caused by the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions at the prison camps;

Whereas the explosion was presumed to have been caused by a defective boiler trying to overcome the current of the Mississippi River;

Whereas the enormous loss of life was attributed to an overcrowded vessel caused in part by poor oversight on behalf of the Union commanding officers responsible for the release of the prisoners of war;

Whereas up to 300 of the initial survivors of the explosion later died from burns, hypothermia, or exposure;

Whereas then Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton stated in his annual report for 1865 that the loss of ''over 1200 officers and soldiers—a loss greatly increased . . . by an improper and unnecessary overloading of the boat'';

Whereas only one of the several individuals responsible for the conditions of the steamer or the overcrowding of the vessel which contributed to the tragedy and large loss of life was ever prosecuted; and

Whereas the disaster received little attention in the newspapers or magazines of the time and is scarcely remembered today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 144-year anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana;

(2) honors the memory of the soldiers and passengers who lost their lives in this disaster;

(3) regrets the lack of military and civilian oversight that led to the explosion and tremendous loss of life; and

(4) rededicates itself to honoring all our veterans and military families with the highest level of support in quality resources, equipment and services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, American history is a rich one when it comes to the Civil War. Unfortunately, not all events are known or remembered as they ought to be, and the tragic story of the Steamboat Sultana, lost April 27, 1865, is one of those events. Books can tell us the story today.

Retelling the story one night in 1994, author Jerry Potter, as an after-dinner speaker on a modern Mississippi riverboat, brought to life the events of his 1992 book, ''The Sultana Tragedy: America's Greatest Maritime Disaster.''

Each of the attendees, including me, at that very warm and comfortable banquet that night felt the horror as we realized survivors and bodies alike floated and bobbed down this very same Mississippi River on April 27, 1865, the same place that we were bobbing and having dinner that night. This is Potter's book.

Years later, other books have appeared. In 1996, ''Disaster on the Mississippi: The Sultana Explosion, April 27, 1865.'' In 2009, just in the last few months, ''Sultana: Surviving the Civil War Prison and the Worst Maritime Disaster in American History,'' by Alan Huffman. ''The Sultana Tragedy,'' Jerry Potter's book, is printed by the Pelican Press, ''Disaster on the Mississippi'' by the Naval Institute Press, and the most recent book, ''Sultana,'' by the Smithsonian Press.

Today, April 27, is another anniversary of these events. But why do most of us know more about the Titanic than the Sultana, even though more died in the Sultana? The end of a horrific war a few weeks before; the assassination of Lincoln, his death; a new President; April 26, the night before the Sultana sank, John Wilkes Booth was killed; a war-weary Nation trying to move on, tired of years of carnage. And one sad detail; most onboard the Sultana were not prominent like some of the folks on the Titanic. Most were enlisted Union soldiers recently released from the hells of POW camps. As Jerry Potter says, ''Who remembers the steerage passengers aboard the Titanic?'' I do want to point out there was one prominent American onboard the Sultana, U.S. Senate-elect from Arkansas, William D. Snow.

Now, there were certainly people on the east coast at that time that would say the same thing Jerry Potter said, ''Who remembers the steerage passengers aboard the Titanic?'' And so today we remind America and ourselves with this resolution, and today in Memphis, right now a ceremony of remembrance is taking place.

So what story needs to be told? What was the Sultana? This picture was the last picture of this boat, and for many of the people who we see onboard this ship right now, it was the last photograph that was ever taken of them before their death.

The Sultana was an 1863 paddle-wheeled steamboat, modern and tough, built to handle the Mississippi River at flood stage day or night. Contracted in April 1865 to haul sick, emaciated, weakened Union prisoners of war who had been in the prisoner of war camps at Andersonville and Cahawba. And to give you a sense of how weak and emaciated they were, many of these men had lost up to 100 pounds of weight. The pictures of them coming out of the camp were comparable to what we saw coming out of the death camps in Europe at the end of that war.

The boat was built to handle approximately 400 people; it was loaded with perhaps 2,500. There were allegations of bribery amongst the steamboat companies trying to get government businesses. There were allegations of poor-quality repair work done in Memphis. The whole issue of whether it was overcrowded or overloaded continues to be one that is discussed by historians, the difference being if something is overcrowded doesn't necessarily mean that the ship can't handle the weight. And that was certainly the case with the Steamboat Sultana; it could handle the weight.

□ 1415

The other side of that argument is, as you can tell from this picture, with all the folks on top, it became top heavy, and there is one school of thought that says because it was so top heavy, in fact, as the boat would careen back and forth in the flood stage of the Mississippi, it would have affected the shifting waters in the boilers that may have led to the boilers blowing.

At approximately 11 p.m. the night of April 26, it left Memphis. It went across the Mississippi River that at that point was about 4 miles wide at flood stage. It went to Hopefield, Arkansas, got a load of coal, pushed out into the river. And when it was about 7 miles north of Memphis in the river at 2 a.m., the boilers blew. It was described as this thunderous, thunderous noise that was heard for miles, and thus begins the horror. And, of course, there were no photographs, no on-site CNN news. What we see are depictions of drawings of people trying to put together the recollections of survivors about what it looked like. This is, by the way, the cover of the most recent book by Alan Huffman, and that's the drawing that's on the cover of his book.

But thus begins the horror: death and injury by explosion and crash, death and injury by scalding from the boilers, death and injury by fire that went on for hours, death and injury by drowning. These were weak, emaciated people who did not know how to swim or were too weak to swim even if they knew how to swim, in very cold waters coming from the north. This was April 27, springtime. The river was at flood stage, and those waters were cold waters coming from the north. Death and injury by hypothermia, death and injury weeks and months later by complications of infection and other medical challenges of those weakened by war who were unable to fight injury. The boat had one lifeboat and it had 76 cork life preservers.

There were probably about 1,800 dead. We will never know for sure. Most of the Union POWs were from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee. There were many volunteers along the shore or on boats that participated in picking up survivors and bodies. One of those was John Fogleman and his sons, Dallas and Leroy, from Arkansas. They built a raft of two logs and rescued people, six and nine at a time, and then their home was turned into a temporary hospital. The Fogleman family is still very much in Arkansas and active in public affairs.

Investigations began immediately, but the survivors were never satisfied that their story was ever told.

Probably the best description of the summary of why we need to remember this comes from the Jerry Potter book. He says: ''To say that the explosion on board the Sultana was purely accidental or unpreventable does not take into account the irresponsible conduct and criminal negligence that characterized the actions of an entire chain of army command and the profit-making schemes of various civilians. The Sultana tragedy is much more than a record of a steamboat. The deeper record is one of greed and the lengths to which men will go to achieve personal gain, even if that gain means endangering the lives of others.'' And that's the end of the quote from Jerry Potter's book ''The Sultana Tragedy.''

March 4, 1931, a man named Pleasant Keeble died. He was the last known Sultana survivor. So now we no longer learn from the survivors. We learn from Civil War historians and maritime and military scholars. Today we remember a little bit and today we resolve ourselves a little. And the resolve part of our resolution today says the following:

''Resolved, that the House of Representatives, one, recognizes the 144-year anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana; two, honors the memory of the soldiers and passengers who lost their lives in this disaster; three, regrets the lack of military and civilian oversight that led to the explosion and tremendous loss of life; and, four, rededicates itself to honoring all our veterans and military families with the highest level of support in quality resources, equipment and services.''

This is one of those stories, Madam Speaker. It's a rich part of American history. Unfortunately, it is not as well-known as it could be. We have not learned the lessons from these events as well as we could. I commend this resolution to the Members of the House to vote on today and to vote for this resolution to help in remembering.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to thank my colleague from across the aisle, Dr. SNYDER from Arkansas, who also is a physician. He's interested in this very interesting topic and the passage of this very important resolution, H. Res. 329.

I rise in support of House Resolution 329, recognizing the anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana, which occurred 144 years ago today.

Madam Speaker, on April 27, 1865, the SS Sultana, a Mississippi River steam-powered paddle wheeler, exploded and sank just north of Memphis in the early hours of the morning. There were 2,400 souls aboard when the ship's boilers exploded, blowing the overcrowded steamboat apart and sending scores of helpless passengers into the vast currents of the Mississippi River. Tragically, over 1,800 individuals lost their lives in what is now known to be the worst maritime disaster in the United States. And by comparison the Titanic, which, of course, sank many years later, lost 1,500 lives, and, of course, that's something that we have memorialized for many years. It's even worse than Shiloh when 1,700 lives were lost in 1 day.

The Sultana had frequently been contracted by the War Department to carry troops up and down the river. On the day of the accident, its precious cargo was nearly 2,000 Union prisoners and additional troops who had recently been released from the Confederate prison camps at the infamous Andersonville and Cahawba. And, as I say, 300 or so of these were Active Duty personnel along with the prisoners. This boat was legally registered to carry only 376 personnel, and as you can see, it was about eight times overloaded.

The SS Sultana left New Orleans, and during a routine stop at Vicksburg, the former prisoners, who were anxious to start their journey home, had crowded on board the steamboat in numbers far above its normal capacity. While the boat was at Vicksburg, it was discovered that the boilers were leaking.

And, parenthetically, I have to mention that there were tremendous incentives on both sides to overcrowd this boat. First of all, the ship captains received $5 per head, which was quite a bit of money in those days. And the Army officers got a $1.15 kickback. And, of course, the soldiers were just out of Andersonville. They were tired. They wanted to go home. So everyone was obviously in favor of getting this boat underway. Quick repairs were

made. However, it was more or less patchwork rather than true repairs.

Madam Speaker, as the Sultana sailed past Memphis, a combination of disastrous circumstances, including poorly maintained boilers, the powerful current on the Mississippi, and the overcrowded conditions, led to the catastrophic explosion. Thankfully, hundreds of the passengers survived primarily through the help of other steamboats in the area that rushed to the scene. Most remarkable was the willingness of the good people of Memphis to help the injured Union soldiers, who just weeks before had been their enemy.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, although this was an enormous disaster in American history, it remains relatively unknown because, remember, this happened in April 1865, a very special month. What happened in that month? Well, on April 9 the Appomattox surrender occurred. Then President Lincoln was assassinated. Then on April 26 John Wilkes Booth was arrested. And then, finally, General Johnson surrendered and Jefferson Davis was arrested. So you can well see how such a remarkable tragedy found itself in the back pages of the local newspapers.

With that in mind, it is fitting today for all of us Americans to remember the tragic loss of over 1,800 souls on the SS Sultana that happened so many years ago, and I, therefore, strongly urge all Members to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, at this time I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for a closing statement.

Madam Speaker, this, as I said, is a remarkable event in history, and, quite frankly, until recently I was unaware of it, and I, among many others, am a Civil War buff. And it happened between my two home States, Louisiana and Mississippi. So I appreciate very much that this has been brought to light and that we can learn more about it and certainly recognize it for the future.

I do want to point out, however, that this turned out to be an example to some extent of unfettered greed; that is, that there was no control over the captain of the ship as well as Army officers. They were in it for profit, and I think they took advantage of the poor Union soldiers who were coming out of desperate situations and so desperately wanted to go home. So I think that's a lesson we can learn for the future, that we need to put our own individual interests at hand and look out for the better good of all.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SNYDER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of my colleague on this event.

These House resolutions, we know today that we're not passing a statute, we're not changing a law, we're not creating a memorial. What we are trying to do is call attention to what we believe is a very significant event in our Nation's history. And to the families and relatives of the folks who were lost or survived the sinking of the Sultana, to the day they died, they regretted that their country did not pay more attention to what happened. So there are lessons to be learned.

As we are doing this right now on the floor of the House, in Memphis there is an event going on recognizing this event. I want to call attention to my colleague, Congressman STEVE COHEN, as a cosponsor of our resolution from Memphis.

So it is just another thing that we can do to say, hey, America, there is something to learn from our rich, rich history from an event that we all may not know enough about as we would like. And I commend the books that I mentioned to folks and to seek out opinions about what occurred on April 27, the anniversary today, in 1865 on the Mississippi River just north of Memphis.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 329, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SNYDER. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 335) supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 335

Whereas National Volunteer Week will be observed during the week of April 19 through April 25, 2009;

Whereas National Volunteer Week honors the nationwide impact of volunteers in every day American communities;

Whereas the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week is ''Celebrating People in Action'', which recognizes individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities;

Whereas National Volunteer Week has been an annual celebration since 1974 and every President since that time has signed a proclamation honoring National Volunteer Week;

Whereas many State and local officials from around the country have actively engaged their communities in celebrating National Volunteer Week;

Whereas data from the Corporation for National and Community Service shows that 61,803,000 volunteers dedicated 8,003,840,108 hours of service to community organizations in 2008;

Whereas volunteers can play a critical role in helping struggling nonprofit organizations with fundraising, directing services to individuals and communities in need, and other skill-based assistance;

Whereas nonprofit organizations are reporting an increase in the number of inquiries from both baby boomers and young people who are ready to serve our Nation;

Whereas ''Celebrating People in Action'' is the recognition that every citizen can make a difference in their community by taking action through activities like building a ramp to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities, tutoring a child struggling to read, serving food at a homeless shelter, assisting the unemployed with job readiness skills, and many other services; and

Whereas National Volunteer Week provides a moment in time to honor all those who serve locally, nationally and internationally to change lives, rejuvenate communities, and embody the best of the American spirit of responsibility and civic engagement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week;

(2) recognizes the critical role of our national and community service programs;

(3) honors the contributions of all those hard-working American volunteers who make a difference in their communities every day of the year; and

(4) invites all Americans to answer the call to serve through volunteerism in any form.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise, extend and insert extraneous materials on House Resolution 335 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 335, which supports the ideals and goals of National Volunteer Week. People who volunteer and engage in community service play a vital role in neighborhoods across the country. National Volunteer Week invites all Americans to give back to the community in some form of service.

Last week, President Obama signed into law the Edward M. Kennedy Serve

America Act. The law recognizes the necessary role volunteerism and service play in our country and creates 175,000 new service opportunities over the next several years. Through four new service corps, the Serve America Act will engage volunteers to work in their communities in the areas of health, education, green work and programs to support veterans and their families.

Today, more than 400,000 individuals have volunteered through AmeriCorps, one of the largest national service programs working in local communities across the Nation. Whether it's tutoring children in after-school programs, cleaning up parks or serving food to the homeless, volunteers answer unmet needs by partnering with nonprofit organizations, schools, faith-based and community agencies to volunteer their services in local communities. Amazingly, seniors working as part of the Senior Corps have generated more than 1 billion volunteer service hours.

Schools are also working to increase service opportunities in the communities. More than 1 million high school students participate in service-learning programs in their schools.

On a national level, volunteers have helped America alleviate some of its most pressing problems. During 9/11, millions of volunteers responded in our country's time of need through their churches, schools and oftentimes as individuals wanting to help their neighbor. More recently, over 80,000 volunteers traveled to Fargo, North Dakota, to fill sandbags, strengthen levees and help flood victims evacuate their homes. When the call is sounded, this Nation's citizens rally together to begin the rebuilding that is needed.

National Volunteer Week recognizes the critical role volunteers play in their communities. This week honors their hard work and contributions.

I want to thank Congressman PLATTS for bringing this resolution forward and reminding us of the importance of volunteerism.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 335, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week. Throughout the history of the United States, Americans have valued an ethic of service. Citizens have come together to support our troops, educate our children or work to ensure that less fortunate individuals have a place to live.

All of these activities support the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week, ''Celebrating People in Action.'' This week gives us an opportunity to recognize those individuals who serve their country, not only through the military or through national service programs run by the Corporation for National and Community Service, but also those individuals who are donating their time to serve their local communities.

Just last week our President signed the latest reauthorization of the national service programs. This bill was crafted through a bipartisan process in both the House and the Senate and builds on the reforms and the corporations stated by the previous administration to ensure additional accountability in national service programs. The bill will help smaller organizations participate in national service and ensure that the unique skills of America's veterans are utilized.

Volunteerism is a way for Americans to connect to their communities, learn more about the problems facing their communities and to simply make a difference.

This week we salute all volunteers and national service program participants for their powerful impact, and we thank all community partners who make these efforts possible and bring more Americans into service.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. MATSUI and Mr. PRICE for introducing this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 335, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week". I would like to thank my colleague TODD PLATTS for introducing this legislation. H. Res 335 moves to observe the week of April 19 through April 25, 2009 as National Volunteer Week.

President Obama throughout his campaign for President and through the first 100 days of his administration has sent a steady reminder to the American people that the Government cannot solve all of their problems for them. He has encouraged Americans to get out and try to impact their own communities through acts of volunteerism. The President himself along with the help of former President Clinton and local D.C. children were seen planting trees for earth day. The first lady along with multiple spouses of congressional members has volunteered in multiple kitchens serving food to members of the community. This administration is showing clear signs that it is not only going to call upon the American people for action, but are clearly prepared to join them in their own community.

Just last week, President Obama and this new administration took another giant step toward encouraging and helping the American people to be active in their communities with the passage of, "The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act". This landmark law recruits an army of 250,000 per year to engage in intensive service, and it focuses its work on today's challenges, including clean energy, education, health, veterans care, and economic opportunity. It creates new service opportunities for seniors, baby boomers, and young adults, and improves service learning in our schools. The law also creates a Social Innovation Fund. This fund looks for new ideas in communities and leverages private, nonprofit, and faith based support to invest in local innovation. The fund also allows us to test the impact of new ideas and expand successful programs to scale. Volunteering provides the opportunity to join and better a community. Every American who volunteers can become an integral part of a school, a hospital, or a neighborhood. Those who give their time, join our Nation's proud history of service and helps preserve this tradition for generations ahead. During National Volunteer Week, we express heartfelt thanks to all who have worked hard in this effort, and we urge more Americans to reach out and meet the manifold unmet needs of fellow Americans.

Many events are planned around the nation, including numerous in the Houston area. I urge all Americans especially those living in the 18th Congressional district to participate in this national week of service. Madam Speaker I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 335, observing the week of April 19–25 as National Volunteer Week. Also I urge all Americans to get out and participate in the many volunteer opportunities to take place across the nation.

Mr. PETRI. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I also encourage all my colleagues to support House Resolution 335.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 335.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 344) commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 344

Whereas, on April 7, 2009, the University of Connecticut Huskies defeated the University of Louisville Cardinals 76 to 54 in the final game of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas the Huskies were undefeated with a record of 39–0, defeating each of their opponents by more than double digits;

Whereas the Huskies were undefeated for the third time since 1994–1995;

Whereas the Huskies have won 6 national titles, second most in NCAA Division I women's basketball history;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore was chosen as the Naismith Award winner,

Wooden Award Winner, State Farm Wade Trophy Winner, United States Basketball Writers Association player of the year, and Associated Press player of the year;

Whereas senior Point Guard Renee Montgomery was chosen as the Nancy Lieberman award winner given to the Nation's top point guard;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles were chosen as State Farm First Team All-Americans;

Whereas junior center Tina Charles was chosen as the Women's Final Four Most Valuable Player;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles were chosen as members of the Final Four First All Tournament Team;

Whereas coach Geno Auriemma was chosen as the Associated Press Coach of the Year;

Whereas the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball program has a 100 percent graduation rate among 4-year players, representing the team's commitment to achievement in the classroom as well as on the court;

Whereas each player, coach, athletic trainer, and staff member of the University of Connecticut Huskies dedicated their season and their tireless efforts to their perfect record and the NCAA championship; and

Whereas residents of Connecticut and Huskies fans worldwide are to be commended for their longstanding support, perseverance, and pride in this team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Huskies' victory; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of Connecticut President Michael Hogan and head coach Geno Auriemma for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise, extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 344 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to congratulate the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team for their victory in the 2009 NCAA Division I tournament.

On April 7, women's basketball fans were treated to an exceptional game as the University of Connecticut defeated the University of Louisville. UConn battled through six ties and seven lead changes on their way to a comfortable 76–54 victory over third-seed Louisville, capping an undefeated 39–0 season for the Huskies.

The 22-point victory was the second largest in an NCAA women's basketball championship game, and solidified the Huskies as the only women's team in the NCAA Division I history, men's or women's, to win every game of the season by 10 points or more.

Louisville, finishing second to UConn in the Big East Conference Tournament, and regular season as well, had a remarkable season of its own. The Cardinals finished the season 34–5, ranked as the number two team in the Nation. The Cardinals knocked off two number one seeds in their notable run to the NCAA championship game and spent much of the season ranked in the top 10.

I want to extend my congratulations to Head Coach Geno Auriemma, who led the Huskies to their sixth national championship during his tenure and was named the Naismith Coach of the Year for the sixth time. Since arriving at UConn in 1985, Coach Auriemma has led the Huskies to 13 seasons with 30 or more wins. Associate Head Coach Chris Dailey and Assistant Coaches Jamelle Elliott and Shea Ralph round out the coaching team.

Congratulations are also noted for Tina Charles of Jamaica, New York, and Renee Montgomery of St. Albans, West Virginia. Charles, who scored 25 points and pulled down 19 rebounds in the championship game, was named the most outstanding player of the Final Four. Montgomery received the Honda Award, which designates the Nation's top female athlete in basketball.

This remarkable season adds another victory to UConn's storied history in NCAA women's basketball. The University of Connecticut women's basketball program is known for excellence. Almost annually the Huskies are expected to and do serve as legitimate basketball championship contenders.

I would like to thank my fellow committee member, Joe Courtney, for bringing this resolution to the floor. Once again, I congratulate the University of Connecticut for their success, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today to join in supporting House Resolution 344, commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

On April 7 of this year, the University of Connecticut Huskies defeated the University of Louisville Cardinals 76–54 in the final game of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri, to capture the school's sixth national title. In the season, the Huskies remained undefeated with a record of 39–0, defeating each of their opponents by double digits.

The Huskies' success was, in large part, due to the outstanding play of senior point guard Renee Montgomery and sophomore forward Maya Moore. Montgomery was chosen as the Nancy Lieberman Award winner given to the Nation's top point guard, and Moore was chosen as the Naismith Award winner, Wooden Award winner, State Farm Wade Trophy winner, United States Basketball Writers Association Player of the Year and Associated Press Player of the Year.

While these two players were recognized for their outstanding play, the championship run was a shining example of teamwork. The national accolades bestowed upon this team can only be attributed to Head Coach Geno Auriemma. Coach Auriemma has refined the meaning of success in college basketball in his 23 years as head coach of UConn.

During his illustrious tenure, Coach Auriemma has transformed the University of Connecticut program into the standard that all others are measured by, both on and off the court. Under his guidance, the Huskies have been transformed from a program with only one winning record to its credit to its current state, which includes six national championships, nine Final Fours and 16 Big East regular season and 14 Big East tournament titles since his arrival in 1985.

While athletic success is what brings us here today, we should take time to highlight academics as well. The University of Connecticut is the State's flagship institution of higher learning. It was founded in 1881 as the Storrs Agricultural School and became the University of Connecticut in 1939.

UConn is a research intensive university, a prestigious designation shared by only the Nation's top higher education institutions. They have more than 70 focused research centers where faculty, graduate students and undergraduates explore everything from improving human health to enhancing public education and protecting the country's national resources.

I extend my congratulations to the University of Connecticut President Michael Hogan, Athletic Director Jeffrey Hathaway, Head Coach Geno Auriemma and his staff, the hardworking players and, obviously, the fans.

I wish all continued success and ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the good gentleman from Wisconsin for supporting House Resolution 344.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 344.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1445

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL EARLY EDUCATOR WORTHY WAGE DAY

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 99) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 99

Whereas approximately 60 percent of the Nation's children under 6 are in nonparental care during part or all of the day while their parents work;

Whereas the early childhood industry employs more than 2,300,000 workers;

Whereas the average salary of early care and education workers is $18,917 per year, and only ⅓ have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas the quality of early care and education programs is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood program staff is roughly 30 percent per year, and low wages and lack of benefits, among other factors, make it difficult to retain high quality educators who have the consistent, caring relationships with young children that are important to children's development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood program staff should be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the Nation develop their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills, and to help them be ready for school;

Whereas providing adequate compensation to early childhood program staff should be a priority, and resources may be allocated to improve the compensation of early childhood educators to ensure that quality care and education are accessible for all families;

Whereas additional training and education for the early childhood workforce is critical to ensuring high-quality early learning environments;

Whereas early childhood educators should receive compensation commensurate with such training and experience; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce, a project of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation, with support by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and other early childhood organizations, recognizes May 1 as National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day, and urges public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care and education staff and programs in their communities and to work together to resolve the early childhood education staff compensation crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 99 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Concurrent Resolution 99, which recognizes May 1 as National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day and urges public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care staff and programs in their communities.

Early childhood educators are among the lowest paid professions in education. More and more parents are tapping into early childhood education programs to meet their daycare needs and find the best opportunities to help their children get ready for their academic careers.

We place a lot of trust in early childhood educators to take care of the most vulnerable among us and charge them with great responsibilities to care for and to educate our children. Early childhood educators are highly skilled workers who are, unfortunately, rarely compensated at levels that are consistent with their skill and work ethic.

This resolution asks Congress to honor early childhood educators and programs in their communities and to work to resolve the early childhood education staff compensation crisis. Adequate compensation to early childhood workers should be a priority and they should receive compensation consummate with such training and experience.

Every day, approximately 60 percent of children under the age of six are cared for outside the home so that their parents can work. President Obama has spoken extensively about the need to further expand early education and childcare programs, including his proposal to include an early learning challenge grant initiative to promote quality care.

The committed individuals who nurture and teach these young children are undervalued despite the importance of their work. Children begin to learn at birth, and the quality of care they receive will affect their language, development, math skills, behavior and general readiness for school.

The grossly inadequate level of wages for childcare staff, roughly $18,917 a year, has made it hard to attract and retain high quality early childhood caretakers and educators. The turnover rate for childcare providers is 30 percent a year. This high turnover rate interrupts consistent and stable relationships that children need to have with their caregivers.

I join in recognizing the importance of the work early childhood professionals do and the need to increase their compensation accordingly. The Nation's childcare work force, and the families who depend on them, deserve our support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 99, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day.

Over 11 million children under age 5 spend an average of 36 hours a week in nonparental care settings. Over 40 percent of children are in some form of nonparental care by the age of 1, and approximately 60 percent of the Nation's children under the age of 6 are in nonparental care during part or all the day while their parents work.

Parents place children in a variety of care settings, including informal, center-based and school-based environments. The majority of children remain in traditional childcare settings funded by a variety of sources, but a growing number are participating in private and State-funded prekindergarten programs. To date, 39 States and the District of Columbia have designed, implemented and funded their own prekindergarten programs on a large scale, compared to only seven States in 1980.

I support programs to promote early childhood education and efforts to ensure that our children are better prepared to enter kindergarten. The quality of early childhood education can be linked to the quality of our early childhood educators. Allowing for additional training and education for the early childhood workforce is important to ensure high-quality early learning environments.

Today, I rise with my colleagues to urge public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care and education staff and programs in their communities on May 1. I stand in support of this resolution, and ask my colleagues' support.

I have no requests for time and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 99. May I say that working with early educator teachers, they are terrific, and if we are going to have a strong Nation for the future, we must give them the recognition they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues support H. Con. Res. 99.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 99.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 337) supporting the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 337

Whereas, according the most recent annual estimates, State and local child protective services investigated nearly 5,800,000 children in the United States who were reported to be abused or neglected in 2007;

Whereas, according the most recent annual estimates, 1,760 children died in the United States in 2007 from abuse and neglect;

Whereas, according the most recent annual estimates, 794,000 children in the United States were confirmed by protective services as being victims of child maltreatment in 2007;

Whereas 59 percent of the children were classified as victims of child neglect;

Whereas 4.2 percent of the children were classified as victims of psychological maltreatment;

Whereas 7.6 percent of the children were classified as victims of sexual abuse;

Whereas 10.8 percent of the children were classified as victims of physical abuse;

Whereas 1 percent of the children were classified as victims of medical maltreatment;

Whereas 13.1 percent of the children were classified as victims of multiple maltreatments;

Whereas more than three-quarters of the children who died due to child abuse and neglect were younger than four years old;

Whereas these figures represent only reported cases of abuse, many cases are not reported to police or social services;

Whereas child abuse and neglect have great long-term costs for children, families, and society which timely and effective community-based prevention services can reduce, improving the lives and prospects of thousands of children and families; and

Whereas observing National Child Abuse Prevention Month during the month of April provides a special opportunity to raise awareness about the serious threat that child abuse and neglect poses to our Nation's children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in order to increase awareness of child maltreatment and encourage individuals and communities to support children and families;

(2) recognizes and applauds the national and community organizations for their work in promoting awareness about child maltreatment including identifying risk factors and developing prevention strategies; and

(3) urges families and individuals to report abuse or get help by calling the National Child Abuse Hotline at 1–800–4–A–Child (1–800–422–4453).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 337 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 337, which increases awareness of child maltreatment and urges communities to support children and families. Every April, the President issues a proclamation for National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and at the same time, he releases the previous year's data on child abuse and neglect. Last year's data was very unsettling.

In 2007, State and local child protective services investigated nearly 5.8 million cases of child abuse or neglect. Out of these cases, protective services confirmed that 794,000 children were victims of maltreatment in 2007. Of the nearly 800,000 cases in 2007, 59 percent of them were classified as child neglect, 4.2 percent of cases involved psychological mistreatment, 7.6 percent involved sexual abuse, 10.8 percent of the victims suffered physical abuse, and 13.1 percent of the children suffered from multiple mistreatments.

The reports of child deaths from abuse and neglect are even more startling. An estimated 1,760 children died in 2007 as a result of abuse and neglect. Of these children who died, a disturbing 75 percent were under the age of four. Over half of the child fatalities were a year or younger. These statistics, of course, are only cases of child maltreatment which have been reported to police or social services.

This month is a time not only to spread awareness of maltreatment, but also to recognize those organizations dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect.

I would like to thank Representative GRANGER for bringing this bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to take this serious issue into consideration and to support this measure and set aside time to create awareness of child maltreatment.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and rise today in support of H. Res. 337, recognizing the month of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Recognizing Child Abuse Prevention Month allows us to help to raise awareness of the tragic circumstances of abuse and neglect that many of our Nation's children face every day. Recognizing this month also highlights the importance of the prevention and awareness of child abuse, so that children can live safely and securely, free from abuse.

It is important that each of us knows how we can help prevent and stop ongoing child abuse. Understanding the causes of child abuse, learning to identify the warning signs that a child is being abused, reporting any known or suspected case of child abuse, being a friend to a child or parent in need and alerting others to the problem are all ways adults and other children can help prevent, and stop, child abuse.

Child abuse may include physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. In many cases, children are the victims of multiple forms of abuse. In 2007, approximately 794,000 children were found to be victims of some form of child maltreatment.

Child abuse prevention not only protects the Nation's children from years of physical, mental and emotional scars, it also lessens the costs associated with child abuse and enables funding to be used to assist children in other ways.

In 2007, child abuse had an estimated total annual cost of almost $104 billion in direct and indirect costs.

In 1974, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was enacted to address the issue of child abuse and neglect in this country and to underscore the importance of assisting children in abusive situations. Through this act, States receive grants to help with their child protective service functions, improve investigation and prosecution of child maltreatment, and to assist community-based family resource and support services.

April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by presidential proclamation in 1985 by President Reagan. Since then, in the month of April, child abuse and neglect awareness and prevention efforts are promoted throughout the country.

As members of school systems, neighborhoods, families and communities, all of us can help to prevent child abuse and neglect. Child Abuse Prevention Month provides us with an opportunity to work together to keep children safe and to lend families the support that they need to raise happy children in a safe and secure home.

This is why I stand in support of this resolution and ask for my colleagues' support.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, first of all I want to thank the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands for yielding and also salute him for his leadership on this important resolution, which is something as a Nation we just cannot stop in terms of all efforts to make sure that we eradicate child abuse.

But my purpose for standing up, Madam Speaker, is to speak in support of a resolution which was earlier discussed, H. Res. 344, recognizing the great accomplishment of the UConn Women Huskies.

My excuse for speaking out of order is actually I just left the White House, where our country's number one basketball fan, President Barack Obama, welcomed the Women Huskies, and again in a wonderful ceremony recognized the incredible achievement of an undefeated season and a national championship.

Madam Speaker, Vince Lombardi, the great football coach for the Green Bay Packers, said, ''Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we may catch excellence.''

□ 1500

Those incredibly wise words maybe didn't even anticipate what was accomplished this year by the UConn women who, as I said earlier, went 39–0, won a national championship, did not win a game by less than double digits from the entire season, from start to finish, and led by a coach, Geno Auriemma, who, again, is somebody who is right in the Lombardi tradition, and secured his sixth national championship, something that, as a Hall of Fame coach, we're almost getting to expect too easily and take too much for granted in the State of Connecticut.

But aside from the great athletic accomplishment of these young women, I want to also acknowledge the fact that Maya Moore, who is the Naismith All-American Player of the country, is also someone who is an outstanding student, has received academic awards for her great work as an undergraduate. And she, along with Renee Montgomery, who's also graduating this year, again, is someone who excelled, not only on the basketball court, but also in the classroom.

Speaking of perfection, in the 24 years of the UConn women's basketball program, they have had a 100 percent graduation rate for the women who have been part of that team. And in many respects, at a time when, unfortunately, college athletics has been somewhat dominated by the power and might of money and big money, the fact that we have a program which truly embodies the ideal of student athletes, like the UConn women's basketball team, is something that not only the State of Connecticut but really our whole country can be proud of.

As a parent of a young, 14-year-old daughter, to be able to turn on the TV for sports or ESPN News Center and say, this is not just a guy show, it's also about women who can go out and excel at sports, they have provided a role model that, I think, has transformed athletics, again, for our whole country, for boys and girls, for young men and young women. And we are so proud of this team in the State of Connecticut. And it's a special day with them being recognized at the White House. And I certainly hope that, as a body today, we will recognize their accomplishment by adopting H. Res. 344.

And, again, I thank the Speaker and the gentleman for allowing me to speak out of turn and share these remarks which are so important to the people back home.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of my resolution recognizing the observance of April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

I'd like to thank my colleagues JANICE SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, GWEN MOORE of Wisconsin, JOE COURTNEY of Rhode Island, and JIM MCDERMOTT of Washington for their support and for their work on child welfare issues.

Child abuse and neglect is a serious issue that affects thousands of American families. Every 11 seconds a child in the United States is reported as abused or neglected.

Last year 5,800 children were confirmed victims of child abuse in my home county of Tarrant County, Texas. Tragically, nine of those cases ended in death as a result of abuse or neglect.

I think of children like Darlene Diles who spent the first seventeen days of her life in her mother's care before an injury on January 30 left her with severe brain damage.

Darlene's nineteen-year-old mother told doctors that she accidently dropped her daughter on the kitchen floor. But doctors found no skull fracture or swelling consistent with a fall. Instead, they said Darlene's internal head injuries were consistent with being shaken.

The thirty-five-day-old infant died after her father decided to allow doctors to take her off life support.

Seven-month-old David Coronado Jr. was admitted to Children's Medical Center in Dallas with forty-two separate skeletal injuries, damage, to his brain and spinal cord, and numerous skin injuries that included human bite marks. David was recently removed from life support, but his prognosis remains uncertain.

Children like David and Darlene deserve so much better.

Observing National Child Abuse Prevention Month Provides us with the opportunity to highlight their stories, which demonstrate the importance of doing more to prevent child abuse and maltreatment.

Increasing public awareness of how important it is to ensure the safety and welfare of children led to the passage of the first federal child protection legislation—the child abuse prevention and treatment act in 1974.

In the thirty-five years since, advocacy groups across the country have been hard at work to raise awareness regarding child maltreatment.

And social workers and child protective service workers across the country have dedicated countless hours to children who have been abused and neglected.

One such dedicated child protective services employee in Texas is Debbie Pendergrass.

Debbie admits to ''fretting virtually nonstop about her charges.'' She provides the one constant for the children she works with who often get moved around from one foster home to another.

When Debbie visited a toddler born to a thirteen-year-old girl in foster care, Tarrant County foster parents James and Glenda Pell praised her professionalism. The Pells said there have been times during six years and a dozen foster children when they couldn't reach their CPS worker. But with Debbie, they have someone who responds quickly and moves the bureaucratic machinery forward.

In Texas, and in states across this country, child protective service caseworkers face an increasing workload.

In 2007, state and local protective services investigated nearly 5.8 million children who were reported as abused or neglected. The Texas Department of Child Protective Services where Debbie works as a caseworker has improved its caseload, but still needs to hire more caseworkers.

In a recent eighteen-month period, Texas workers who are responsible for visiting abused children saw only seventy-four percent of their children monthly. Federal law requires that at least ninety-five percent be seen monthly. But there are only so many hours in a day.

As the stresses on American families increase in the current economy, we need to work together to ensure that resources are available to provide families with support so that more children do not become victims of maltreatment.

And child protective services across the country need funding so that they can continue the work that they do to protect our most vulnerable children.

Observing National Child Abuse Prevention Month provides us with the opportunity to shine a light on an issue that continues to affect too many children and families.

It also provides us with the opportunity to thank the social workers, teachers, physicians, nurses, and community organizations for their work providing safe places for children. Groups like Prevent Child Abuse Texas, the Alliance for Children in Fort Worth, which is working to ''break the cycle of abuse one child at a time.'' And groups like CASA of Tarrant County, which matches guardian ad liteums with children to provide a voice for children in court.

These groups are working to prevent child abuse and neglect throughout Texas and I commend them for their efforts and important work.

The statistics on child abuse and maltreatment are alarming. Child Abuse and maltreatment is a topic few want to discuss, but most of us want to see the cycle of abuse end. By talking about this issue, I hope we can encourage parents to reach out and get the help they need in order to provide a safe and healthy place for their children.

I strongly encourage families and individuals to report abuse or get help by calling the national child abuse hotline at 1–800–4–A–CHILD.

Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Does the gentleman from Wisconsin have any other speakers?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has yielded back the remainder of his time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 337.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1746) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1746

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 ''Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. PRE-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION.

(a) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Section 203(f) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(f)) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall award financial assistance under this section on a competitive basis and in accordance with the criteria in subsection (g).

''(2) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—In providing financial assistance under this section, the President shall ensure that the amount of financial assistance made available to a State (including amounts made available to local governments of the State) for a fiscal year—

''(A) is not less than the lesser of—

''(i) $575,000; or

''(ii) the amount that is equal to one percent of the total funds appropriated to carry out this section for the fiscal year; and

''(B) does not exceed the amount that is equal to 15 percent of the total funds appropriated to carry out this section for the fiscal year.''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 203(m) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(m)) is amended to read as follows:

''(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $250,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012.''.

(c) REFERENCES.—Section 203 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5133) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking ''**PREDISASTER**'' and inserting ''**PRE-DISASTER**'';

(2) in the heading for subsection (i) by striking ''PREDISASTER'' and inserting ''PRE-DISASTER'';

(3) by striking ''Predisaster'' each place it appears and inserting ''Pre-Disaster''; and

(4) by striking ''predisaster'' each place it appears and inserting ''pre-disaster''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 1746.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for generously managing on the Republican side. Thank you for your participation. And I want to welcome, Madam Speaker, the gentleman, once again to our committee. It's his first term in Congress, first term on our committee, and it's good to have his participation. Appreciate it very much.

I was delayed getting here to the floor because of a number of meetings, but the most particularly, and sort of fitting was a session with James Lee Witt, former administrator of FEMA, who did a superb job during his tenure at FEMA, and who actually initiated Project Impact, which was the predecessor of the legislation, or the predecessor idea for the legislation we bring to the floor today. It was called then Project Impact. And it was the idea of administrator James Lee Witt, after his experience with a number of tragedies that could have been prevented or substantially mitigated, that is, the effect of the natural disaster could substantially have been mitigated if cities, counties, States, local agencies, had taken a few practical steps that would be far lower cost in initial impact than the broader costs of a natural disaster, whether an earthquake, a flood, hurricane, or other tragedy.

Over 100 communities actually participated in Project Impact. One of the most significant beneficiaries of Project Impact was the City of Seattle, which was awarded a grant of $50 million for very specific actions to take in Seattle to strengthen buildings, strengthen bridges, strengthen portions of the Alaska Way Viaduct, a portion of Highway 5 that goes through the City of Seattle and is a focal point of a great deal of maritime activity and trucking and passenger vehicle activity.

For a $50 million investment, they put all of the strengthening activities in place, and a year later, the earthquake struck Seattle. And the Mayor of Seattle, I think it was Mayor Nichols at the time, said, if we had not made this investment, it would have cost the people of Seattle $500 million to repair the damage that the earthquake would have caused had they not made this very small investment. The irony of the event and of the announcement is that was also the day that the Bush administration chose to terminate Project Impact.

I have experience in my district of pre-disaster mitigation, when, in 1999, hurricane-like force winds blew through the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, a wilderness area on the U.S./Canadian border in my district that stretches nearly 110 miles along the Canadian border. They're called a derecho, D-E-R-E-C-H-O, derecho, from the Spanish. Straight line winds, 15 miles across, 40 miles in length, at 100 miles an hour, blew down 26 million trees.

The U.S. Forest Service did a computer analysis of all previous forest fires, and calculating with the amount of fuel on the ground, that when a lightning strike would hit that blowndown, drying out timber, it would create a fireball 50,000 feet into the air.

Action had to be taken in the areas outside the wilderness to protect homes and resort facilities and outfitter facilities, and within the boundary waters to do controlled burns, because timber harvesting is not allowed within a wilderness area.

We turned to James Lee Witt and FEMA for pre-disaster mitigation funding to support homes, to install sprinkler systems, and resorts to install sprinkler systems. Four years later, a fire known in the area as the Ham Lake fire, broke out. The local volunteer fire department, attempting to respond, found that their pumper truck was inoperative. They could have put the fire out in that little area, but they were unable to. It gathered force and burned 76,000 acres, half in the U.S. and half in Canada.

The homes that were spared were those that had installed the sprinkler systems from the FEMA pre-disaster mitigation program. The ones that didn't have the sprinkler systems, or who didn't maintain them, were burned; 148 structures in all burned, and 135 were saved.

This legislation will establish the pre-disaster mitigation program out into the future because, while the previous Project Impact was terminated, Congress, under the previous Republican years, re-established, reinstated Project Impact as pre-disaster mitigation, and the authority will sunset on September 30. So with bipartisan support, we bring this legislation to the floor to extend the program.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, I'd like to thank our chairman for his kind words, and more importantly, for your leadership on

this committee. This is a very important issue, and I'm proud to stand with you today in support of this bill.

And I do rise in support of H.R. 1746, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009, which reauthorizes the successful pre-disaster mitigation programs for the next 3 years. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program was originally authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 as a pilot program to study the effectiveness of mitigation grants given to communities before a disaster strikes.

Prior to the creation of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, hazard mitigation primarily occurred after a disaster had occurred through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

We know that every disaster costs us in damages to homes, businesses and infrastructure and potentially to the loss of lives. Implementing mitigation measures against disasters has proven to go a long way in minimizing damage and saving lives. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program prevents damage and destruction by helping communities to act proactively through projects that reduce the costs and limit the adverse impacts of future disasters.

□ 1515

It has been shown that mitigation programs like the pre-disaster mitigation program also save taxpayer dollars. Both the Congressional Budget Office and the National Institute of Building Sciences have determined that, for every dollar invested in mitigation, $3 are saved in future losses.

Since their inception, mitigation programs have helped local communities save lives and reduce property damage through a wide range of mitigation projects, such as home elevations, buyouts, improved shelters, and warning systems. Ensuring this program continues and supporting mitigation efforts is critically important as our communities prepare for disasters.

In conclusion, mitigation works. It saves lives, limits future damage and reduces Federal disaster costs, and the pre-disaster mitigation program is an effective program that advances that goal.

Thank you again. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Chairman, do you have anymore speakers on your side?

Mr. OBERSTAR. I advise the gentleman we have no further speakers. If the gentleman is prepared to close, I will have some closing remarks, and then we'll conclude.

Mr. OLSON. In that case, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. The gentleman made a very thoughtful statement, Madam Speaker, about the pre-disaster mitigation program, and I very greatly appreciate his observations and the bipartisan spirit within which our committee brought this legislation forward.

Clearly, mitigation saves money. I gave an example of a situation in my district, but the devastation of flooding at the Red River in North Dakota is another example of the real impact of natural disasters, and the communities along the Red River of the North, on both the Minnesota and North Dakota sides, have benefited from pre-disaster mitigation funding. Nonetheless, they face huge challenges every year.

The Congressional Budget Office and the National Institute of Building Sciences have issued reports showing that, for every dollar spent on pre-disaster mitigation, future losses are reduced by $3 to $4. The Multihazard Mitigation Council, the advisory body of the National Institute of Building Sciences, said: ''A dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of $4,'' and that flood mitigation, according to the council, yields even greater savings. On average, future losses are reduced ''by about $3 for every dollar spent on those projects, including both Federal and non-Federal spending.''

I also cited the city of Seattle. I misquoted the mayor. It was not Mayor Nickels. It was Mayor Paul Schell who deserves great credit for wisely using pre-disaster mitigation funds just prior to the Nisqually earthquake hitting on February 28, 2001.

As for the Red River of the North, investments made by cities on both the Minnesota and North Dakota sides have resulted in far less damage than those communities experienced prior to making those investments. After the 1997 flood, FEMA spent $23 million to acquire vulnerable homes and move them out of the floodplain. In 2006, a flood came within 2 feet of the 1997 flood level, and those mitigation investments saved some $24.6 million, a return of 107 percent on the investment made.

Mitigation, clearly, is an investment in people, in property, in protection, and that's why the National Association of Counties, the International Association of Emergency Managers, the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the National Emergency Management Association, and the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies, as well as the Public Works Association, all have endorsed this legislation.

So I earnestly appeal for a strong vote, and I am now prepared to close, if the gentleman is prepared to yield back his time, Madam Speaker.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1746, ''Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009.'' I want to thank my colleague Congressman JAMES OBERSTAR of Minnesota for introducing this legislation.

While tragedy has ripped through our communities, from 9/11 to Hurricane Katrina, leaving an enormous amount of devastation, Americans continue to demonstrate yet again the amazing unity, strength and resilience that we possess. Whether rich or poor, black or white, young or old, Democrat or Republican, everyone has been working together to respond, recover, rebuild and move forward.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this vital piece of legislation that will amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Stafford Act, is a Federal law designed to bring an orderly and systemic means of federal natural disaster assistance for State and local governments in carrying out their responsibilities to aid citizens. This law establishes a process for requesting and obtaining a Presidential disaster declaration, defines the type and scope of assistance available under the Stafford Act, and sets the conditions for obtaining that assistance.

It created the system in place today by which a Preside Disaster Declaration of an emergency triggers financial and physical assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. The Act gives FEMA the responsibility for coordinating government wide relief efforts. The Federal Response Plan it implements includes the contributions of 28 Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, such as the American Red Cross.

We must work together to improve access to housing and the critical infrastructure necessary to ensure that Americans and their communities are safe. Where unacceptable vulnerabilities remain, swift action must be taken to eliminate them. I am committed to ensuring the implementation of such action.

In the weeks that followed Hurricane Katrina, thousands of families struggled to survive with no electricity, including no air conditioning in the sweltering heat, which had a particularly severe impact on the elderly, disabled, impoverished and other vulnerable populations. Clearly, we need to invest substantial funds to improve our electric grids to ensure that the disparate impact on vulnerable populations are corrected and are never allowed to reoccur. I was particularly concerned that neither the utility companies nor the emergency management personnel had lists of or could expeditiously provide generators to the vulnerable individuals and communities residing in hospitals, clinics, senior housing, and assisted living communities who would be disparately impacted by the power outages in the aftermath of the storm. Accordingly, I have introduced legislation in Congress to ensure that utility companies are held accountable. I was also dismayed that creditors for healthcare providers interfered with the ability of hospitals to receive funds from insurance and business interruption claims that are vitally necessary to ensure that hospitals can be open to serve communities in dire need of healthcare.

Furthermore, the response efforts to Hurricane Ike in Texas, unfortunately similar to Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana but to a smaller extent, revealed breakdowns in communication between the State and local government on the one hand and FEMA and the Federal Government on the other hand. These communication failures resulted in unnecessary and avoidable delays in deploying vital resources in a timely fashion to individuals and families in need through Disaster Recovery Centers, DRCs, in locations which are accessible to the affected communities. I look forward to hearing from the panelists on how we can increase the role that FEMA along with local and State agencies can play in the response and recovery efforts to natural disasters in order to ensure the most expeditious

and efficient decision-making process possible. Whether it be through legislation or simply improved preparation and communication, we must take concrete steps to ensure that in the ongoing recovery effort, bureaucratic barriers are eliminated and minimized and that resources are deployed to individuals and families in need efficaciously.

As a senior member of the House Homeland Security Committee, which has oversight over the Federal Emergency Management Administration, FEMA, I am working to ensure that our communities are prepared to deal with natural disasters. I am committed to working with members of this Select Committee and the other panelists, Federal and State agencies, and the companies that manage Houston's critical infrastructure to ensure that Houston and Texas are prepared for the next natural disaster. The protection of our homeland and the security of our neighborhoods are at the forefront of my legislative agenda.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that this legislation, which is necessary in policies, procedures, and protocols to ensure that: first responders and emergency management personnel across America are better prepared for future disasters; communication and coordination between local, State, and Federal agencies is improved; and all Americans can recover more quickly from a future disaster.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, there being no Members wishing to speak on my side, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1746.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

GREAT LAKES ICEBREAKER REPLACEMENT ACT

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1747) to authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1747

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 ''Great Lakes Icebreaker Replacement Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) five of the Coast Guard's Great Lakes icebreakers are nearing the end of their useful lives;

(2) two other Coast Guard icebreaking assets have experienced difficulty in heavy ice conditions;

(3) during the spring of 2008, United States-flag vessels operating on the Great Lakes suffered more than $1,300,000 in damages to their hulls because the Coast Guard did not have enough assets available to keep Great Lakes shipping lanes open;

(4) during the 2006–2007 ice season, shipments of iron ore, coal, and limestone on the Great Lakes exceeded 20,000,000 tons;

(5) during the 2006–2007 ice season, the transportation of 10,400,000 tons of iron ore on the Great Lakes helped support 100,000 jobs at steel mills and 300,000 jobs at supplier industries by keeping those industries working during the winter season; and

(6) the 6,400,000 tons of coal shipped on the Great Lakes during the 2006–2007 ice season kept the Great Lakes region supplied with electricity.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated $153,000,000 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes, to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1747.

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

There was no objection.

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

Despite all of the concern about global climate change and climate warming and of the melting of the glaciers—and the last great glacier did melt and retreat some 10,000 years ago—every November, it makes a comeback in the northern tier States, especially on the Great Lakes. As the cold winds sweep down from the Arctic regions across Canada and as the ice gathers on the shores and extends across, still occasionally, although it has been several years, Lake Superior does freeze completely over.

When it doesn't freeze completely over, an ice sheet extends a long distance out from the shoreline, clogging the navigation channels, making transit difficult on the Sault Sainte Marie, on the St. Mary's River and down into the lower lakes where, from mid-November through mid-January and then again in early spring, our Great Lakes' bulk carriers must make that transit to deliver iron ore to the steel mills in the lower lake ports and coal from the Potter River Basin in Wyoming-Montana that comes by unit train to the ports of Duluth and Superior; and they must transit that coal to lower lake coal facilities. The lowest cost, most energy-efficient and most environmentally friendly means of moving bulk commodities are by waterway, and this great waterway of the Great Lakes is absolutely critical.

During the 2006–2007 winter season, 10.5 million tons of iron ore moved during the winter shipping season. That ore supports 100,000 jobs at lower lake steel mills, 300,000 jobs at associated industries. In the same winter months, some 6.5 million tons of coal were shipped on the Great Lakes to supply the power plants in lower lake communities with their coal facilities, but we don't have enough icebreaking capacity to keep those channels open, to keep the ports open, to escort vessels through the heavy ice era in the fall and in the early spring.

The Coast Guard, which does its very best with the Mackinaw and with some smaller harbor icebreakers, has made a valiant effort, but the shippers on the Great Lakes, in particular in this past season, said they have frequently had a laker moving out but impeded by ice. The Mackinaw could break a channel, but then it would be on call in the lower lake ports, and the smaller harbor icebreakers couldn't keep the channel open for those 60,000-ton vessels to move iron ore or aggregate or sand and gravel or limestone as needed in the iron ore production process.

So the clear call from Great Lakes' port and shipping and shipper interests has been add an icebreaker, a real companion to the Mackinaw. The previous Mackinaw icebreaker was built in 1940 and served 60 years and, finally, was gracefully retired; but its replacement simply can't be in two places at once. If we're going to keep our economy moving and our economy functioning effectively, we need that icebreaking capability in the upper lakes and in the lower lakes, often at the same time on the same days. So with two icebreakers, our Great Lakes economy will be able to function effectively.

I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, while my home State of Texas doesn't have near the opportunities for icebreaking that the chairman's home State of Minnesota has, like him, I, too, rise in support of H.R. 1747 and this body's continued efforts to enhance the Coast Guard's operational capabilities in the Great Lakes and nationwide.

A new Coast Guard icebreaker of the Great Lakes would significantly enhance the safety and efficiency of maritime traffic in the region. The Coast Guard is aware of the need for further capabilities in the Great Lakes.

Earlier this winter, the Coast Guard temporarily stationed an ice-strengthened buoy tender in the Great Lakes for the end of the icebreaking season. This move, while greatly appreciated, is not a sustainable solution. H.R. 1747,

the Great Lakes Icebreaker Replacement Act, will address future icebreaking needs by providing a fully capable, multimission icebreaker to the Great Lakes. In addition to its role as an icebreaker, the new vessel will be equipped with capabilities to support all of the Coast Guard's many missions, which will greatly enhance the service's ability to carry out search and rescue, fishery enforcement, and maritime homeland security missions throughout the year.

I hope this bill is only the beginning of Congress' efforts to enhance the Coast Guard's icebreaking capability. As many Members know, the Coast Guard's seagoing polar icebreakers are in dire need of rehabilitation or of outright replacement. I would hope that we could address this issue through the Coast Guard reauthorization bill later this year.

Historically, polar regions have been closed off to vessel traffic for a significant amount of time. However, in recent years, we have seen an increase in the amount of open time and water and a corresponding interest in the commercial use of these waters. We have extensive scientific, national security, homeland security, and economic interests in the Arctic; but we do not have the vessels necessary to project a continued maritime presence in these regions. We must come up with a solution to address this gap to protect our national interests as other Arctic nations are racing forward to explore and stake claim to resources in the polar regions.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I am very grateful to the gentleman from Texas for his strong support and for his thoughtful statement about the Great Lakes icebreaker. I want to assure the gentleman, Madam Speaker, that we'll be happy to assure that the only ice you ever have to break in the Texas ports will be at cocktail hour, because you don't want to have to deal with the ice as we see it and as we experience it in the Great Lakes where I grew up and lived most of my life.

□ 1530

But I know the needs for the Houston ship channel, which I strongly supported. It's going to need more dredging, more improvement, as the Panama Canal, the second Panama Canal, is completed in the next few years and those 1,000-foot carriers carrying 12- to 13,000 containers make their way through Panama and into the gulf ports—all the ports in Texas and Louisiana and Alabama are going to need a channel deepening and port upgrades to accommodate those vessels. And we're going to support that activity in our committee. We're going to make sure that the gulf region is competitive in this ever-changing world of international commerce.

With regard to the polar icebreakers, the Recovery Act stimulus funding has provided for refurbishing and reintroduction in service of one of the polar icebreakers. I would advise the gentleman, Madam Speaker, the Coast Guard is doing an evaluation of the costs and how the costs of the polar icebreaker fleet can be contained. We have received testimony in the 110th Congress and information updated this year that the cost per icebreaker might run in the range of $1 billion. It seems to me that the Coast Guard ought to be able to contain that number and bring it down to something much more manageable.

Those original polar classes, the Polar Wind, the Polar Star—I remember very well serving with Mr. YOUNG, our former committee chairman on Transportation and Infrastructure, and we both served on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in the seventies when those vessels were commissioned and then when they set out on their first voyage. My recollection is it was less than $100 million, and the cost has escalated enormously; and we have to be sure that the Coast Guard—and they, too, want to be sure they can contain those costs and assure a multimission activity for those icebreakers.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of all Texans, I think your solution to an icebreaker in Texas would be much appreciated there. And I want to thank you, too, for your kind and insightful remarks about the needs of our ports in the gulf coast, particularly the Port of Houston and Port of Galveston and Texas City.

As you alluded to, the ports there, unfortunately, have a lot of silt coming down from the rivers above. They fill up from time to time, and we need to keep them dredged out. And you have eloquently made the point that when the Panama Canal project is completed—widened and deepened—the ships that are currently coming across the Pacific Ocean and stop at our west coast are just going to continue right on through and come to our heartland.

So I look forward to working with you to make sure that the gulf ports are ready for that when it happens.

Mr. OBERSTAR. If the gentleman will yield?

Mr. OLSON. Yes, I will.

Mr. OBERSTAR. It is not only the silt from the rivers but the hurricanes that have devastated and in the last 5 years have brought enormous amounts of silt into those harbors. And we have worked with the Corps of Engineers to accelerate dredging. We had, actually, funding for an accelerated dredging program for the Corps of Engineers in the Recovery Act, and those funds have not yet been released by the Office of Management and Budget, but I am very hopeful that some of those funds, Madam Speaker, will be directed to the gulf coast ports to alleviate the adverse effects of hurricane movement of sand into the shipping channels.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. OLSON. I appreciate the gentleman's comments on that as well.

I was down at the Port of Texas City last month, and they brought a ship in early this year, as you alluded to, after the hurricane had come through. The way it rolled in, a lot of the way the storm was moving, it pushed the water, it brought the silt back towards the ocean, and they brought a ship in with 6 inches of clearance, a 5-, 600-foot boat and that much clearance. And I appreciate your commitment to work with that.

I see no one on my side of the aisle. I thank the chairman for his kind remarks.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. We look forward to moving the Water Resources Development Act bill through the committee this year and addressing in that legislation whatever accelerated dredging needs may be beyond those we already have in the recovery program to address the imminent issue facing us, and that is vastly increased vessel capacity and size that needs to move into those gulf ports. And meanwhile, maybe the Coast Guard can get started—if the other body will move this bill—get started on an icebreaker replacement.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1747.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRIGHT) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 329, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1746, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 335, de novo.

Remaining postponed votes will be taken later in the week.

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

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACCIDENT OF SS SULTANA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 329, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 329, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 207]

YEAS—393

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—39

Barrett (SC)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Burgess
Carney
Clarke
Conyers
Costello
Dreier
Fortenberry
Garrett (NJ)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Kilroy
King (NY)
Kingston
Larsen (WA)
Lipinski
Mollohan
Moran (VA)
Neal (MA)
Pallone
Reyes
Rohrabacher
Shuler
Sires
Stark
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Wamp
Waxman
Weiner
Wu
Young (FL)

□ 1900

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1746, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1746.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 339, nays 56, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 208]

YEAS—339

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Heller
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inslee
Israel
Jenkins
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon

McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Welch
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NAYS—56

Akin
Bachmann
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Broun (GA)
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Conaway
Culberson
Deal (GA)
Duncan
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Inglis
Issa
Jordan (OH)
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Linder
Lummis
Manzullo
Marchant
McClintock
McHenry
Miller (FL)
Neugebauer
Paul
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Royce
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Stearns
Sullivan
Tiahrt
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—37

Barrett (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Burgess
Carney
Clarke
Costello
Dreier
Fortenberry
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Kilroy
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Larsen (WA)
Lipinski
Moran (VA)
Neal (MA)
Pallone
Reyes
Rohrabacher
Shuler
Sires
Stark
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Wamp
Waxman
Weiner
Wu
Young (FL)

□ 1909

Mr. BURTON of Indiana changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 335.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 335.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MASSA. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 396, noes 0, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 209]

AYES—396

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Welch
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—36

Barrett (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Burgess
Carney
Clarke
Costello
Deal (GA)
Dreier
Fortenberry
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Kilroy
King (NY)
Kingston
Larsen (WA)
Lipinski
Moran (VA)
Neal (MA)
Pallone
Reyes
Rohrabacher
Shuler
Sires
Stark
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Wamp
Waxman
Weiner
Wu
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain on this vote.

□ 1917

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 207, 208 and 209.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes I missed due to flight delays as a result of air traffic control issues and runway repairs at LaGuardia Airport. I was in New York for a press conference with Mayor Bloomberg addressing the Swine Flu Pandemic.

On Monday, April 27, 2009 I missed votes on H. Res. 329, H.R. 1746 and H. Res. 335. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following votes:

H. Res. 329—Recognizing the anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS *Sultana* (Representative SNYDER—Armed Services).

H. Res. 1746—Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009 (Representative OBERSTAR—Transportation and Infrastructure).

H. Res. 335—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week (Representative PLATTS—Education and Labor).

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. Con. Res. 49

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 49.

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

There was no objection.

CORPORATE INJURY, ILLNESS, AND FATALITY REPORTING ACT OF 2009

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

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the 39th anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. While this law has resulted in great strides for workplace safety, too many workers are still at risk of injury, illness, or even death in their jobs. In fact, each year, 6,000 workers are killed on the job and thousands more are injured.

On the eve of Workers' Memorial Day to honor all the workers who have been injured or killed at work, I rise to introduce the Corporate Injury, Illness, and Fatality Reporting Act of 2009. This legislation would require America's largest employers to accurately report to the Department of Labor on the numbers and rates of work-related deaths, injuries, and illnesses at all of their work sites. They must also supply compliance data regarding OSHA inspections and citations that have occurred at any and all of their work sites.

OSHA is not currently required to conduct nationwide investigations into large companies with multiple establishments. Therefore, serial offenders can hide in the weeds and avoid making their workplace as safe as possible. This legislation would bring these companies into the light of day and provide OSHA invaluable data so they can protect workers in danger of illness, accidents, or worse.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation, ensuring safer and healthier working conditions to workers across the country.

REMEMBERING SARVELIO DEL VALLE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, our south Florida community has suffered a deep loss with the passing of Sarvelio del Valle, a well-known sports commentator for Radio Mambi, part of the Univision family.

Sarvelio was respected not only for his encyclopedic knowledge of sports, but also for his great love of his family, especially his pride for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was an outstanding sports commentator who was respected by all.

Every day on Radio Mambi, Sarvelio would get the latest sports news to our community, and his segments were indeed the most listened to of that station. Just a few years ago, in fact, he was actually voted as the ''Most Popular Radio Personality in Sports.''

He started his broadcast career in sports in Puerto Rico in 1962, moved to Miami in 1970, and was well-known for his Spanish language broadcast of the Miami Heat basketball games and the University of Miami football games. He also narrated boxing matches around the world, but it was in the Florida Marlins' games where he excelled.

My deepest sympathy goes to his family, his great and loving friend, Armando Perez-Roura of Radio Mambi, and his countless fans throughout the south Florida community.

Te vamos a extranar, Sarvelio—we will miss you, Sarvelio.

SINGLE-PAYER PLAN FOR THE STATES

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

Mr. KUCINICH. As the effort to reform health care gathers momentum, States have taken it upon themselves to enact their own reforms out of desperation to increase quality, provide care for the uninsured and underinsured, and rein in uncontrolled cost increases. Many have turned to the model that has proven to meet those goals inside and outside the U.S., the single-payer health care model.

In the last 3 years, the California State legislature has twice passed a single-payer bill. Pennsylvania, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, New York, Washington, Ohio, and Minnesota are also home to single-payer bills with strong grassroots movements. Unfortunately, if the bills were to pass, Federal barriers would need to be overcome. ERISA could preempt the States from enacting their own health care reform. Waivers would need to be granted that would allow the States to redirect the Federal funds they currently receive for health care. Federal financial assistance, if necessary, could also be imperative.

Enabling the States to meet their own needs would be a strong complement to a national health care reform plan. Congress should call for language that allows the States to implement a single-payer plan if they so choose.

CONGRATULATING RENEE MONTGOMERY AND UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the University of Connecticut women's basketball team for their incredible accomplishments on the court.

Led by head coach Geno Auriemma, the Huskies went undefeated to win their sixth national title by defeating the University of Louisville 76–54 in the NCAA Division I championship.

But today I want to commend one of West Virginia's most accomplished student athletes, a member of that team; a young woman I have seen play since she was a young girl, and someone that my daughters competed against since they were little girls. I would like to commend my congratulations to senior Renee Montgomery of Saint Albans, West Virginia.

During her high school career, she helped Capital High School win a State championship, and subsequently led South Charleston High School to three appearances in the State championship game. Her performance with the Huskies as a point guard was an integral part of the team's success this season. She was a 4-year starter for the Huskies, scoring an impressive 1,500 career points and 500 assists, one of only three players ever to do so. She is the only player in school history to rank in the top 10 in points, assists, steals, and 3-pointers.

Renee is from a wonderful West Virginia family. She is the best of West Virginia, and we are very proud of her and the Huskies.

NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Healthy Schools Day, which is being celebrated around the country today.

National Healthy Schools Day recognizes the importance of having a clean and healthy indoor environment in our Nation's schools. And today I introduced a House resolution officially recognizing National Healthy Schools Day.

Some 54 million children spend their days in our Nation's schools, half of which have problems with indoor air quality. Children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental hazards in their schools because of their developing immune systems and small bodies.

Poor indoor environmental quality has been linked to asthma and other illnesses in children. With one out of every 13 children suffering from asthma—the number one cause of missed school days—it is very important that we address this issue. Healthy and high-performance schools are the answer to this problem. They reduce indoor environmental hazards and are energy efficient.

I was proud to work with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to develop New York State's High Performance Schools guidelines, and I am proud to recognize National Healthy Schools Day.

AMERICAN FAMILIES DEMAND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

(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. Mr. Speaker, families in South Carolina are fed up with reckless Washington spending. They are fed up with the massive borrowing that threatens their children's future, their own retirements, and Social Security. They are concerned about future tax increases on American families and small businesses destroying jobs.

If we are to restore fiscal sanity to Washington, then Congress needs to listen to the American people because they get it. They have had to make tough decisions to balance their budgets, and it is past time that Congress put the taxpayers' checkbook down and make some tough choices too.

House Republicans have and will continue to offer our set of bold and fiscally responsible proposals to encourage job creation, limit growth in government, and help American families rebuild their savings. We stand ready to work with anyone who believes, as the American people do, that we cannot simply continue to throw money at the challenges we face.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th and the global war on terrorism.

WATER SAVES LIVES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what do six terrorist attacks, Gitmo, dead Americans, and Khalid Sheik Mohammed—also known as KSM—have in common? Waterboarding.

Last week, several top secret national security papers were released to the public. We learned from these documents that waterboarding is apparently saving American lives. After being waterboarded numerous times at Gitmo, KSM, the killer responsible for planning 9/11, started talking. He told the CIA about plans to hijack an airplane and crash it into a skyscraper in Los Angeles and kill Americans. He disclosed the 17-member terrorist cell charged with executing that plan. He also exposed plans of another terrorist cell in New York plotting to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge.

The enhanced interrogation encouraged KSM to disclose information by naming the ringleaders of four other terrorist attacks. Americans are alive because this individual was doused in water.

Terrorists are not victims. The only victims are thousands of people who have died at the hands of these outlaws. The CIA interrogators have saved American lives by baptizing these criminals in water.

And that's just the way it is.

REMEMBERING SARVELIO DEL VALLE

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay respects to a friend who passed away this weekend, Sarvelio del Valle. Sarvelio del Valle was the director of the sports department, sports broadcaster, and commentator for Radio Mambi, WAQI in Miami. He was also so much more.

A lifelong journalist, he possessed an unparalleled knowledge of sports and sports history. And he was also the personification of cordiality, grace, good humor, patriotism, decency, and friendship.

To his beloved wife, Yaya, and his entire family, my most sincere condolences. I will greatly miss Sarvelio del Valle. And like his many friends and the countless thousands who were his devoted listeners, I will never forget him.

May God bless the soul of my friend, Sarvelio del Valle.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

BORDER WAR CONTINUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I bring you news from the second front, and that's the border war that the United States has on the border with Mexico down in the southern part of the United States.

I had the opportunity for the last couple of weekends to spend some time with our Texas border sheriffs and the Air National Guard. In fact, I got to fly with the Texas Air National Guard and their helicopters on a mission a couple of weeks ago, and I want to give my compliments and thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Drew Daugherty, Major Bill Taylor, and others yet to be named whose identities should remain confidential.

In any event, we had the opportunity to fly up and down the Rio Grande River at dusk and then at dark to see what has taken place on that border with Mexico. We saw a couple of incidents where individuals had crossed into the United States. They were later apprehended by the Border Patrol. We saw one incident where there was obviously a smuggling operation getting ready to take place on the Mexican side of the river, where we could see from the American side a drug cartel apparently, in my opinion, was loading up duffel bags so that they could move those into the United States. That information was given to the Border Patrol, and I suspect that the Border Patrol apprehended those individuals when they came across the United States. These low-altitude helicopters are very important in the fight against the drug cartels that come into the United States.

There are some issues, however. The Air National Guard, like the National Guard, does not have enough equipment. For this massive 1,800-mile border here in Texas, there are only four helicopters that the Air National Guard has. And when something else occurs in the State like a hurricane or like a fire, those helicopters are pulled off surveillance and they're taken somewhere else in the State.

So the first issue is that we as a Nation should support the National Guard and the Air National Guard in their work with the border sheriffs and with the Border Patrol, the ATF, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and anyone else in the Federal Government that's working to protect the dignities of our borders.

As I mentioned earlier, I had the opportunity also to be with our Texas

sheriffs. There are 16 counties on the Texas-Mexico border. All 16 of those sheriffs plus four other sheriffs are in what is called the Texas Border Sheriffs Coalition. And I talked to those individuals, specifically Sheriff Cuellar, who is the brother of our own Henry Cuellar from Laredo. He's the sheriff of Webb County. Sheriff Sigi Gonzalez from Zapata County, Sheriff Arvin West from Hudspeth County, and Sheriff Oscar Carrillo from Culberson County. And all of those individuals said basically the same thing, that they're concerned about what they call the ''cross-border travelers'' that come into the United States and commit crimes in the United States.

We hear a lot, Mr. Speaker, from all different sources about the crimes in Mexico coming into the United States. We have some that say they do occur. We have others that say, no, it's not really a problem over here. It's difficult to find out exactly what the truth is. So I asked the sheriffs of these counties who are responsible for the safety of their own community. These sheriffs patrol massive amounts of land, and I contacted them and asked them this question: How many people in your county jail are foreign nationals that are in jail charged with a crime in the United States, such as a misdemeanor or a felony, not foreign nationals who are in jail just on immigration violations? And it didn't make any difference what country they were from, but that was the question that I posed to these border sheriffs. And I will give you some of the statistics, Mr. Speaker, tonight.

In El Paso County, one of the largest counties on the Texas-Mexico border, the sheriff's department there said about 18 percent of the people in the county jail are foreign nationals. Hudspeth County right next door, which is a massive county that has really not enough sheriff's deputies, the sheriff told me personally that about 90 percent of the people in his county jail are foreign nationals charged with crimes in the United States. A massive amount of individuals.

Next door in Culberson County, it was about 22 percent. The four counties in the middle, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster, and Terrell County, the statistics were not, shall I say, as accurate as the sheriffs wanted to give me; so I'm not going to give that information because I'm not sure about the exact percentage.

But if we move on down the Rio Grande River, and, of course, this is Mexico to the south and this is the rest of Texas up here, just going down the river, we have Val Verde County and about 39 percent of the people are foreign nationals. In Kinney County 71 percent of the people in the county jail are foreign nationals; Maverick County, 65 percent; Dimmit County, 45 percent; Webb County, that's where Laredo is, about 45 percent are from foreign countries; Zapata County, about 65 percent.

And moving on down the Rio Grande River to the Gulf of Mexico here, Starr County, 53 percent; Hidalgo County, 23 percent; and then Cameron County, where Brownsville matches or comes across from the river from Matamoros, about 28 percent.

So, Mr. Speaker, you can make statistics prove whatever you want them to prove, but it shows that people from foreign countries cross the Rio Grande River and come into the United States and commit crimes. These people need to be held accountable for that, and the way to do that is to secure our borders by using the National Guard, the Border Patrol, the sheriffs, the sheriff's deputies, and all the Federal agencies because the first duty of government is to protect our Nation.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GIVE AMERICA BACK TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight as General Motors, Chrysler, and the United Auto Workers struggle with the imposed government deadlines that will determine their survival, I wish to share with you Harold Meyerson's article ''Break Up the Banks'' from The Washington Post last Friday.

You see, what has been holding up the deal to save the American auto industry, save America's jobs, and breathe life into communities where wealth is actually created and not just traded away is something not much talked about, and that is the megabanks, centered, yes, on Wall Street, again.

Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase that were huge Treasury bailout recipients, billions and billions and billions of dollars, who turned a profit this year, by the way, are the leading culprits for the rest of the banks in slowing down or impeding the Obama administration's efforts to restructure Chrysler. Currently, Chrysler's bonds found on the books of Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase are trading at 15 cents on the dollar. Despite increasingly better offers than that, Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase insist that they and their fellow banks are entitled to more, more of your money. More of our money. That is greed in its purest form. More, more, and more for them and their cronies, and less and less and less for everyone else. They have bilked America on the front end and then on the back end.

First, the front end by restricting the availability of credit to consumers looking to purchase cars and car dealers looking to finance their showrooms. Just squeeze them down out of existence by shutting off their credit. And now at the back end by denying the restructuring of GM and Chrysler's debt. Yes, they keep America's cash but then deny us the ability to access it in the marketplace to buy cars and furnishing dealers' showroom floors. Very clever. It's a tourniquet at both ends.

Wall Street's idea is to bleed Chrysler retirees, Fiat, and the American taxpayers dry. They care for their own interest at the expense of the national interest.

The American automobile industry is just one victim of Wall Street's meltdown. The industry is the lifeblood of so many communities, and they were just on the cusp of a new green engine era, and they have been forced to their knees.

Of course, the banksters bail out their friends, firms like AIG. Beyond mere life support, they were handed over $70 billion. That's putting all the auto bailout together and multiplying it times five. Not only does AIG have special access to policymakers and your tax dollars; they didn't have to take any haircuts.

Compare that to what is being asked of autoworkers: first, give up your job, move out of your community, cut your wages and your health benefits too, and, oh, by the way, we want to go after your retirement benefits, even the widows and retirees out of those firms.

Meanwhile, AIG pensioners, well, they're alive and well. Their health care benefits are not threatened. Their counterparties are kept whole. While hardworking blue collar America is squeezed dry, they're just as happy as clams.

Right now it's Wall Street versus the American people. Surely those that work hard and make things with their hands and end up with all the injuries to prove it, with bodily wear and tear, don't they deserve some regard? Don't they have some rights for three decades in an auto plant? Well, Citigroup, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, HSBC, Wells Fargo, and the rest of the high fliers up there on Wall Street, they want to deny these folks the right to their hard-earned benefits and wages.

American workers built and continue to build America, while Wall Street destroys not just capital; they destroy industries. They destroy communities. They destroy people's lives. Now, we can see who has that power. But that isn't what America was supposed to be

all about. When you work hard and you build something real for the Nation's might, you expect a fair deal. And that was supposed to be the American Dream, for the many, not just the privileged few. Today a real industry, auto production, gets stomped on, chewed up, spit out because Wall Street robbed the kitty. They stole our hard-earned money and continue to beg, borrow, and steal from American citizens. Sales in business after business, including the auto industry, have gone down because the bailout recipients didn't make loans. Credit is frozen. People can't buy cars. The Big Three is suffering. So what does Wall Street do? It gets its friends, its shills, on the op-ed pages and other media to shift the blame.

So who gets the blame for the strangled auto industry? Is it Detroit that's the problem? No, my friends. It's Wall Street that's the problem. And it's time that we put America back on its feet again. And as Mr. Meyerson suggests in his very last sentence, pass the anti-trust laws we need in order to scale down these banks and give America back to the American people.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 24, 2009]

BREAK UP THE BANKS

(By Harold Meyerson)

THIS WEEK IN BANKING

Our leading financial institutions announced that they had actually made a profit in the year's first quarter through the creative manipulation of rules and regulations, lobbied Congress to preserve their ability to raise credit card interest rates just for the heck of it and opposed the administration's plan for restructuring Chrysler, which would save some jobs and honor pension obligations, in the hope that they can redeem the company's bonds at a higher level than they're trading at just now. And, to round out the picture, the Wall Street Journal reported this week that lending at the 19 largest TARP recipients was 23 percent lower in February—by which time these banks had received hundreds of billions of dollars in public funds intended to enable them to lend more—than it had been in October, before the floodgates of tax dollars had been fully opened.

This is what our major banks are up to at a time when it is our largess that is keeping them afloat.

The week began with a burst of creative accounting. Citigroup, into which we've sunk more dough than any other company, with the possible exception of AIG, claimed a profit for the first quarter of this year because its bonded debt has lost value, which under the rules of accountancy enabled it to register a one-time gain equal to that lost value, because Citi could, in theory, buy back its own bonds for less. J.P. Morgan Chase, whose fire-sale purchase of Bear Stearns we taxpayers backed, declared a similar profit because of a similar decline in the value of its bonds.

As events would have it, the very same Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase are the lead negotiators for the banks that are objecting to the Obama administration's efforts to restructure Chrysler. Chrysler's bonds, which these banks hold, are trading at 15 cents on the dollar, the amount the government offered to pay the banks in its initial proposal to restore the company to viability. Yesterday, the government upped that amount to 22 cents, plus a 5 percent equity share in the company. Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase, however, insist that they and their fellow banks are entitled to more, though that ''more'' could only come at the expense of Fiat (the auto company that is providing the new car lines and technology without which Chrysler will fold) or the company's retirees (to whose health-care fund Chrysler is legally obligated) who built the company, or the taxpayers who are keeping Chrysler alive.

Instead of playing Scrooge (and a publicly subsidized Scrooge, at that), what the banks should do is lend Chrysler their accountants. Maybe they'd show that the company turned a profit last year.

The banks' lobbyists, meanwhile, have been hard at work, too. Bills to limit credit card fees and penalties—my favorite fee is the one banks charge some customers for making (not missing, making) a payment—are moving through both houses of Congress, but the Senate version has yet to receive any support from Republicans. A bill that would enable bankruptcy judges to modify mortgage terms has also hit a wall in the Senate, with Republican leaders claiming the backing of all 41 of their members to filibuster the bill when it comes to the floor.

President Obama told representatives of the major banks yesterday that he backs the limits on credit card charges. The question here is whether the administration and congressional Democrats will use this issue to go after the Republicans, whose decision to align themselves with the banks, particularly on the issue of credit card fees, is incomprehensibly dumb even by their standards. Socially liberal bankers may be a financial mainstay of the new-model Democratic Party, but if the Democratic Senate and House campaign committees don't run against the Republicans for backing the moral sewer and economic disaster that is our modern banking industry, they will be derelict in their political duties.

And that should just be the beginning. The Democrat in the White House and the Democrats on the Hill are committed to legislation that regulates our dysfunctional wards in the banking industry, but regulations by themselves won't solve the problem of the banks being too big to fail—and so big that they dominate campaign finance and, with it, much of the business of lawmaking. We need to amend our antitrust laws so we can scale down banks to the point that they no longer imperil our economic and political systems. As things stand now, it's we who are serving their needs, not they who are serving ours. It's time to turn that around.

□ 1945

PTSD/TBI GUARANTEED REVIEW FOR HEROES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, our Nation has asked many of its military personnel to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

Unfortunately, many of these servicemembers are returning with symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder, known as PTSD, and traumatic brain injuries, known as TBI.

A 2008 study by the RAND Corporation found that nearly 20 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have symptoms of PTSD or major depression. This study also found that many servicemembers say they do not seek treatment for psychological illnesses because they feel it will harm their careers. When some servicemembers suffering from PTSD or TBI are not properly treated, they wind up self-medicating or experiencing changes in behavior that lead to serious legal issues and the threat of separation from their service without benefits or treatment.

One disturbing example involves a lance corporal who is stationed in my district at Camp Lejeune. The marine had been facing involuntary administrative separation due to misconduct. His fitness reports prove that he was an outstanding marine prior to his deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

His medical board reports, and it states, and I quote, ''His service in the Marine Corps caused his PTSD and, indirectly, his incidents/legal problems. The Marine Corps' failure to treat him in the past and treat him appropriately has done nothing but worsen the problem.''

If this marine would be administratively separated from service, he will not have a chance to be eligible for TRICARE benefits. He would have difficulty obtaining a job, and it is unlikely that a university would accept him as a student.

Fortunately, the Marine Corps has decided to give this marine another chance, and he will be transferred to a naval hospital for PTSD treatment. However, this is not an isolated problem. Many servicemembers have already lost their benefits due to an administrative separation from their service.

For this reason, I have introduced H.R. 1701, the PTSD/TBI Guaranteed Review for Heroes Act. H.R. 1701 attacks the issue from two angles.

First, the bill creates a special review board at the Department of Defense for servicemembers who were less than honorably discharged. And, second, the bill would mandate a physical evaluation board prior to an administrative separation proceeding if the servicemember has been diagnosed with PTSD or TBI by medical authority. Ultimately, the legislation would help preserve the benefits of the servicemember upon leaving the service.

At a news conference last week, I was grateful to be joined by representatives from the National Association for Uniformed Services, the National Military Family Association and the Military Officers Association of America, who spoke in support of this legislation.

The Air Force Sergeants Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and Marine Corps League have endorsed this bill. If our government and the military fail to address problems associated with PTSD, the situation will only grow worse in future years.

In 2007, President Obama and Vice President BIDEN joined Senator Kit Bond and others in writing President Bush about the need to ensure that any discharge a servicemember receives ''is

proper and provides for their subsequent care for all service-connected injuries, visible and invisible.''

Given his previous interest in the issue, I hope President Obama will make H.R. 1701 a priority for his administration.

I am very pleased to have Congressman GENE TAYLOR of Mississippi as lead cosponsor of the bill, as well as Congressman BILL PASCRELL and TODD PLATTS, both cochairmen of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force. I hope that many of my colleagues in the House will join us as cosponsors of this important legislation for our Nation's military heroes.

Before closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform; I would like to ask God to please bless the families of our men and women of uniform; and, God, please bless the families who have given a child dying in Afghanistan and Iraq. And I close by asking God to continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DURBAN II HATE-FEST IN GENEVA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week's Durban II hate-fest in Geneva reminded us once again of the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel bias that pervades the United Nations, and reinforced why the United States and several other responsible nations were right to stay away.

Given what amounted to a keynote speech, Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad reminded us of his regime's goals when he savagely attacked the U.S. and Israel and called for radical political and economic upheaval on his terms.

He added, ''World Zionism personifies racism'' and said that Israel is a ''totally racist'' regime.

But such statements by Iran's Ahmadinejad come as no surprise. The Iranian leader frequently pushes for Israel's destruction, saying that this sovereign state should be wiped off the map, calling it a disgraceful blot on the face of the Islamic world and proclaiming that anyone who recognized Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury.

On May 8 of last year, he said Israel is a ''stinking corpse'' and is on its way to total destruction. A few months later, on August 20, he referred to Israel as a ''germ of corruption'' that will be ''removed soon.''

A year prior, on June 3, 2007, Ahmadinejad stated, ''With God's help, the countdown button for the destruction of [Israel] has been pushed.''

In October of 2005, he asked ''Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism? You had best know that this slogan and this goal are attainable and, surely, can be achieved.''

Mr. Speaker, his words and actions do not merely reflect his own views or those of a few powerless extremists, but, rather, Iran's supreme leader, for example, said, ''This cancerous tumor of a state should be removed from the region.''

Rafsanjani, the former Iranian leader who continues to hold significant influence and who some mistakenly call a moderate, has threatened Israel with destruction by nuclear weapons, going on to say that even the use of one nuclear bomb inside Israel will destroy everything, while it will merely harm the Islamic world. Ahmadinejad's hatred for Israel, for the Jewish people, for the Great Satan, that is the United States, for freedom, for democracy and all that the United States and Israel represent, transcends rhetoric into policies and actions that threaten vital U.S. security interests and pose an existential threat to Israel.

Foremost are Iran's sponsorship of violent Islamic groups and its pursuit of nuclear, chemical, biological and missile capabilities. Responsible nations cannot accept the prospect of an emboldened nuclear Iranian regime. We must close loopholes in existing U.S. and international sanctions so as to deny the regime all remaining lifelines and compel it to abandon its destructive policies.

Likewise, we must learn history's lesson that we will not achieve peace by embracing Islamic militant groups like the Iranian proxy Hamas, or by recognizing a Palestinian Authority government that includes Hamas.

The proposed supplemental, which will be before the House in a few weeks, would provide hundreds of millions of dollars for assistance in Gaza. And this would amount to a bailout for Hamas, enabling them to divert their funds from reconstruction to the purchasing of arms.

We have tried unconditional funding to an unaccountable Palestinian leadership again and again, and it has not worked. There is no reason to expect a different outcome now.

Mr. Speaker, just today the Palestinian Authority leader Abu Mazen again refused to recognize Israel as a Jewish state. But the proposed supplemental before us would allocate $200 million in additional direct cash transfers to the Palestinian Authority.

In short, as we craft policy to protect our Nation, we must reward those who stand with us, compel those who threaten us to change their course, and demand accountability in exchange for our hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUNTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. INGLIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FIRST 100 DAYS OF OBAMA PRESIDENCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, we celebrate today, shortly, I think in 2 days, we celebrate 100 days of President Obama's Presidency. His rankings are way up there, and we all respect him on his first 100 days, but I am going to talk about those 100 days because I have a little bit different viewpoint than others might. I highly respect the man but, in turn, you can view the world differently, and I certainly view the world differently than Mr. Obama and the majority party.

I am going to talk, and I hope I will be joined by some of my colleagues, a little bit about the way I look at the last 100 days and actually farther back than 100 days, the way I look at the last 6 months of what's going on in this country and where we are going and what concerns I have.

Now, I want to make it very clear that I am not doing this to get on Ms. NAPOLITANO's hit list. I am just doing this to express my opinion.

The first thing, when you start trying to look at this new administration and the direction we are taking the country, you have got to start, I think, with our foreign policy. And I think, literally, the first thing or almost first thing that the President of the United States did when he became President of the United States was to order the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay to be closed down and, of course, we are now having the debate as to what we are going to do with the prisoners that were there.

As a result of putting the spotlight on Gitmo, we put a spotlight on the argument of whether or not certain behavior is torture or not torture. And, clearly, this is a matter of opinion. And then we, as of yet, have not had official release of documents that tell us what resulted from these various procedures like waterboarding, as far as information gained by our intelligence folks.

But the argument is that this was a great thing to do, to close down Guantanamo Bay. I disagree. I actually think it was almost the perfect place for us to keep those folks because, quite frankly, I haven't seen anyone, certainly none of our European allies have stepped up yet and said that they were willing to take them. We have had a few that stepped up and their political leaders said, whoa, time out, we are not going to do that.

A fellow has got a private prison somewhere in the country said this morning he would take them, and then—I am not sure who the official was, who said, oh, no, you are not going to take them. So right now we don't have anyplace to put them.

I would volunteer the Williamson County jail, because I know that they would wish they were back at Gitmo, but I don't think they are willing to take them. So we are at a dilemma on that, and we are at a dilemma on whether or not what has happened to these folks that are in this detention facility is, in fact, torture.

I think that the general consensus in the press is that it is. But did it result in something that saved the lives of Americans, that's a good question.

Hopefully that information will be released in the very near future. I know the President and Senate requested it. And I hope that we get that full information so we, as Americans, can get a good picture of whether or not this is really a good thing that we did.

We certainly closed down something that was all over the news, it was all over the talking points of the Democratic Party. And, of course, that being the President who was elected from the Democratic Party, and as he says, he won, and he gets the opportunity to do that, and that's the first thing that he did.

Other things in foreign affairs that he has done, he has made some trips overseas to Europe, was very, very warmly received by our allies in Europe, and they cheered for him and patted him on the back.

□ 2000

But they didn't give him what he asked for. He asked for some help, some real help, in Afghanistan.

Let me say, I just came back from a meeting with the EU myself, and there are a lot of folks over there that certainly are standing in harm's way in Afghanistan. Most of those are Eastern European countries, but there are a few, like Great Britain, who certainly stand in the gap. But the President didn't get what he was looking for in the way of assistance over there, and, quite frankly, I think the Europeans should step up for him.

I do support their participation, and not just the participation, as I told them when I was over there. The way we look at it where I come from, when you are making ham and eggs, the chicken is involved, but the pig is committed, and we are looking for some folks that are committed. That means, if necessary, they will go there without restrictions in their ability to perform, as some of our allies have done when they have gone to the battle areas that we are fighting terrorists in.

Oh, by the way, one of the things that the Obama administration has done through Mrs. NAPOLITANO is we are not supposed to call these folks ''terrorists'' anymore, but I have a hard time remembering what I am supposed to call them, so I am going to call them that until I can remember what the new politically correct term she invented is.

The President went to visit with the Central and South American leaders. He has opened the doors, or is attempting to open the doors, to a regime that has been a very, very evil regime since I guess I was a freshman in high school, and, believe me, that is a long time ago.

Fidel Castro, we all thought he was going to be the savior of mankind when he came to the United States in, what was it, '56 or '57, until we got to know him and realized he was nothing more than what all dictators seem to be and they are, and that is a tyrant who totally and completely persecuted any opposition that might arise in his country of Cuba. He has slaughtered innocents for 50 years, and his brother doesn't seem to be moving in any other direction but backing up Fidel.

Yet we have opened the doors now to Cuba. We are saying we are going to let tourists go down there. We are going to work with these people. Of course, we asked them if they would release the political prisoners down there, some of whom have been there forever, and President Obama thought that he heard Fidel Castro say yes, he thought we could work something out. But now they have come out and officially said they thought maybe the President misunderstood what Fidel said, so we didn't get anything out of that. But let's hope that maybe this will be good for us.

But I always have a problem that when you acknowledge tyranny and you legitimize tyranny, then how do you fight against tyranny? It is an interesting dilemma to be in as a leader.

We have got Hugo Chavez, who has been probably the biggest hater of this country since he came into power of anybody in my remembrance. I don't believe that the dictators of the Second World War that we fought against said as many bad things about the United States of America as Hugo Chavez has said.

He has written a book called ''Open Veins of Latin America,'' which is a venomous attack on the United States blaming every woe that Central and South America has ever had on the United States of America. I think he gave an autographed copy of that book to the President of the United States when he was there, and they shook hands in agreement, not about the book, I am sure, about acceptance of the book.

From a foreign policy standpoint, I don't think we laid a good foundation there, not a foundation of being the voice for freedom in the world. But then good men of good character can disagree, and I certainly think that the President of the United States disagrees with that position, and certainly he is an American citizen and is rightfully able to do so, just like I am.

When the President, when we had visitors here from Great Britain, it was about the time we sent the bust of Winston Churchill back to England, which was supposed to be a permanent gift to this country, but somehow it got sent back. The President met the Queen. He shook her hands with both hands, and then bowed to the leader of Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah. The view of the world is just different from the heights that the President views it and from the lowly position here in Congress that we view it, at least from my standpoint.

That is enough to talk about the foreign policy. But the truth is we are trying to be open and we are trying to reach out to folks and we are asking them to let's all be friends, and hopefully we all will be.

If there is one thing that you have to look at this 100 days that the President has been President, that defines this 100 days more than any other thing, it is the new way we are going to handle an old problem that has been in the economic cycles of this country, that has been coming up for many, many years, and that is the idea of a recession and the possibility of a depression and how do you handle it.

The best guidance that some think we have ever had is the guidance that was given to us by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was elected in 1932 and served the longest of any President of the United States, which brought about the limiting amendments that we have had that limited us to two terms for President. He served many more than two terms for President, but he served from 1932 until basically 1940 when the world and the whole subject matter of the world at that time was the Great Depression.

The Great Depression, however, got overshadowed by the German invasion of Poland in 1939 and the beginning of the Second World War. So the periods as you define the Presidency of Franklin Roosevelt, you take the Great Depression, '32 to '40, and then the next phase in which the American soldier did an excellent job and the American President did an excellent job of defeating tyranny around the world.

I guess going back to a little bit of the history of the Great Depression, the interesting thing was that in 1932 the unemployment rate, and I am not good at getting figures, but it was double digits, somewhere in the 20s or 30s, something like 25 or 30 percent of the population was unemployed. In 1940, that same number was still unemployed. Yet we had gone on, we had adopted the Keynesian version of economics and we had leaped forward with the Keynesian version, and the biggest spending spree in the history of the country took place from 1932 to actually 1946.

But this administration has managed to have spent more than all of that and more than all the other Presidents combined in the first 100 days. Now, I don't want to be totally unfair, because part of that came at the tail-end of the Bush administration with the Democrat Congress, and so I don't think it is completely fair to lay all that off on President Obama. But the facts are just that the President's budget is going to create the largest single deficit a budget has ever created in the history of the Republic.

You know, one of the things that we discussed, there is a long debate, it was debated out pretty heavily in the Presidential election, was whether or not we were going to have earmarks. We still debate to this day in this Congress what is an earmark, is it good, is it bad. Everybody has got an opinion. We haven't resolved the issue. But the President said he would veto any bill that had an earmark in it, because he didn't believe in earmarks, and he is in a large crowd of people that continues to believe that way. And we have this debate on this floor, in committee, and elsewhere right now we have this debate. It goes on continuously. But the President did sign the omnibus spending bill, and he signed it with 9,000 earmarks in it. So as we look at this 100 days, we have got some promises, promises made and promises kept that we need to look at, and there is just a lot of different ways to view what is going on.

I will say this. I will tell you that the President has got as good a popularity rating as anybody that has ever held the office in the first 100 days, so I will give him absolute credit for that. He certainly knows how to be popular, and he is popular. But, you know, we had thousands of people take to the streets, I guess it was last weekend, the weekend before last, with the TEA parties, and although it was probably targeting the Congress as much as it was targeting anybody, but they were certainly not happy with the state of affairs in the United States.

We signed the stimulus bill with $787 billion. Obama's inauguration cost the taxpayers $49 million, which was triple the amount of money that was spent on the Bush administration's first inauguration. There is still a $50.5 million budget shortfall on the Democratic convention in Chicago. So spending has become something that identifies this Presidency; $1.5 trillion is this year's budget. Now we are looking at a new budget, $3.6 trillion. We talked about $1 trillion before on the floor of the House; $1 trillion is a stack of brand new $1,000 bills somewhere between 63 and 65 miles high. That is a whole lot of money, a whole lot of money.

So as we look at this 100 days, you can look at it in different ways. I will say this: The President has certainly kept his cool. He is an excellent speaker. He dazzles our allies and he makes people feel comfortable, and that is a lot that we need in this country.

My problem that I have with President Obama most of all is that I fear the kind of overwhelming expenditure that we have to deal with from the Obama administration. We are getting so far in debt that our great-great-grandchildren are going to have problems paying this bill.

I see I am joined by one of my colleagues, KEVIN BRADY. He is one of the people that I look up to in this building because he has always got good things to say. I will yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Thank you, Mr. CARTER. Again I want to thank you for your leadership in the Republican Conference here in Washington, as well as the fact that you bring out issues that I think average Americans, middle class Americans, want to talk about these days.

To be fair, I don't know if 100 days into the administration is a very good gauge of how successful or unsuccessful they will be. It is sort of more like a PR date. It is like getting your high school graduation grade in the first grade. You know what I mean?

□ 2015

Here's the very beginning. We'll see how it goes. I guess some things that worry me are that so much of this administration has been basically designed, or the foundation is to blame President Bush for everything. And it just seems to me that this is President Obama's stimulus. It is President Obama's budget. It's President Obama's bailout. And at some point, you have to start taking responsibility for your own leadership. And I think that's important for our new President to do.

And I also take issue with the often-stated fact, supposedly, from the White House, that President Clinton inherited a surplus and President Obama a deficit, which is only partially true. What they don't say is that President Clinton inherited a surplus from a Republican Congress. And President Obama inherited a deficit from a Democratic Congress.

I was here in 1997 on this floor, about this time of the night, when Republicans sat down with President Clinton, worked out the balanced budget agreement that led to that surplus. And Democrats voted overwhelmingly against that balanced budget agreement. So the surplus that President Bush received didn't come from Democrats; it came from Republicans.

Admittedly, Republicans, especially led by the President, spent way too much. But I'd point out that the deficit when the Republicans left the majority in Congress they had whittled down to about $160 billion a year; still way to high, but the compass was moving in the right direction.

Here we are 2½ years later, under Democratic control of the House and Senate, the deficit is now 10 times that much, $1.18 trillion, the most in American history. And that's what worries our folks, Congressman CARTER, the most, you know, that we are on the biggest spending spree in American history; trillions and trillions and trillions of dollars of debt that seemingly can never be repaid; $1 billion extra new funding an hour in the first 50 days of this new administration. And the question they have for me is, who's going to pay for all this? I mean, they realize there is no free lunch. There is no free money. Someone somewhere is going to have to pay for it. And it won't be the wealthy. It's going to be middle class families and small businesses, our children and grandchildren, who ultimately will pay for all this massive spending.

I serve as the ranking House Republican on the Joint Economic Committee, and our economists pointed out that the stimulus bill really was a spending bill, had very little to do with creating jobs, would have very little to do with the economy recovering and may, in fact, be a drag on our economy in the out-years as we attempt to pay back where interest rights rise to catch up with all the monetary policy and fiscal policy occurring in Washington today.

We also worry, our economists believe that our debt, national debt, may not just double in the next 4 years, may well triple in the next 4 years, in that inflation could go to 8 to 10 percent a year, which really eats away at people's pocketbooks, families' paychecks, really is one of the greatest, I think, damagers to our economy.

And we see this spending. We see this national debt, all of it again blamed on President Bush. And I look forward to the day when our new President says, you know, this is my administration, this is my leadership.

And I see the mistakes that are being made on proposing tax increases on professionals and small businesses, tax increase is major on our independent energy producers in America. Tax increases, utility increases on every American as a result of this cap-and-trade scheme.

We see taxes on people who want to give charitable deductions or deduct their own mortgage rates from what they owe Uncle Sam, higher taxes on capital gains and dividends, which a lot of our seniors rely upon in their retirement days as well. And it just seems to me you cannot tax, borrow and spend your way to prosperity; that we're

going to see massive tax increases, but even then, you cannot tax your way back to a balanced budget.

In fact, I think and I believe that this budget that will be rushed through Congress this week, Congressman CARTER, if it is allowed to pass, I don't know if we'll even have time to read it, just like the stimulus bill may be rushed through Congress. If it passes, we may well not see a balanced budget again in our lifetime. It sets the path so far from what a balanced budget is.

In fact, you could double the taxes on every American, every taxpaying American in our country, you still wouldn't balance the budget under the Obama budget that we're looking at here this week. So all this debt, all this spending is scary, the direction we're headed.

I'm convinced there are some issues, perhaps, that the President would like to work with Republicans on. I know that we're anxious to do that. So far it's been highly partisan in Washington. But I think there are issues that, if the President says to the Speaker and the Senate majority leader, I really do want to find consensus, rather than just jam everything through, I can tell you there are a lot of Republicans who are willing and eager to sit down with him. That's not been the case so far. As a result, I think our country is worse off for it.

And I'd yield back again to the leader of this discussion.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, the issue of bipartisanship is one that every American wants, including every American, I believe, in this House. But the facts are that you have situations where some things are just so diametrically opposed to what you stand for that there's no place you can go there.

When you're talking about bipartisanship, you've got to come in and try to move to a compromise middle position. Most of the legislation that we've seen in Congress in the first 100 days hasn't really even been vetted with the committee system. It just almost comes directly from the Speaker's Office to the floor. So we don't have any input into all that. To get bipartisanship you've got to sit down and talk things out, work things out. That's why we have committees. That's why we have the smaller units that discuss these things.

You know, I was on, when I was, my first term in Congress I served on the then called Education and Workforce, now it's called Education and Labor Committee. And we had a group of African American women, and mostly women, but a few men, mostly grandmothers, but a few mothers, who came to express their desire to make sure that the voucher program that had been created before I got here for the D.C. schools was kept in place because, and they testified over and over and over how it was saving the lives of their children and grandchildren; that it was allowing them to select the school of their choice, and to put an effort forward to excel and be a superior student, because they were able to have gotten into the lottery system to get one of these vouchers for 1,700 students as an experimental program.

But I had never, I've never been up here where I saw just ordinary folks come in and, I mean, I saw a grandmother stand up there and cry: Please don't take this program away. This program is saving my grandchild's life. Please don't take it away.

And we didn't.

But, unfortunately, the administration has eliminated that program. Now, this program was just what a bunch of poor people wanted. It's just a shame we couldn't expand that program so that we could do something about the failed D.C. school system, to make sure that good, hardworking kids, no matter where they live or what their circumstances in life are, would have a place to go to have a chance to have a better education. I don't understand that. I don't understand why that would happen. But it has to do with, something to do with politics.

But when you're talking about little kids and their chance to go to a safe school and their chance to learn something, and you have a program that's giving them that chance and every one of their supervising parents and grandparents are there saying it's the greatest thing that ever happened to us, why in the world would you take that little token thing away, when you're spending trillions of dollars on other things?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. And if the gentleman would yield.

Mr. CARTER. I will yield.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I think you make an important point there because that issue wasn't decided on what was best for the children. That was just a political agenda that was being exercised. And yet you have—I'm one of these believers that we need to invest in and lift up public schools all across this country with accountability, with resources, helping them do their job.

But while we're improving the very worst of these schools, like in Washington, DC, you have to give those parents a choice, an option of getting their kids into a school, because if you're going to take, 5, 6, 7, 8 years to get a school up to standards, look, when you have little kids like we do, in kindergarten and fourth grade, my wife and I do, every year matters. You can't have them in a school that's still failing for 5 or 6 or 7 more years. And those parents who last week were told, yes, we're going to continue it, and then a day later it was yanked out from under them, you know, all they said was, all they were saying is, while you improve our schools, give us a chance to get our kids a better education while you're doing it. So trying to do it both at one time. But we've seen this a lot. Common sense, I think, principles and values, that seem to be ignored.

Last week, the Joint Economic Committee held a hearing with the Special Inspector General over the bailout funds. And he's very direct. And, basically, Barofsky, former prosecutor, respected, a lot of credibility, he said—he made two points at the hearing, Congressman CARTER. One was that he said, despite their repeated requests to the Treasury Department that all the money from the bailout be accounted for, and then banks put in place controls so you can continue to monitor, again, Treasury Department, time and time has said no, we'll not do that. We don't want to know and hold accountable where those bailout dollars are going.

And, secondly, they had just finished this, Inspector General, Special Inspector General, just finished a review of this new, some of the new programs, including taking these bad loans off the banks' books. And they said, it is ripe for abuse, collusion, conflict of interest, money laundering. They made a series of commonsense recommendations on how to prevent that from occurring. And to date, the Treasury Department still has not agreed to those commonsense protections of our tax dollars.

And we're seeing that, whether it is in lower income people who want their kids to have a good education, whether it is taxpayers who just want to know where their bailout money went, and they want to prevent abuses before they begin, whether it is—a lot of Americans are not convinced that a government-run health care system is the way to go in America, but they already feel like it's being shut, they're being shut out and it's being rammed through.

Same with this global warming cap-and-trade scheme. Again, rushed to the floor, rushed through Congress. We know, from the AIG bonuses and that fiasco of legislation that was on the House floor, when Congress rushes these things to the floor, when there is no debate, when it's shut off, when there's a gag rule where we can't even read the stimulus bill, and the public doesn't know about it, at the end of the day, America loses.

And I think that that's one of the reasons, Congressman, that this President, for all his personal skills, for all, I think, his sincere desire to do a good job, his poll numbers, while high, are the most polarizing in four decades. The country has never been this divided over what direction we're going. He can play, I think, a more important role in leading. And I just hope that he's not, you know, manipulated or directed by those around him; that he's able to step forward, because I think there is an opportunity to work together. But so far, the first 100 days have been very, very disappointing from that regard.

And I would yield back.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, and I thank the gentleman for his comments. And let me say, so that everybody understands where I come from, when this all started, President Bush

was President of the United States. And we had a Treasury Secretary come running in here and say, oh Lord, oh Lord, oh Lord, the sky is falling. I need you to give me three-quarters of a trillion dollars, roughly, and I need it now. Don't ask any questions. Trust me.

Well, when that all happened, I thought to myself, now, the folks in Round Rock and Georgetown, Texas, are pretty decent, hardworking, honest people. But I don't believe, if a guy came running into their place of business in a big hurry and said, the sky is falling, the sky is falling, the world's going to hell, I just gotta have a couple hundred bucks. Give it to me. I'll pay you back. Trust me. I think they'd say, whoa, wait a minute. What do you need this $200 for in such a big hurry?

□ 2030

At least they'd say that: What are you going to do with it if I loan it to you, and I'm not going to get it back? That might be their best friend to whom they might be able to do that; but I believe any normal-thinking American would ask that kind of question.

We were talking about three-quarters of $1 trillion that he was asking for, and all he was saying was: Trust me. It's too complicated for you to understand. Trust me. So I voted against it because, quite frankly, I think that the man on the street manages his money with more commonsense than the Congress does in managing that money.

Now I hear this story from you, and you would know because you're on the Ways and Means Committee, which looks into these things. It shocks me to think that we are being told very clearly that the use of this money could be used for money laundering—that word jumps off the page—and they're not even doing it? Something is wrong. There's something wrong.

I've got friends who have arrived. My friend PHIL GINGREY has arrived here from the great State of Georgia. He was the first one here, so let's let him talk a little bit about the first 100 days.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the gentleman from Texas for yielding and for giving me the opportunity to join with him on the floor tonight as we talk to our colleagues about our impression of the first 100 days.

I was actually on ''Fox News Sunday,'' just yesterday, basically talking about the same thing, and my comment then was: well, you know, what bothers me more than the first 100 days and the performance of the President is the fact that yesterday was National Debt Day. It was the day on which the Federal Government had spent every bit of the money that we've taken in. All of the revenue has been spent on expenses, on discretionary spending and on mandatory spending, and now, for the rest of the year, it's borrowed money. We're going to be spending borrowed money for the rest of the year.

The striking—shocking almost—thing about that, Mr. Speaker, is that this is occurring 3½ months earlier this year, the gentleman from Texas, than it did last year. So, yes, there's no way that I could stand before my colleagues and say that I would give the President a good grade on this.

My worthy opponent in the majority yesterday, as we always have a Republican and a Democrat on these television shows, said: Well, you know, the President ought to be scored on a curve. I guess he meant compared to the last President—President Bush and the previous administration. In the opinion of this gentleman, the President should get an A on the curve. Now, he's a Harvard-educated lawyer, an accountant, and I think he, maybe, even has a Ph.D. In the Ivy League, I don't think they give anything, Mr. Speaker, but A's and B's. I went to Georgia Tech, and there is no curve. There is no grade inflation at Georgia Tech. I hope my friends at Georgia Tech won't get on to me about this. I'm a Georgia Tech graduate, and I speak only for myself, but I would give him at best a C-minus.

One of the things that bothers me the most is this recent release, this declassification and release of these memos that were written by attorneys in the previous Justice Department in regard to enhanced interrogation to try to make sure that anything we did as a country was done legally and within the bounds of the law and within the bounds of our great Constitution. I'm sure they struggled—it was a difficult thing to do—and in good conscience said to the President: This is what you can do. This is what you cannot do. We're in a desperate situation. We have just been attacked. Three thousand or more people were killed when the Twin Towers came crashing down after the Islamic extremists—the terrorists, global terrorists—I guess we call that overseas contingency operations now.

Mr. CARTER. That's the word. That's the word.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I guess we can no longer talk about terrorism.

We were in a desperate situation, Mr. Speaker, and to think that the President—I read this in the paper about how he spent 5½ hours with his top-level people over in the West Wing, debating pro and con whether or not to release these memos—to declassify them and to embarrass, I guess, the previous administration and our country to the world. After 5½ hours of debate, pro and con, the President made a decision to release those memos, and then of course said: But now, you know, we need to move forward. I'm a leader—and I hope and pray that he is—who wants to look to the future.

We've got a lot of problems. This economy is terrible. With everything we've done, we're just right back to where we were, you know, as far as the Dow goes and as far as continuing to lose jobs. So we need to move forward and not focus on the past. We're not going to be prosecuting these people because what they did they did in good faith. Then, what, 6 days later, all of a sudden, he said: Well, maybe I'm not so sure about that.

Mr. Speaker, this is dangerous stuff, and I think the President really needs to rethink this. This business of gotcha and saying that, you know, everything is the fault of the previous administration, I think, has got to stop. If he wants to get a good score on his first 100 days, well then, let's start thinking about the next 100 days. I'm ready to give him a good score if he—the President, Mr. President, the 44th President of the United States—doesn't try to take over our health care system and doesn't bring us towards socialized medicine and a single-payer system, if he doesn't tax the middle class to death with this carbon trade scheme, regime, European Union idea, that, I think, is crazy in these economic times. If he wants a decent score in the next 100 days—and I'll yield back to my colleague—then hopefully he will and this Congress will and this majority will reject these ideas as we move forward.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time, I thank my friend from Georgia. That's exactly what I was talking earlier about. It's easy to talk about bipartisanship, but when you just really believe the policy is wrong, that it's the wrong policy at the wrong time and for the wrong purpose, how can you work in a bipartisan manner on something like this cap-and-tax system that's being proposed by the majority?

I mean, I'm going to tell you: unless I just don't understand it—and I'm not saying there's not a chance I might not understand it—but it seems to me that if your purpose is to keep people from putting carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and you've got a plant over here that's pouring out carbon dioxide and you've got a plant over here that's clean and that's saving carbon dioxide and planting 1,000 trees, then you say, well, this guy can loan to this guy some of his cleanness, and this guy will be in compliance, but, hey, he's still putting the stuff in the air. So how does that do anything?

Oh, by the way, there's a tax that goes with this that's estimated to raise about $1.5 trillion for the United States, a brand-new tax. Well, that's okay. That tax is going to be on the big oil companies and on the utility companies and all of those people. That's okay. Who cares about them. Do you think those people pay that tax? Go down and get out last month's utility bill. Open it up, and see whose name is on it. Then see what they tell you you've got to pay, and look at the bottom line, and see what it is, and write it down someplace because it's going up, and it's going up by the amount of that tax if they pass this bill. So it is a new way to tax Americans. Believe me, that bill is not going to say, oops, you're middle class, so we're not going to put it on your bill. It's not going to

say that. Oops, you're poor, so we're not going to put it on your bill. It's only going to go on the rich people's bills. It's not going to say that. It's going to be on everybody's utility bill and on everybody's gasoline bill and on everybody's fuel bill. It's all going up by the amount of that tax, and you, the American people, are going to pay this.

We—my friend Mr. WESTMORELAND and my friend Mrs. BACHMANN—we're all going to pay this.

I'd better recognize Mrs. BACHMANN. She's one of the bright lights of this conference. We're glad to have her with us.

Mrs. BACHMANN, I will yield to you such amount of time you wish to consume.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Judge, I thank you, and I thank you for holding this Special Order hour this evening on the first 100 days of the Obama administration.

This has been a great leap that we've seen. We have different historical shifts that occur in our Nation's history. This one has to be at least, not a shift but, I think, more a great leap that we've seen. To me, the question shouldn't be as much How is President Obama doing? as much as it should be How are the people doing? How are the American people doing after these first 100 days?

We were made great promises of hope, great promises of change. Yet I was listening over the weekend to the President's man, Larry Summers, and to what he was saying. He was saying it may be next year, 2010, before we see any shift in this economic climate. We were led to believe that we would see great change, immediate change, and all we're seeing is a prolonged effort, which is just what happened in the 1930s with FDR.

The more the government spent, the more the government regulated, the more the government put up tariff barriers—trade barriers—and the more government intervened, the longer the recession occurred. As a matter of fact, the recession that FDR had to deal with wasn't as bad as the recession Coolidge had to deal with in the early twenties. Yet, from history, the prescription that Coolidge put on that is lower taxes, a lower regulatory burden, and we saw the roaring twenties where we saw markets and growth in the economy like we had never seen before in the history of the country. FDR applied just the opposite formula—the Smoot-Hawley Act, which was a tremendous burden on tariff restrictions, and then, of course, trade barriers and the regulatory burden and tax barriers. That's what we saw happen under FDR. That took a recession and blew it into a full-scale depression. The American people suffered for almost 10 years under that kind of thinking.

Here we are now, boosting forward to the year 2009—the beginning of hope and change. So, again, the question is: How are the people doing?

Credit is tight. Banks aren't lending the way people had hoped they would lend. Job losses are going into the double digits. We have college and we have job losses approaching 20 percent in their districts. Minnesota, the State that I represent, is a fairly diverse State economically. We tend to have low unemployment. In areas of my district, I have unemployment of 10 percent. That may not seem like a lot, but that's a lot in the State of Minnesota.

I wrote down just a couple of things, Mr. CARTER, that we've seen just in the time that President Obama has been in office. He said quite often after he came into office that he inherited this mess. Now, one thing that we remember is that President Obama actually voted for all of these measures that got us into this mess. He voted for the bailout. He voted for all of these expenditures whether it was for Freddie and Fanny or Bear Stearns. He was voting for all of these measures all throughout 2008, but just since the time of his election in November of 2008 to the present day, he has increased the burden, and he has increased spending by 75 percent on his watch. So it's one thing to say you've inherited a mess. It's another thing to increase that mess by 75 percent. How has he done it?

Well, he passed an over-$1 trillion stimulus measure that he was only too happy to sign. He also proposed that we spend $75 billion in direct foreclosure money. Then he proposed $200 billion to banks for more mortgage bailout money. Hey, I thought that's what that $700 billion was supposed to go for. That wasn't enough. He proposed and passed another $200 billion.

Then we saw our Treasury Secretary, Tim Geithner, go over to Europe and before the G–20 say that we needed to get behind another $1 trillion of spending for the International Monetary Fund—$1 trillion of spending—and also have an international financial regulator so perhaps, for the first time in the history of our country, the U.S. would subsume our economic system under an international regulator. This is unheard of. Then we also heard talk about global currency called ''special drawing down rights'' on the International Monetary Fund. The Treasury Secretary assured me, personally, in the Financial Services Committee that he would categorically renounce taking the United States off of the dollar and moving us toward international global currency. Within 24 hours, the Treasury Secretary went 180 degrees different and said he would be open to an international global currency.

Then we saw the firing of the president of General Motors, and we saw the changing of the board of directors of General Motors. We saw this administration tell Chrysler they had to get married to another company, Fiat, and they had to have this all happen before June.

□ 2045

We saw yesterday again, as Dr. GINGREY said, national debt day, and again, what this means for the people back home, is that the United States, as of Sunday, as of April 26, we spent it all. We've spent everything that we planned to bring in. It's like you made out your household budget for the year for a hundred thousand dollars, and you have already spent it by this point. So at this point, now it's the credit card. And it's not a credit card that you and I are paying; it's a credit card that our kids are going to be paying. That's why I am concerned.

And that's why I am so glad you brought this up about this first 100 days with President Obama, because I think it has more to say, Judge CARTER, about what the kids under 30 years of age will have to live with than even more what you and I will have to live with, because this is a pretty big spending spree that we've seen happen in this last 30 days, one so big we can't possibly bail ourselves out of it even this year.

Mr. CARTER. Reclaiming my time for a couple of other facts.

It's so nice to have people that are on Financial Services and Ways and Means come in here because you get to see so much more of this stuff than we do. And we're supposed to be seeing it in Appropriations, but when it comes to spending, they sort of bypass Appropriations most of the time when it comes to spending.

The 10 days before President Obama was inaugurated, he said there were two different economic scenarios that were coming down the pike, and one was good and one was bad. The good one was the passing of the stimulus bill. The bad one was doing nothing. He said that if we did not pass the stimulus bill, that unemployment rate would go above 8 percent; but if we passed the stimulus bill, we wouldn't see 8 percent unemployment at any time until 2014.

Mrs. BACHMANN. What happened, Judge?

Mr. CARTER. Today, unemployment is 8.5 percent going on 9.

And in addition to the spending we're spending, the Fed is printing trillions of dollars into the economy.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I guess, according to that thinking, then, they ought to spend more money. Do you think that's what the prescription should be for the American people?

Mr. CARTER. That's what they're trying to do.

But the reality is our spending is not working, and now the worry we have to be worried about is the fact that we may be looking at inflation, maybe 10 percent a year. Now, young people who have lived through the last—grown up since the 1990s, which would fit a great deal of the young people that are out there today, they really don't know what we're talking about when we say ''runaway inflation.'' They really don't get it.

Mrs. BACHMANN. They didn't live through the Jimmy Carter years.

Mr. CARTER. They didn't live through the Jimmy Carter times.

But when you see your paycheck, you get a paycheck and you realize that your dollar gets—in a year gets worth 10 percent less, and the next year 10 percent less again, and just like interest compounds, so does inflation.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Pretty soon your money is worth half.

Mr. CARTER. So if it would have cost you $1 to buy this clip when you first started, it will end up costing you $2 to buy that clip—it's the same clip—because inflation is running away.

Mrs. BACHMANN. And your dollar is worth half of what you thought it was worth.

Mr. CARTER. President Obama promised the people at Caterpillar that if the stimulus bill passed, they would start hiring soon. The reality is they started laying off again because it wasn't the solution to the problem.

I have got another friend that's here to join us, Mr. WESTMORELAND from the great State of Georgia, and I am going to yield him so much time as he may wish to consume.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Thank you to the gentleman from Texas for yielding and for having this hour.

I think if I was going to grade President Obama on the first 100 days, that I would have to give him an ''A'' in public perception.

Mr. CARTER. Amen.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I think he is a great orator. I think he does a great job of reading a speech, and he has—his message, and he's still been on the campaign trail, has made the public's perception think that we are getting somewhere. But the gentleman from Texas makes an excellent point. I thought he said it would not rise above 7.5 percent.

I would also have to give him an ''A'' on blame shifting. And the gentleman from Texas mentioned that, too, that this seems to be all of our problems—all of our problems seem to be from the prior administration and the prior Congresses when the Republicans were in the majority.

Now, I am here to confess that I was only here one term while we were—the Republicans were in the majority and we spent too much money. And we did. And we were at fault. And the American people said, ''No, we're going to stop this train. We're going to make a change.'' And Republicans, we got what we deserved, but the American people did not get what they deserved.

In this last election, they were promised change, and we have had quite a bit of change. And Judge, the gentleman from Texas, I know you have talked about quite a bit of that, but we need to go forward.

And I have learned something in the past 3 or 4 months that bipartisanship means doing what the Democratic leadership in this House wants you to do. It doesn't mean getting different opinions or different proposals put into the legislation. In fact, I would have to say that this Congress has been one of the most closed Congresses in the history of this country, as far as bipartisanship.

So, the public perception is an ''A.'' He has sold his agenda in a way that the public has bought it, and one of those parts has been the bipartisanship. But the people that can create the real bipartisanship in the atmosphere of working together is Speaker PELOSI and Leader REID. And the gentleman from Texas knows we have not seen that. We have, in fact, been closed out of the process. So that's not a reality.

The reality is, as my colleague from Georgia mentioned, yesterday was debt day. After yesterday, we go forward spending our children and our grandchildren's money. We're putting everything we're doing on a credit card. I sat here for 2 years in this Congress and I listened to the minority, the Democrats then, complain about deficit spending, about going into debt, on and on and on. Yet today, that seems to be okay. That seems to be the way of this country: We're just going to put it on a credit card. If we don't have enough credit, then we will print the money.

But I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for doing this and for bringing about a report card, I guess, on what the first 100 days has been about in this administration. I hope the next 100 days will be better. I wish this President great success. I wish this country great success.

But I believe in order to achieve that success, we're going to have to get away from the blame shifting. We're going to have to get away from the public perception. We're going to have to get away from selling the snake oil that's sold here, and we're going to have to get down to working together, listening to ideas, and being able to come together and give every Member of this body, the people's House, an opportunity to put forth their ideas into making this a better country that we live in.

So I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding that time and for his willingness to come down and to bring this forth to the American people.

Mr. CARTER. I thank you. Those were wonderful comments.

You know, when you were talking about bipartisanship, I wanted to point out to you that you had it exactly right. It seems that bipartisanship means ''do what we say.'' You know, the worst demonstration of wanting to be bipartisan occurred in February when it was announced that the 2010 census would be moved out of the Department of Commerce and into the White House to politicize the accounting of the American public.

Now, why would I worry about that? Well, because we, Members of Congress, are the branch of this government that is represented by a number of people. We have a number of people that we represent. And we divide the population of this country by a number that is expected to be somewhere around 800,000–850,000 people, I understand it, after the next census. And then that decides how many congressmen and -women we get from each State.

This has always been done by independent people as nonpartisan as possible because the count matters. And so say you're moving it out of the department that it has been in and into the White House, there is nothing bipartisan about that. Absolutely nothing. The center of the universe of one party is the White House.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. PERLMUTTER (during the Special Order of Mr. CARTER) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111–87) on the resolution (H. Res. 365) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE WORK OF THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert supplementary materials on the topic of my Special Order this evening.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour. Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the 9th Congressional District from California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

CBC members are advocates for the human family, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as a local and regional activist. We continue to work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress. But understand, all politics are local. Therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to citizens of the congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to

promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be the focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus today.

This week, the Caucus has joined to discuss one of the most important topics facing our country: the energy crisis. Rising global oil prices, concerns over energy security and the urgent need to address climate change has made energy a central concern of the 111th Congress and necessitated this message hour.

Mr. Speaker, I would now yield to our Chair, the honorable Ms. LEE from California, the gentlelady from California.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much.

First, let me thank Representative FUDGE from Ohio once again for holding the Special Order today as Congress continues to work to break away from this business-as-usual with regards to our Nation's energy future. Thank you Congresswoman FUDGE for selflessly each and every Monday night coming to the floor making sure that the voice of the Congressional Black Caucus is heard on each and every issue, day in and day out.

Let me also take a moment to thank the Chairs of the Congressional Black Caucus's energy and environmental task force, Representatives G.K. BUTTERFIELD, EMANUEL CLEAVER, and SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. I want to thank them for their leadership and their tireless efforts to promote proper stewardship of our communities by protecting the environment.

It's so important that we continue to call for action on these issues surrounding global warming and the continued degradation of our environment that is perpetrated by our perilous—and I mean our perilous—and I think the whole country understands what we mean now when we say ''perilous dependence'' on fossil fuels.

As I have said time and time again, there is no way that we can deny the interconnection between our stewardship of the environment and the state of the economy, public health and our communities. The drastic acceleration of greenhouse gas emissions has often been concentrated in low-income and in minority communities putting these vulnerable populations on the front lines, mind you, of the fight against environmental degradation and global climate change. In fact, 71 percent of African Americans live in counties in violation of Federal air pollution standards—that's 71 percent of African Americans—and 78 percent live within 30 miles or within the toxic perimeter of a coal-fired power plant. This is shameful.

□ 2100

Day after day, the communities in my district, for example, face the severe consequences of pollution, urban sprawl, and environmental injustice which harshly affects people of color and low-income families. Sadly, this epidemic is hitting our children the hardest. Back home in my district, children growing up in west Oakland are seven times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than the average child in California.

None of us can afford to take this lightly. The health of our community and our neighbors affects us all. Simply put, climate change has and will continue to exacerbate the problems of poverty and inequality.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus Energy Task Force and myself recently wrote a letter to Chairman WAXMAN of the House Energy and Commerce Committee expressing support for comprehensive climate legislation and investments in the green economy. I won't read the letter in its entirety, Mr. Speaker, but I will insert the letter into the RECORD.

Basically, we talked about investments in the green economy, we talked about consumer protection, job leakage protection, adaptation, and of course we talked about why we thought this bill should move very quickly and move forward with these key elements in place. In this letter, we also stress the importance of shielding low-income households from price shocks to ensure that they do not bear a disproportionate burden as we transition to a low-carbon economy. We also called for the expansion of complimentary energy-efficient programs, and for regular and predictable funding for adaptation and mitigation assistance abroad.

By the year 2030, it is estimated that the cost of adapting to global climate change could amount to more than $100 billion annually, with up to $67 billion per year to meet the needs of the developing world alone.

Now, earlier this year, I introduced H. Con. Res. 98, a congressional resolution which recognizes the disparate impact of climate change on women and the efforts of women globally to address climate change. This resolution illustrates the disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental degradation on the world's most vulnerable populations. More importantly, it reflects the reality that any strategy to combat global warming and climate change will really need to include meaningful and equitable action on the international level.

The United States must provide support for adaptation and sustainable development abroad, as well as assistance to ensure affordable access to emerging clean technologies. It is time to think big, not small. And the challenge of addressing global climate change will require a truly comprehensive and transformative solution.

I am greatly encouraged by the actions already taken by the Obama administration to reengage with the international community in order to find solutions to this global challenge. And I also applaud the Environmental Protection Agency's recent finding that greenhouse gases endanger public health and welfare, which finally recognizes the need to protect our communities and the global ecosystem by acting immediately to curb carbon pollution.

And, Congresswoman FUDGE, as I was listening to the other side talk a little earlier, I couldn't help but wonder really where they were for the last 8 years because, had some of these actions and initiatives been put in place in the last 8 years, perhaps we would be much further ahead in our overall climate change efforts. And the public health, of course, would be, I think, much better protected. I think we heard a little bit of revisionist history tonight, so I just have to say that as I move forward.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, let me just say that we want to continue to work with the Obama administration—and all of my colleagues here in a bipartisan way—to help pass responsible and comprehensive climate change legislation that will spur the development of clean, renewable energy and the deployment of much needed energy-efficient technologies.

Legislation which sets us on a path toward energy independence and a new low-carbon economy will help to maintain the United States' position as a leader in innovation and create hundreds of thousands of good-paying green jobs, and finally, help us get off of this addiction that we have to oil, especially break the stronghold that really has been crippling us in terms of our dependence on foreign oil.

One of the most exciting and inclusive solutions to many issues facing environmental health is the possibility afforded to us by promoting green jobs training and the growth of the green economy in America. And I am very pleased to say that the President, in his economic recovery package—which, of course, the other side I don't think mentioned tonight—included $100 million for green job training. We have to have people prepared for the new world, the new jobs that are going to be provided by this industry. And so $100 million would get us started on that path. But again, we have to look at this in a bipartisan way, and I hope that at some point we will.

To that end, I recently reintroduced legislation entitled, the Metro Economies Green Act, or the MEGA bill. This is H.R. 330. This establishes grant programs to encourage energy-efficient economic development and green job training and creation of green jobs. This legislation would also create a national institute to serve as a clearinghouse for best practices in order to facilitate the successful expansion of green jobs on a national scale.

As a representative of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would also just like to take a moment to recognize the role that California's East Bay is playing at the forefront of the green jobs industry and the green jobs

movement. We have a number of innovative initiatives in my district in particular, including the East Bay Green Corridor Initiative, the Oakland Green Job Corps, the Joint BioEnergy Institute, the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and the Energy Biosciences Institute at Berkley.

I recently visited the Oakland Green Job Corps with the special advisor to President Obama on energy and climate change, Carol Browner—who is doing a fantastic job in this position—and also with Mayor Ron Dellums, who is providing tremendous leadership in this area. We visited the Oakland Green Job Corps to show the Obama administration really a groundbreaking example of green-collar jobs, workforce development, and what we are doing in Oakland in terms of preparing our young people for these jobs of the future. This is already up and running in Oakland, California.

The Oakland Green Job Corps is a partnership of community organizations, trade unions, private companies, and the city of Oakland. It provides Oakland's residents with the necessary training, support, and work experience to independently pursue these careers in the new energy economy.

One component of the Corps is called the Cypress Mandela Training Center. This provides invaluable pathways out of poverty, which is extremely important to recognize that these positions provide this new industry. Also, it provides vocational training for Bay-area men and women, especially those with barriers to employment.

Green has already become the fifth-largest industry in the Nation. And with the proper support and funding, we will continue to see an explosion of innovation and the expansion of economic opportunities surrounding the green movement.

There is no doubt in my mind that a greener future will lead to a more prosperous future for our communities, the Nation, and the world, but it must be a movement that is inclusive of all and that leaves no community behind. So I urge my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to act swiftly to move America beyond its dependence on oil, address the climate crisis, and really help protect America's natural resources for our children's future. And as a person of faith, I just must say that we must preserve and we must protect God's creation, which is our planet.

Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF THE 111TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS,

Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC, April 9, 2009.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN,

Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN, As you draft and consider comprehensive energy legislation to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and to curb greenhouse gas emissions, we the undersigned Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) respectfully request your consideration of the issues discussed in this letter.

Climate change represents a tangible threat to the communities we represent as well as the United States as a whole and we, therefore, encourage and support your efforts to address this critical issue. We support science-based legislation to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The United States must be a leader on this global issue, and this target is consistent with the proposals of the Obama Administration.

INVESTMENT IN THE GREEN ECONOMY

Comprehensive energy legislation will revolutionize our economy and energy infrastructure, spurring us to become more innovative and efficient. The growing ''Green Economy'' presents an opportunity to create large numbers of quality green-collar jobs for American workers, to grow emerging industries, and to improve the health of low- and middle-income Americans. Any public investment in the Green Economy should include serious efforts to train, employ and provide public service opportunities that lead to full-time employment in these industries. This is a significant opportunity to make cost-effective public and private investments to rebuild and retrofit our nation. We recommend the following:

Develop a career pipeline, particularly in low- and middle income communities, through training, job readiness and entrepreneurship programs, to ensure that people who most need work are prepared for the family-sustaining jobs and careers in energy efficiency and energy service industries. Ensuring local hiring practices will be critical to engaging these distressed communities.

Development of Green Energy Centers of Excellence at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to research and develop new green technologies as well as train implementers in the deployment of green innovation. HBCUs maintain unique relationships with communities of color, and we should use their expertise to educate these communities on the opportunities in green industries and the techniques needed to succeed.

Ensure local and national certification standards for technical jobs to ensure appropriate levels of expertise.

Apply large-scale energy-saving measures to the nation's building stock, which will create hundreds of thousands of green-collar jobs while dramatically reducing American's energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

A cap-and-trade system will increase the cost of energy derived from high-polluting production processes for all households. Low- and middle-income households spend a greater share of their budget on energy costs than higher income households. To help prevent climate change policy from being unfairly burdensome on these households, we recommend:

Measures to offset the disproportionate impact of increased energy costs that could take the form of a climate rebate equal to the loss in purchasing power extended to the lowest quintile, the second quintile and partially extended to the third quintile. For households that file no tax returns, the rebate could be administered through the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system. For all others, the rebate could be extended through a higher Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) or alternative tax mechanisms that make the connection with this increased cost.

Further investments in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Weatherization Assistance Program, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

Prevent the creation of ''hot spots'' and ''outsourcing'' to communities of color and low-income or otherwise vulnerable communities domestically and abroad.

JOB LEAKAGE PROTECTION

Many manufacturing jobs in this country produce goods that compete in global markets. Under a domestic cap-and-trade program, these industries will face pressure from increased costs due to direct regulation of their emissions as well as higher energy costs.

If this is not addressed, these industries, as well as the workers and communities they support, will be forced to close or move operations to countries without similar regulations, producing the leakage of American jobs and emissions to foreign countries.

To protect the jobs of workers in the energy-intensive trade-exposed industries, the CBC recommends:

The United States should pursue international agreements on greenhouse gas reductions. Engaging industrialized nations in an agreement to combat this truly global problem will more effectively meet emissions reductions goals as well as ''level the playing field'' for American workers and business.

Until an international agreement can be achieved, climate legislation should include measures to protect against unintended disadvantages brought about as a result of global trading partners acting outside of a domestic or international greenhouse gas reductions scheme.

Provide assistance to ease and facilitate the transition of workers and communities dependent upon high emitting industries to the emerging low-carbon economy.

ADAPTATION

Regardless of our success in curbing greenhouse gas emissions, we can be certain that there will be ramifications as a result of global climate change. These may include rising sea levels, increased weather disasters, changes in precipitation, loss of biodiversity and the increased spread and range of tropical diseases. This will affect rural, urban and island communities domestically and abroad, with low-income populations being at greatest risk. Providing appropriate adaptation measures for these eventualities is imperative and this legislation should insure regular and predictable funding. We recommend:

An ecosystem-based adaptation both domestically and internationally, investing in conservation techniques to preserve wetlands, tropical forestland and critical ecosystems such as coral reefs and their relevant fisheries. Thriving ecosystems produce healthy communities, and promote sustainability.

Agricultural adaptation for areas experiencing shifting weather patterns. Subsistence farmers should be provided aid to manage temperature change and its effect on their growing season.

Medical adaptation to prepare and prevent the spread of disease. As temperatures rise, tropical-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever may proliferate in previously unaffected areas. Preventing and addressing this through vaccinations, improved sanitation measures, and other burgeoning technology should be a priority in the legislation.

It is with the utmost respect and appreciation for your efforts that we present these policy recommendations to you. We view these principles as essential to any climate change proposal. Please let us know how the Committee plans to incorporate these principles into the upcoming climate change legislation and how we can work with you to pass this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee, CBC Chairwoman; Emanuel Cleaver, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Sheila Jackson Lee, CBC Energy

Taskforce Member; Melvin L. Watt, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Alcee L. Hastings, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Sanford Bishop, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Bobby Rush, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; C Butterfield, CBC Energy Taskforce Member; Donna M. Christensen, CBC Energy Taskforce Member.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chair.

I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that our chairwoman has been so very supportive of this hour and of me continuing to be the anchor. But I also want to say to our chairwoman that I appreciate your kind of setting the record straight because I know that one of the things that our President talked about is, his priorities were education, health care, and energy. And he didn't say any of it would happen overnight, contrary to what our colleagues across the aisle said, that they thought it was going to happen right away. As a matter of fact, the President said it would take time. So I do thank you for helping me set the record straight, and I thank you for being here this evening. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Speaker, reliable predictions indicate that by the year 2050, the world's population will have nearly doubled from its present level. It will rise from around 6 billion to about 10 billion people. Most of this growth and much of the increase in energy consumption will occur in developing countries. Future increases in energy demand will exert even greater pressure on our finite reserves. If we are largely dependent on one fuel source, we risk price rises and supply disruptions. It is imperative for us to use our energy more efficiently and develop an energy supply that is both sustainable and diverse in order to improve our quality of life and protect our environment.

As a country, we can no longer depend on the cheap conception of gas and other finite resources. It is in the interest of our national security to become independent from our foreign sources of oil in politically unstable regions of the world. If we continue to invest in other finite resources, what is to prevent those costs from skyrocketing when the supply runs low? If we don't invest in renewable technologies now, we could be on the brink of a catastrophe, not to mention the health and environmental cost.

The best way to lower energy costs is to make homes, buildings, vehicles, and infrastructure more energy efficient. In the process, we create jobs. Doing nothing to curb carbon pollution means rising surface temperatures, rising sea levels, adverse health effects, and displaced populations. The longer we delay, the higher the cost.

As global warming becomes more threatening, addressing the future of America's environment becomes increasingly urgent. According to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the average global temperature could rise by an additional 2.5 to 10.5 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100. If the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere doubles as expected, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has acknowledged that without emission control policies, the amount of carbon monoxide in the air will far exceed today's levels with a 30 to 150 percent increase.

According to an assessment by the World Health Organization of possible health impacts of climate change, more than 150,000 deaths may have been caused in the year 2000 alone by global warming as a result of disease, malnutrition, and loss of shelter. This negative impact on world health will only increase as the climate changes.

Experts predict that one-fourth of the Earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if the warming trend continues at its current rate. More than $100 billion worth of homes, businesses, and public facilities are at risk from extreme coastal storms if sea levels rise as anticipated. When we invest in renewable energies, we are not only creating jobs and strengthening our economic prospects for the future, we are protecting our increasingly more fragile environment as well.

The Congressional Black Caucus recommends that we support science-based legislation to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050. The United States must be a leader on this global issue, and this target is consistent with the proposals of the Obama administration.

Any public investment in the green economy should include serious efforts to train, employ and provide public service opportunities that lead to full-time employment in these industries. We must develop a career pipeline, particularly in low- and middle-income communities, through training, job readiness, and entrepreneurship programs to ensure that people who most need work are prepared for the family-sustaining jobs and careers in energy efficiency and energy service industries.

When we talk about consumer protection, we have heard a lot about cap-and-trade. And sometimes I agree and sometimes I disagree with all of the things that are out there, but let me just say two things about cap-and-trade. A cap-and-trade system must be fair and must not be to the detriment of manufacturers and businesses. A cap-and-trade system will increase the cost of energy derived from high-polluting production processes for all households. Low- and middle-income households spend a greater share of their budget on energy costs than higher income households. To help prevent climate change policies from being unfairly burdensome on these households, we must remember to promote and support vital projects such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, better known as LIHEAP.

□ 2115

The LIHEAP program helps to pay the winter heating bills or summer cooling bills of low-income and elderly people. During extreme weather conditions, people living in poverty and low-income elderly should not have to choose between fuel to heat or cool their homes and buying food for themselves or their families. Two-thirds of the families receiving LIHEAP assistance have incomes of less than $8,000 a year, Mr. Speaker, $8,000. This program clearly helps the people who need help the most.

The Congressional Black Caucus recommends that we provide measures to offset the disproportionate impact of increased energy costs that could take the form of a climate rebate equal to the loss in purchasing power extended to the lowest quintile, the second quintile, and partially extend it to the third quintile. For households that file no tax returns, the rebate could be administered through the Electronic Benefit Transfer System. For all others the rebate could be extended through a higher earned income tax credit or alternative tax and make the connection with this increased cost.

In my home State of Ohio, Mr. Speaker, Ohio has lost more than 213,000 manufacturing jobs since the year 2000. In my neighboring State of Michigan, the figure is almost 497,000 jobs lost. Its industrial sector ranks fourth for energy consumption after Texas, Louisiana, and California. According to the Environmental Defense Fund, manufacturing is poised to grow in a low-carbon economy because economic opportunities exist within the supply chain that provide parts and labor for these industries. States that stand to benefit most from jobs in these sectors include Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California.

Ohio receives about 86 percent of its electricity from coal. We also have some energy-intensive industries in Ohio such as paper, plastics, and fertilizer that rely upon abundant and economically viable sources of energy to help them keep their prices competitive, which is especially important during this troubling economic time. A cap-and-trade program will likely gradually raise electricity rates over time for consumers and especially manufacturers like those in northeast Ohio. When developing legislation, it is critical for us to work to minimize the effect and to sustain the competitiveness of our crucial industries and not only provide my district with jobs but also provide the world with products.

Mr. Speaker, the President had the opportunity to visit my district the day before he was inaugurated. He came to the city of Bedford Heights. He visited a community in my congressional district. He came to visit the Ohio wind energy component manufacturer Cardinal Fasteners. President Obama pointed to Cardinal Fasteners

as an example of how a company struggling through tough economic times can reinvent itself and recover by recognizing opportunities in the renewable energy market. Rather than falling victim to the slumping economy, Cardinal has become the Nation's largest manufacturer of bolts, screws, and double-ended studs used in wind towers. Each wind tower installed requires approximately 1,000 products made by Cardinal. As a result, the company now earns half of its revenue selling products that support wind energy products. Driven by sales of wind turbine projects, Cardinal projects will add an additional 40 or more individuals to its workforce in 2009, increasing its total to more than 100 employees.

I tell you this story because it tells you of the potential that Ohio has to be an oasis of wind energy. Ohio has made enormous strides to take advantage of its wind potential and create good green energy jobs throughout the State. In fact, there are over 220 businesses in Ohio that are involved in the development and manufacturing of wind energy and over 440 companies involved in the renewable energy sector. The Ohio Department of Development estimates that there are more than 1,000 Ohio businesses that already have the capacity to become part of the wind turbine supply chain.

Comprehensive energy legislation will revolutionize our economy and energy infrastructure, spurring us to become more innovative and efficient. The growing green economy presents an opportunity to create large numbers of quality green collar jobs for American workers, to grow emerging industries, and to improve the health of low- and middle-income Americans. Any public investment in the green economy should include serious efforts to train, employ, and provide public service opportunities that lead to full-time employment in these industries. We must assure that we train and prepare our workforce for green jobs and technology. An item that I truly support from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the nearly $3 billion in workforce investment formula grants and $750 million for green and health care training. Lori Atkins, the deputy director of the Cuyahoga County Department of Workforce Development, informs me that to make sure that my community is ready for all jobs that are coming our way, training dollars they will receive will go to approved advisers for in-demand occupations, including green energy. My community will stand ready for this significant opportunity to make cost-effective public and private investments to rebuild and retrofit our Nation. The CBC recommends the following:

We must develop a career pipeline, particularly in low- and middle-income communities, through training, job readiness, and entrepreneurship programs to ensure that people who most need work are prepared for the family-sustaining jobs and careers in energy efficiency and energy services industries. Ensuring local hiring practices will be critical to engaging these distressed communities. It is also extremely important that we do not leave minority- and women-owned businesses behind in this new industry. Therefore, we must be assured that they have their place at the proverbial table. This will also ensure that the work is spread to all citizens.

We must as well develop Green Energy Centers of Excellence at predominantly black institutions to research and develop new green technologies as well as train implementers in the development of green innovation. These institutions maintain unique relationships with communities of color, and we should use their expertise to educate these communities on the opportunities in green industries and the techniques needed to succeed.

We must ensure local and national certification standards for technical jobs to ensure appropriate levels of expertise. We must also apply large-scale energy-saving measures to the Nation's building stock, which will create hundreds of thousands of green collar jobs while dramatically reducing America's energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

It is important for us to remember that the only way we can achieve our goals as a country is to become more energy independent, and that can only happen if we have a skilled workforce proficient in science, technology, engineering, and math. I would like to briefly discuss and highlight the MC Squared School in my district, which is the first STEM facility in our Nation that is located in a corporate complex. The facility provides an environment fostering intellectual growth and stimulating curriculum geared toward science, technology, engineering, and math. The students are mentored by GE employees from a broad array of disciplines ranging from research, technology, and engineering to marketing, finance, global product management, and human resources. Most importantly, the teachers and staff are exceptional. It was no small feat to make the MC Squared STEM School a success. It took the hard work, ingenuity, and commitment of local civic and business organizations who came together and contributed nearly $3 million for the classroom renovations on the Nela Park campus in order to bring this idea to fruition. It also took the vision of the CEO of the Cleveland Public Schools, Dr. Eugene Sanders.

The STEALTH team of the MC Squared School meets once a week after school and is headed up by a science teacher who was the vice president of Johnson Controls for 26 years. They have created an apparatus called ''the thing,'' which collects sunlight and stores it in batteries which can be used to charge your cell phone, laptop, and any daily household item. They have refined it to do something that works effectively. Additionally, the STEALTH group has implemented green renovations to General Electric solar panels on the roof of its own facility.

The STEM School recently held a conference focusing on renewable energy at the Great Lakes Science Center in my district where many students came and were responsible for researching a specific topic. The STEM School then invited other children from the community to conduct a town hall discussion on energy issues.

The STEM School works in conjunction with the Washington Park Greenhouse, which is connected to the Cleveland Public School District through South High School. The STEM School students recently made some recommendations to increase energy efficiency of the greenhouse. General Electric staff worked with them hand in hand while using the suggestions of the students to renovate the greenhouse. The students then took measurements of humidity, temperature, and other levels before and after and compared the result to measure the progress of their work. The STEM students are currently working on developing automated watering systems for the greenhouse pumps to conserve energy and water for the plants. They are in the process of creating designs and testing to see which one works best.

I believe that the MC Squared STEM School has the ability to be a catalyst for change across our Nation. Children who are taught by educators with proper certification and mentored by professionals are more likely to succeed and prosper in an increasingly technologically advanced society. It is for this reason I plan to offer an amendment to the STEM Coordination Act of 2009 in the Committee of Science and Technology, which I am a member, with the intent to increase the members of certified teachers in low-performing areas of our country. Increasing the number of qualified teachers in our country in science and math will only help our Nation spur the renewable energy revolution.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, for allowing this important discussion on energy during our message hour. We must work to strengthen all facets of our society when discussing an unfolding energy revolution in the 111th Congress. We have a great opportunity to protect our environment and strengthen our economic interest through the creation of additional sources of energy such as biofuel, wind, and solar.

Mr. Speaker, I yield again to our Chair, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much for yielding.

And let me just thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for that very comprehensive, succinct, and very clear statement. I think it summarizes many of the issues that the Congressional

Black Caucus believes are important as we move forward with our comprehensive energy legislation.

And I must say you highlighted the involvement of minority- and women-owned businesses and entrepreneurs in this effort, also the role of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The role of the Congressional Black Caucus, as many know, is to make sure that no one is left behind, that no community is left behind. And the Congressional Black Caucus historically has been and continues to be the conscience of the Congress.

So, Congresswoman FUDGE, I'm really pleased that you have laid out for us tonight what the Congressional Black Caucus sees as important in this energy legislation as we communicate it to our great chairman, who is doing a fantastic job, I must say, Chairman HENRY WAXMAN. And we have communicated this to him, and we are very confident that as this energy legislation moves forward that the Congressional Black Caucus's views and input and ideas to expand this legislation to make sure it's comprehensive and that it includes all communities in our country will be part of that.

Thank you for your leadership tonight. That was a very wonderful presentation, Congresswoman FUDGE. The Congressional Black Caucus is very proud of you.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so much, Madam Chair.

□ 2130

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAYSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, in the next 2 days we will be coming upon the 100 days, first 100 days of President Obama's Presidency, and the last few days we have already started to have some analysis, some discussion on those 100 days, what's happened, how does it compare to prior Presidents?

Of course, this is one of those traditions that seems to occur going back to the days of FDR. And I guess it's kind of ironic that a lot of these comparisons go back to FDR, because a lot of things that are happening today in our country have a lot of similarities to what happened back in the 1940s when FDR became President, when our country was in a depression, a depression that lasted for over 8 years. It didn't end until World War II got us out of it.

I think one of the things that seems to have symbolized the first 100 days more than anything has been the record levels of spending that's gone on here in Washington. All across our country we are facing tough economic times right now. Families are tightening their belts. Families are dealing with the problems that are existing in our economy, but they are doing it by trying to live within their own means.

I think one thing that's really symbolized this first 100 days has been the record levels of spending that's gone on with this new administration to run our country deeper into debt, adding more than 20 percent to the national debt in just the last 2½ months, and record levels of spending that I think have concerned many people across the country to the point where just a few weeks ago you saw thousands, hundreds of thousands of people taking the streets in these taxpayer TEA parties where people were literally showing up all throughout communities in this country to protest and send a signal. I think that they are frustrated with the record borrowing and spending and taxing, as well as these bailouts that are not working.

And so as we look at all of this, I think it hopefully is an indication that we need to pull back and refocus our country on those things that we truly need to take care of to address the problems that our country is facing and act in a fiscally responsible way to address those problems. So I think what we need to talk about now are the ways that the next 100 days can hopefully shape us in a different direction than first 100 days.

And as we look at some of these policies, we are debating right now in the Energy and Commerce Committee a major change in our Nation's energy policy. I think our Nation is severely lacking a national energy policy. There are good alternatives that are out there.

I am a cosponsor of a bill called the American Energy Act, which takes an all-of-the-above approach to fixing our national energy crisis, and a bill that would actually open up more areas of our own country's natural resources to drilling for oil, for natural gas, for developing clean coal technologies and then using that revenue not only to create good jobs and to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, but to fund our ability to transfer into those alternative sources of energy like wind and solar power. But we also need to keep nuclear power as one of the components of a strong national energy policy.

On the other side of that, what we are seeing is the presentation of a bill called cap-and-trade. And the cap-and-trade energy tax is nothing short of that, a massive change of energy policy that the President has brought us in the first 100 days that would literally turn over our energy economy in this country to a Wall Street speculative market where companies would be limited in how much carbon they can emit in this country, but then they would have to pay taxes, in essence, on any more production that they would do.

Early estimates are this would raise $646 billion in new taxes, but it would saddle every American family in this country. Early estimates by the President's own budget director show that there would be over $1,300 a year more that every American family would pay in their own home energy bills, not in addition to all of the jobs that would be lost.

Early estimates by groups like the National Association of Manufacturers show that a cap-and-trade energy tax would literally ship 3 to 4 million jobs out of our country overseas to countries like China, India, Brazil and other nations that would not have the same kind of environmental regulations that we have today. So for people who are concerned about carbon emissions, the cap-and-trade energy tax wouldn't do anything to lower carbon emissions in the world.

What it would do is run off a lot of companies in the United States, ship those jobs, millions of jobs out to other countries like China, India, Brazil and others who will emit even more carbon. So it's a very counterproductive strategy from that standpoint but one that has a lot of support by some in Congress. And then hopefully there will be enough of us on this side to not only defeat that bill but then bring our alternative plan, like the American Energy Act, a plan that would put a comprehensive national policy in place to get our economy back on sound footing, but also to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, something that has been a problem for a long time, something that hasn't been addressed by Congress adequately, but one that can be.

And so while we are talking about and evaluating these first 100 days, there are a lot of things that we can do to look at how to move us to a better place in our country. And if you will look at what has been happening with the budget, one of the interesting conversations that we hear about is how much debt was run up in prior administrations.

Frankly, I was not a supporter of the debt back then. I surely am not a supporter of the debt that's being added to our children and grandchildren right now.

And if that debt was bad, which I agree it was, then these proposals, in fact, the President's own budget that's going to be coming up on a vote here on this House floor probably later this week, would double the national debt, double the national debt in just 5½ years.

And so just about a week ago the President had met with some of his economic advisors and his Cabinet, he pulled in his Cabinet and he said, I want you to go out and find—in a $3.5 trillion budget, he called all of his Cabinet members in and gave them the task of cutting $100 million. Now, I think we can all find ways to cut $100 million in the budget.

But to bring all your Cabinet members as a task to figure out how to go and cut $100 million, just to equate that to an average American family, that's like a family of four who makes $35,000 saying, let's sit around the table. We have got tough economic times. We need to cut our budget. A

family of four making $35,000, if the best they could do is come up with a way to cut $1, that would be the same equivalent of the President's challenge to cut $100 million out of a $3.5 trillion budget.

So I don't think any family would be celebrating after they found that $1 amongst all of their expenses, $1 they could cut out of their entire $35,000 budget. That's, so far, the best that this administration has been able to come up with.

I think we can do better. I think the American people are challenging us to do better. Some people that are here will talk about ways that we can do better and have some good ideas of their own.

Dr. GINGREY from Georgia is one of them, and, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to Dr. GINGREY of Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding.

We thought we would spend a few minutes this evening talking about another problem, a huge, huge problem, and, of course, that is with our health care system in this country and the fact that the administration has made one of their top priorities for this Congress health care reform.

Those of us on the Republican side, Mr. Speaker, the loyal minority, feel that our health care system does need some reforming, but not in the way that the President has proposed, not in the way that the majority party has suggested the road in which they want to travel in regard to health care reform.

I have got an opportunity this evening to be joined by a number of doctors on our side of the aisle; in fact, we are part of a new caucus in the House, the Republican or GOP Doctors Caucus. We have about 12 members in that group, Mr. Speaker. And I was trying to get my staff to real quickly this evening estimate the number of years of medical provider experience that, in the aggregate, we have got in this group. And that estimate, as just given to me by one of my colleagues, 331 total years of medical practice among the GOP Republican Doctors Caucus. Let me repeat that, Mr. Speaker, 331 years.

Now, I am not going to say that that necessarily makes us experts, but it certainly does give us, in the Republican Doctors Caucus, a perspective, an experience that we should definitely be heard on this issue of how to best reform this health care system of ours that we love to say and proudly say is the best in the world.

We know that it's not perfect, and we know that when statistics are thrown out by the United States Census Bureau that 47 million Americans every day throughout the year go without health insurance, that is a staggering statistic, and I would say, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, an unacceptable statistic.

Now, the truth of the matter is, when you peel back that onion, though, of 47 million people that have been determined by questions of survey that's done in the typical Census Bureau fashion, what you find is that this is just kind of a snapshot, Mr. Speaker, of any point in time there may be 47 million people who are without health insurance. But many of them, in fact, it's estimated that as much as a fourth of that number or maybe even as much as 40 percent, within 2 to 3 to 4 months, at the most, will have insurance. They may have lost it temporarily because of a job change or an illness, or they just happened to let their premiums lapse, and they regain that health insurance.

But one of the things that's without question, as we look at the statistics, the 47 million, is that there are 18 million of them who clearly can afford—I am not saying they live in luxury, but they could afford to provide health insurance for themselves and probably for their family as well, because 18 million of the 47 million make more than $50,000 a year.

□ 2145

Eighteen million of the 47 million have an income more than $50,000 a year, and 10 million of that 18 million make more than $100,000 a year.

So there are people in this country that are just simply, they are probably, I would guess, demographically between the ages of 22 and 35, who are healthy and young and in many cases single, have good jobs, professionals, just don't want to spend the money and just feel like, well, if I get sick, I will pay it out of my pocket.

I think it is a mistake. I think it is a huge mistake, and I certainly don't recommend that. I think people are playing Russian roulette almost by doing that because of some catastrophic illness, a broken neck in a motor vehicle accident that would leave a person disabled for life. That is a worst case scenario I guess you could think of. But that just shows you that the number is not as bad, that 47 million. Then it is estimated that one fourth of those are people who are not even citizens of this country.

So you get down and you start peeling the onion, and you peel the onion, the layers peel back and you may have 15 million in this country, 10 or 15 million people who, through no fault of their own, they are not poor enough to be eligible for our safety net programs like Medicaid and maybe the CHIP program, Children's Health Insurance Program, and they are not old enough to be eligible for Medicare. They are not disabled, thank goodness, but they don't make enough money to be able to afford it.

We definitely need to do something about that, and I can tell you that every member of the Doctors Caucus, the Republican Doctors Caucus, agree that number is too high, and we want to do something about it, and we will do something about it. There are a number of things that need reform in our system, and we will talk about that tonight.

I have been joined by a couple of my colleagues as I look across the Chamber and I see Dr. MURPHY from Pennsylvania, and I see Dr. FLEMING from Louisiana, and I think others will join us as we get deeper into the hour. But I am going to engage sort of in a colloquy, maybe an open mike with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, talking about what we feel needs to be done, but, more importantly, what we feel absolutely should not be done as we bring to you these 331 total years of medical experience and working with patients, constituents now, that we have morphed into proud Members of the Congress, but to understand what they want, what the doctor-patient relationship is all about.

Some of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, have not had that unique opportunity, and it is our obligation to share it with them as they share with us their experience in their professional lives. That is really why we are here. That is what we are all about.

Anyone that says Republicans are the party of no, they have no opinion, they just show up and vote no, that is absolutely an unfair characterization, Mr. Speaker. We do have a plan. We have a second opinion, as I point to this first slide before yielding to my colleagues. We have a second opinion, heck, on everything, on every issue.

We heard from Mr. SCALISE a few minutes ago about spending and a second opinion that we Republicans have on the budget, a second opinion that we Republicans have on the Energy and Commerce Committee in regards to what kind of comprehensive energy bill this country needs that is not this cap-and-trade and the silent hidden tax of $3,000 per family that hits middle class Americans so hard, and that is what the second opinion that Mr. SCALISE was giving in regard to that issue.

Well, by way of introduction, Mr. Speaker, that is what we are going to be talking about here for the next 45 minutes. I see my colleague from Pennsylvania is here and ready to go, and I want to yield 5 to 7 minutes to the good doctor from Pennsylvania, Dr. TIM MURPHY, my classmate and colleague.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank my friend Dr. GINGREY for yielding. Of course, Dr. GINGREY, you are well aware as a practitioner of how Medicare works. I want to lay out for a few moments here, as many people will start to say that we should use Medicare and Medicaid as examples of how to expand health care because they are run so well. I want to point out a few things about how I disagree with that premise and those that say that Medicare has a very low cost overhead.

In part, that is because some of the administrative fees are set, but there are several other things we need to know about that, and that is that they

pay very low fees to hospitals and physicians, and perhaps that is why so many physicians do not participate in Medicare-Medicaid payments. Another aspect too, is, understand that Medicare covers only about 58 percent of beneficiaries' health care expenses.

So when you leave that much in other fees on the table unpaid, what happens? Well, hospitals use some of their own coverage to cover that gap in Medicare coverage. Patients also carry their own supplemental insurance on their own to cover it, and many times it is left that the actual cost of Medicare that we are told does not anywhere near describe what the real cost is.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, otherwise known as MEDPAC, said the way Medicare is going, its well-known design deficiencies and financial problems will certain inhibit the delivery of high quality care, in its June 2008 report to Congress. They said, ''Without change, the Medicare program is fiscally unsustainable over the long term and is not designed to produce high quality care.''

Let me give you a couple of examples of where I think Medicare is a particular problem, and Medicaid as well.

A constituent of mine has multiple sclerosis, and some of you may know that multiple sclerosis affects nerve cells and really affects the ability of those nerve cells to communicate with one another. There is a membrane over the arm of nerve cells called a myelin sheath, and what happens is the sclerosis or scarring of that sheath affects the ability of one nerve to communicate with another.

In multiple sclerosis, a person may have discrete attacks or long-term attacks that may affect their motor skills, their muscle skills or their thinking and cognition. At times it goes away completely for long periods of time and then comes back.

The annual cost per patient, however, for treating such patients may be $30,000 or $40,000 or $50,000 a year. And yet how does Medicare and Medicaid handle that? Well, they have this strange notion that says, for example with Medicaid, if you want to have some payment for that, you must be disabled. But to be disabled you have got to go 24 months of disability, which is not a characteristic of this illness. And, of course, to be disabled means you can't work. If you are not working, you can't pay for your medication. If you stop working and they find out you really are without symptoms, it is a problem. So, you see, it is one of those catch-22s we put people in with this.

There is also something here that Medicare and Medicaid does not pay for: Disease management. This is particularly important, because disease management for people on Medicare is extremely important because of the complexities of their illness. And these complexities are not small.

Nearly 80 percent of Medicare beneficiaries have at least one of the following chronic conditions: Stroke, diabetes, emphysema, heart disease, hypertension, arthritis, osteoporosis, Parkinson's disease, urinary incontinence. And because of this, 5 percent of Medicare beneficiaries account for about half of all Medicare spending each year. Among this top 5 percent, nearly half had congestive heart failure and 35 percent had diabetes.

You see, there is such complexity among people with chronic illness, it is a wonder they can manage it at all. That is why people with severe illness do better if the doctors and nurses can work with the patients to manage this complex care.

You don't have to be a member of our GOP caucus to notice how difficult it is, and hopefully some of the comments made by some of my colleagues tonight can illustrate that. But I know patients that I have worked with, sometimes it is absolutely overwhelming for them to have multiple visits and dealing with so much with their illness, and yet Medicare and Medicaid won't pay one penny to have anyone from that medical practice work with that patient.

So what happens? They forgo their treatments, they make mistakes in the medications, there are many difficulties that come up, and it could lead to unnecessary hospitalizations. And those, Mr. Speaker, those issues are ones that cost so much in the area of health care. I am sure my colleagues, no matter what branch of medicine or health care they are from, know this full well. When you have a patient with multiple complications, if they cannot deal with it, well, the complications increase.

Part of the reason that this is even more of a problem is that what happens, these complexities go on. If you have Medicaid and Medicaid plans that say we are going to pay for what they call quality of care, and it is only based on a narrow measure of outcome, then what happens is that patients stop to be compliant and hospitals may discharge some of them early because they are not paying for actually managing these difficult cases.

This is a serious, serious problem, and one of the reasons why out of this $2.4 trillion health care system we have no less than $700 billion or $800 billion worth of waste. It is because of that, Mr. Speaker, that what we ought to do is, before we say let's have the government expand Medicare and Medicaid and make it available for all, we ought to say let's use all of our abilities to fix these broken systems. It is wasteful, it is harmful, it is difficult for patients, and it is not effective health care. And because of that, I would certainly encourage what Congress should do with all full speed is instead of saying let's just replicate this broken system and expand it for everyone, we ought to fix this system.

Medicare's hospital payment system doesn't encourage or reward hospitals to reduce readmissions. It is a matter that we almost have like 18 percent of admissions results in readmissions within 30 days of discharge. What is wrong with a system that has those kinds of problems?

So, Mr. Speaker and my colleague, Dr. GINGREY, I know, doctor, how you and I have talked many times about these difficulties and how they go on.

I might add this other point, if I may, doctor. You are aware that with Medicare, that as people lay this out as being this great cost-effective plan, one of my concerns is if it is so cost-effective, why is it going belly up? It is out of money in less than 10 years. Yet it is touted all the time of having this effective health care system. It is not that way. I think it is that way simply because it is not paying for effective health care along those lines. That is one of the issues that the GOP Doctors Caucus is trying to bring before the American public, and certainly before our colleagues here in the House.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Dr. MURPHY, if you would yield back to me just for a second on that point, this second slide, the cost of the current government-run health programs, well, on this first bullet, colleagues, look at this. CBO estimates that individual and corporate income tax rates would have to rise by about 90 percent through 2050 to finance projected increases in Medicare and Medicaid. That is what Dr. MURPHY is talking about. The cost of reductions in Medicare payments then are passed on to consumers who purchase their own care or get it from their employer, and that adds $1,500 annually or 10.6 percent to the annual cost of coverage for a family of four.

So, Dr. MURPHY, I agree with you completely that we are in a situation where if that is the model, then God help us, if that is the model that we are going to adapt for all Americans. ''Medicare for all'' I think is the way Senator KENNEDY put it.

I think there is a formality here, Mr. Speaker, in regard to who controls the time. Our colleague from Louisiana, he is not a physician, he is just a very smart Member of this body and my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee where we deal with health care, as is Dr. MURPHY, where we deal with health care every day, and Mr. SCALISE, the professor from Louisiana, is controlling the time, and I yield back to him as he yields to other colleagues.

Mr. SCALISE. Well, I thank the gentleman and the doctor from Georgia. As you said, I am not a doctor, and I don't play one on TV, but I do enjoy serving with you on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where we do deal with the policies that actually address the health care issues in our country, which are very important.

One of our newest Members, somebody who I am proud to serve with in my State delegation, a new Member from Shreveport, Louisiana, who happens to be a doctor and a very able student on these issues, is my friend Dr.

FLEMING, who I am going to yield time to now.

Mr. FLEMING. Well, first of all, I want to thank my friend from Louisiana, Mr. SCALISE, or should I say Dr. SCALISE. We have made him an honorary doctor tonight. Also I want to thank Doctors MURPHY and GINGREY for their comments. I do want to follow up on some of these comments. I think they all fit together nicely.

You know, first of all, I would like to say that the United States delivers the best health care in the world, or at least among the best, arguably the best, but the financing of it is a basket case.

You heard, Mr. Speaker, Dr. GINGREY talk about the 47 million uninsured, which is a very fluid number. But, you know, I have often said through my experience that these 47 million are not the people you think they are. They are not the poor, because we do have programs for the poor. They are not the elderly. We have Medicare for the elderly. And they are not those in stable employment in corporate America.

They are, for the most part, small business owners and their employees. There are really several reasons why insurance is difficult to obtain or to afford for these people, and I won't go into all of that in detail, but I do want to hit eight points that I recommend in terms of health care reform.

□ 2200

Mr. FLEMING. Before I get to that, I want to contrast with you what I understand the Democrat offering is on this subject, and that is a, more or less, expanding Medicare, which we have today for the elderly and for the disabled to everyone. I think there are a lot of satisfied recipients of Medicare out there. However, I would remind everyone that Medicare exists only because it's propped up by taxpayers and by private insurance. So, if we expand Medicare to everyone, who is going to prop that large system up, perhaps as much as 17 percent of our total economy?

I really think that we can have our cake and eat it, too. I think, Mr. Speaker, that we can have excellent insurance coverage and that we can actually cut costs in the process. So here is point 1:

Despite the need for Federal and State governments to pay many of the health care insurance bills, the government, itself, should get out of the administration programs. Why is that?

Any politician who tells you that when he is elected or that when she is elected that he is going to do away with all fraud and abuse in government is either lying to you or really has no idea what he's talking about. The reason for that, as we apply that to health care, is: If you take, for instance, two physicians who are treating the same pneumonia, physician 1 treats it with an office visit, with maybe a follow-up office visit and with, perhaps, a prescription for antibiotics. The other physician admits a patient to the hospital, costing upwards of $7,000 to $10,000. The question is: Who is right?

The answer is they're both right, but one costs many times more than the other. We really, currently, don't have a way of saying, Well, what is the best and most efficient cost in every case for every patient?

I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that the Federal Government does not have the ability to micromanage care to its most efficient point. However, we can—if we are allowed to provide health care through administrative means, that is—pay the money to certain organizations of providers and allow them to make those decisions as to where they can cut the waste out, and to do so through competition, I think we could actually save money and see improvement in care and certainly in customer service.

Second and as part of that is: physicians and other health care providers should be allowed to come together in both vertical and horizontal integration so that, instead of having a reimbursement rate that's dictated by the Federal Government—it's the only part of the economy, incidentally, in which the Federal Government determines the actual price that anyone is paid, the so-called ''price regulation.'' If we move from that into price competition where you have groups of providers who come together and who group together and who compete for covered lives and, in doing so, work efficiencies into the system of lowering the cost and improving the quality, I think we would see much more for our money, and certainly our patients would.

Third, we need to provide basic health care insurance for every American, at least make it affordable. In doing that, remember that today, through the EMTALA laws passed in the 1980s, someone with or without insurance can appear to the emergency room, simply request care and will be provided care despite that person's ability to pay. Well, that's all well and good, but what often happens is it's a person arriving to the emergency room who's receiving the highest cost of care and oftentimes the lowest quality of care because it's provided at the wrong time during the illness. Ultimately, someone else, such as other subscribers and taxpayers, end up paying the cost.

If we had private insurance for those individuals who were uninsured, oftentimes they wouldn't need to come to the emergency room. They could simply receive early treatment, diagnostic treatment or even prevention therapy, before ever having the need to come to the emergency room.

Fourth, we should allow the public to be informed consumers with simple and transparent systems so that they can make wise choices.

Fifth, we should reform antiquated insurance laws and give incentives to the young and healthy to opt into private insurance so that we have large risk pools and so that we do away with the term ''preexisting illness.''

Sixth, we need to move forward on incentives for providers to move into the digital age with electronic health records. That will greatly enhance communication. At least in my own experience, I've had electronic health records in my clinic now for over 10 years. It has actually lowered our cost and has improved our efficiency.

Seventh, we should make family physicians the linchpin of our health care system. Supported by midlevels, they can have a tremendous effect on lowering the cost while improving care.

Finally, we need to provide strong incentives for patients to function as consumers and to behave in every way possible to prevent disease rather than enter the system at the worst possible time when cost is the highest and outcomes are the poorest.

So, you see, Mr. Speaker, while we are not hearing about these solutions from the other side of the aisle even though there's a placeholder for over $600 billion as a down payment towards health care reform, on our side, we're being very specific about what can be done and about what should be done. Many private and connected governmental agencies agree with these major points that I've discussed today.

So, with that, I thank the gentleman, Mr. SCALISE, for allowing me this time, and certainly, I yield back my time.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana. I yield back to my friend from Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Well, I thank the honorary Dr. SCALISE for yielding time back to me because the point, before we go back to Mr. SCALISE and then hear from Dr. ROE, is this a point about a new government-run health plan that, I think, we want to emphasize to our colleagues because this is the one thing that we fear the most.

Well, I guess the one thing that we fear the most is, in one fell swoop, going to a single-payer system of socialized medicine like they have in Canada or in the United Kingdom or in other countries where there are major, major problems that some of my colleagues might want to address. That's the worst thing.

What we fear from the strategy of the Democratic majority, Mr. Speaker, is to get there in two steps. The first step, of course, would be to have a government plan, a government health insurance plan, to compete with the private market, but the question is: Will that government plan compete fairly? We think not, and we have a great fear that it would drive the private market out of a competitive position and that it would cause employers who right now cover 119 million lives through employment-provided health insurance to just simply drop that and say, Well, shoot. You all go get it from the government.

I will yield back to my colleague from Louisiana, Mr. SCALISE, so he can yield time to other colleagues in the doctors' caucus.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Georgia, and I think your concerns about a government-run system are very heartfelt. Obviously, we've got many other countries that have gone down that road and then have had the very bad experiences to show for it. I know what you all are doing here is a great service to be talking about alternative solutions, a better way to fix and to reform our health care system.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. I will yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Dr. MURPHY.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman.

I wanted to just take a moment to illustrate what Dr. GINGREY was saying as to the effect of the inefficiency of government-run health care.

The New York Times, just a couple of weeks ago in an article written by Julie Connelly, talked about a growing number of physicians—it's an article entitled ''Doctors Are Opting Out of Medicare''—particularly internists, who are dropping out of Medicare all together because of low reimbursement rates and the burden of paperwork and, I might add, because of some of the ridiculous policies sometimes.

It's noted in a Texas Medical Association survey that 58 percent of Texas doctors accepted new Medicare patients, but only 38 percent of primary doctors did so. Think of some of these absurd principles in some of these government-run plans.

For some patients, they might need home infusion therapy, that is, they may need antibiotics; but the strange thing about this is that the person has to come to the hospital to get them. They're sick. Instead of being at home and having a nurse or someone in the family trained to give some home infusion, they've got to get up, leave the house and go somewhere else. I know my colleague, Representative ELIOT ENGEL, and I are working on a bill to allow a part D drug benefit to cover some of these home infusion drugs because, right now, when you are denied access to home infusion therapy and are being forced into receiving infusion therapy in hospitals and in skilled nursing facilities, it's significantly higher in cost.

There is one other example I wanted to talk about, too. I've talked to some oncologists who have pointed out, when patients come in for chemotherapy, they need to be evaluated at that time to see if they're healthy enough or in the right condition—that they're not sick at that moment or have the flu or something else which would cause serious problems if they received chemotherapy. Yet what happens is, when they get to have those results and to have those tests and to have that treatment done, you have to do certain lab work, and they don't get reimbursed for that. So the medical practice eats that cost, once again, to supplement the Medicare and Medicaid plans.

I point that out as some of the many examples of how, anytime someone says Medicare and Medicaid are much cheaper, of course they're cheaper. They don't pay for treatments; they discourage comprehensive medical care, and they place the burden back on the patient and back on the States. That's not how we want to run a health care system; and I believe, in many cases, it leads to more difficult care.

□ 2210

God bless the doctors and hospitals who do the right thing and give of their time anyway.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. SCALISE. Before our committee just a few weeks ago, Louisiana's Department of Health and Hospital's Secretary, Secretary Levine, was testifying about exactly that problem about a Medicaid-type model being followed and used by Congress to replicate that throughout the country and the devastating impact it would have because, clearly, as you pointed out, there are serious drawbacks from having a Medicaid system. The lack of access to health care physicians is a big disincentive that many consumers would have if they found out that they were being shifted over to a system like Medicaid that's very broken right now, to have that system replicated for the entire country.

Again, I appreciate you pointing out these dangers, because before we go down that road, these are important things to lay out.

Somebody else that's going to help lay that out is our colleague, a doctor from Tennessee, Dr. ROE.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Thank you, Mr. SCALISE or Dr. SCALISE, whatever it is tonight.

I am going to share with you some of the experiences that—we've already done this experiment in the State of Tennessee. And as a physician from Tennessee and who has delivered babies in that State for over 30 years, we've seen our health care system change dramatically.

Remember back in the 1980s, early 1990s when managed care was going to be the be-all, save-all for us and obviously didn't slow the health care costs at all. And none of us here tonight, not a single person—there is well over 100 years' experience in this room tonight discussing this—defend the status quo. Not any of us do. Many of us have a tremendous program, I think, and we're here tonight to share these experiences, what is positive and negative about the system.

Let me turn the clock back about 15 or 16 years to a very noble cause in the State of Tennessee—not a wealthy State—to cover all of our citizens, and we went into a managed care plan. We got a Medicaid waiver called TennCare, and what happened was this was a very rich plan that was offered by the State to compete with other plans. And businesses made a perfectly logical decision: 45 percent of the people who ended up on TennCare had private health insurance but dropped their private health insurance to go on the State plan.

And I went to several of the hospital administrators, the providers there locally, and I said what percent of your cost did TennCare pay in your hospital system? It was about 60 percent. And Medicare, at least in our area—it varies in different areas—pays about 90 percent of the costs. And then you have the costs of the uninsured which pays somewhere in between, leaving a cost shifting to the private payers.

Well, what is going to happen—and this is so predictable because we've already done this experiment—we're going to have a plan that's going to be set forward—again, a noble plan—to cover everyone. If we have time tonight, I will go over some principles that I feel are important in the health care debate. What will happen is there will be a plan brought forth to compete with the private sector that will be subsidized by the taxpayers, that when you go to provide the care, it will pay less than the cost of care. And once again, businesses will make a perfectly logical decision to drop that, and over time, you'll end up with a single-payer system. That's how exactly it's going to work.

And what happened in Tennessee was this: In the State of Tennessee, you had a choice. In Tennessee, we can't borrow money. It's against the State Constitution, so we have to balance the budget. When the TennCare rolls got so big, the legislature and our Governor—who is a Democrat, different party—made a decision. We had to pare the rolls. So they rationed care by basically cutting the number of people on the system.

What happens in a system like in Canada and in England, what happens when you've spent all the health care dollars? The only other option you have is to create waits, and that's exactly what happened.

Let me share with you another statistic that hits me right in my heart, because when I started my medical practice, as did Dr. GINGREY, the 5-year survival rate of breast cancer was approximately 50 percent for women in America. Today, it's 98 percent. One of the great stories.

So when a patient comes to me or the physicians in this room, they can tell that patient, You're going to have a 98 percent survival rate. In 2003, the 5-year survival rate of breast cancer in England was 78 percent.

Now, in England, which is a single-payer system—and in that system, they quit doing routine mammography, and the reason for that was cost. The mammogram comes along and says the woman has a problem in her breast. You do a biopsy, and it shows up that it's negative. She doesn't have cancer, and that is a wonderful thing to be able to tell a patient. But these wire-guided needle biopsies are more expensive than the routine mammogram is, so

they quit doing those, and they wait now until a patient develops a mass in her breast which is approximately 2 centimeters, about three-quarters of an inch, of which a certain percentage of those women will have spread to a lymph node. We're not going to do that in this country. I cannot believe we're going to do that.

The survival rates of colon cancer are less in England than in this country, and the reason is because the screening takes place at a much later time. I, myself, had a screening colonoscopy at age 50. I had a lesion discovered, clipped out. I've had absolutely no problem whatsoever. If I had waited later in my life, I most likely would have had colon cancer.

So just from a personal testimonial here, those health care decisions, Mr. Speaker, should be made between a patient and the doctor, mutual decision made between both of them. That's where the health care decisionmaking should be made.

And I will yield back my time. I have some other things to talk about, Mr. SCALISE, and I appreciate the honorable gentleman for giving me this time to express my opinion.

Mr. SCALISE. I appreciate your comments, and hopefully we can hear more from you about the TennCare experiment as well as the other ideas that you've got that make a lot of sense.

I yield back for a few moments to Dr. GINGREY, until we go to the other side of Georgia.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Thank you very much.

Just momentarily, before we go to east Georgia and Dr. BROUN, I did want to show in graphic form on this next slide, this poster that I have—my colleagues, when I talked about the employment-based health insurance, the 119 million, here they are in this pretty green box here, chart, showing that 119 million in these private plans under this so-called public default plan will end up over here in this nice orange bar graph showing something like 132 million people on the government plan.

And as our colleague from Pennsylvania, Dr. MURPHY, was talking about earlier, if that's the model that we want, that's the model that right now, 33 percent of physicians have closed their practices to Medicaid, 12 percent have closed their practices to Medicare. Why? Because these artificially low reimbursement rates do not even cover the doctor's expenses.

Physicians want to give their time out of compassion and to treat the poor who cannot afford health care through no fault of their own, but they can't keep the doors open. They're small business men and women as well, and they have salaries to pay. They have insurance to provide. So it's just a matter of going down a road that's not sustainable.

Representative SCALISE, thank you for yielding me time, and I yield back to you so you can yield to Dr. BROUN.

Mr. SCALISE. The chart you showed gives us a good indication why we have the physician shortage in this country. It is a crisis in health care, and in part because of not only the high cost of medical education, but then when so many get out, they realize that these types of payment methodologies actually inhibit their ability to make that back and ultimately be able to pay back those student loans. And so these types of programs have very dangerous consequences that we're seeing today.

Somebody else that can talk about that is our good friend from Georgia on the east side, as you said, Dr. BROUN.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

He just brought up a good point about—Dr. GINGREY did also—about the reimbursement rates. I'm a general practitioner, and I've done a full-time house call medical practice prior to being elected to Congress 2 years ago. I would go see my patients at their home, at their work, and I did that full time.

□ 2220

Prior to that, though, I was in an office. And the reimbursement rate for all primary care physicians in this country is dismal. And that is the reason that, what Dr. GINGREY was saying, that even the physicians who have quit taking Medicare, a lot of those are primary care docs, family practitioners and internists, pediatricians—and there are some pediatricians that do see Medicare patients that are disabled. And so the physicians have had to quit practicing on patients that are on Medicare or Medicaid.

I want to make a point tonight—and I think you all are making great points—but we have two very different opinions of how to tackle this issue. On one hand, we have the Democratic Party's philosophy, which I have been describing as a ''steamroller of socialism'' that is being shoved down the throats of the American public. And it is going to strangle the American economy; it is going to actually slay the American people economically. And one of those issues that the steamroller of socialism is rolling over is health care.

What NANCY PELOSI and company here in the House and HARRY REID over in the Senate are proposing are policies that are going to destroy the quality of health care. On one hand, they want Federal bureaucrats making health care decisions. On the other hand, Republicans have plans—several, actually—that will allow the doctor/patient relationship to be how health care decisions are made.

On the Democratic Party's plan, government bureaucrats are going to be setting the fees. On the other hand, the Republicans' plans will allow the marketplace to set those fees. The Democratic Party's plan, on their hand, we see basically a monopoly controlled by the Federal Government. On the other hand, the Republican plan allows market decisions, marketplace factors to control the quality, quantity, and cost of all health care decisions, as it should be.

I believe very firmly in the marketplace, and I think the marketplace can make the quality of care be high. The cost of care—whether it is insurance, or doctors offices, or pharmaceuticals, or durable medical equipment, or infusion services, all these things—the marketplace is the best way to control the quality, cost, as well as the quantity of all the goods and services even in health care.

And so the American public have really two alternatives; one is the steamroller of socialism that is being fostered by the majority here in this House, the majority in the U.S. Senate, and the administration. They want to totally socialize health care. When they talk about health care reform and comprehensive health care reform, those are code words for them for socialized medicine.

When we talk about comprehensive health care, we are talking about changing the whole system to allow the doctor/patient relationship to be how health care decisions are made, to allow patients to own their insurance instead of the government owning their insurance. And we have plan after plan; but unfortunately, the Democratic majority are obstructing us being able to even present those plans here on the floor of the House.

The American people are going to have to demand of the Democrats, demand of their Members of Congress, Republican and Democratic alike, that we want an alternative, a private system alternative, an alternative that will allow me, as a patient, to make health care decisions so that I don't have some government bureaucrat rationing the care that me or my mom or my daddy or grandma gets, or my children. And those are the opportunities that the American public have; do we want a socialized health care system that is being mandated by the Federal Government, by the Democratic majority, or do we want to have comprehensive health care that makes sense, that is delivered in the private system where the doctor/patient relationship is how health care decisions are made, where patients own their own insurance, where patients make their decisions, not some government bureaucrat?

We have got to demand better than this plan that the Democratic majority is trying to force down the throat of the American people. And it is up to the American people to demand from the Democrats, say no, we don't want this socialized medicine. We want the Republican plan to be voted on in the U.S. House. We demand it. And that is the way we are going to see responsible, market-based health care decisions brought about.

Mr. SCALISE, I yield back.

Mr. SCALISE. And Dr. BROUN, I think the strength of the American system is the fact that the patient and the doctor, the two of them get to decide what their health care decision is

going to be, not some outside party, some government bureaucrat like we saw in the stimulus plan where they set up this health care czar, literally a Federal bureaucrat that would be able to interfere with the relationship between the doctor and the patient. Definitely the wrong road to go. That is why I think it is so important that you are bringing up this point.

And I will yield for one moment.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. If the gentleman will yield a moment, government regulation, government control—Medicare policy is driving the health care system. It is so expensive today because of government intervention in the health care decisionmaking process. Let me give you an example of how government regulation markedly increases the cost.

When I was in an office down in southwest Georgia, I had a small, automated lab. If a patient comes in to see me with a red sore throat with white patches, running a fever, coughing, runny nose, I would do a CBC to see if they had a bacterial infection and thus needed antibiotics, or had a viral infection because it looks the same. Don't need the expensive antibiotics, don't need the exposure of the antibiotics. I charge $12 for the test. It took 5 minutes to do it in my office. A totally automated lab with quality control because I wanted to make sure that the quality of the test was correct. Congress passed a bill, signed into law, called the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act, CLIA; shut down my lab—every doctor's lab across the country. The same test, I had to send the patient over to the hospital. It took 2 to 3 hours—which I could do in 5 minutes—cost $75. Now, you think about how that increased the cost across the whole health care system. It markedly exploded the cost of all insurance to everybody, government as well as the private sector.

We have got to get the regulatory burden off the health care system. We have got to put market-based solutions in the system. And we can solve these problems, but that is exactly what we need to do.

Mr. SCALISE. And reclaiming my time, that is why these policy changes can be so dangerous because they have serious ramifications if they are not done properly.

I want to go back for a moment to Dr. ROE before we wrap up with Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Thank you very much for yielding.

I think, just to kind of emphasize what Dr. BROUN said, if you like the way the government managed AIG, you are going to fall in love with a government-run health care system.

I think there are a few principles that we all ought to abide by, and I think we have, and we have discussed this tonight. One is, above all, do no harm. Eighty-five percent of people have health insurance now. We have to help control the cost.

Again, as Dr. BROUN was talking, physicians and patients should be making decisions. And every American needs access to quality, affordable health care. I think we all agree on that, and we have brought up some ideas tonight about how to do this.

An illness should not bankrupt you; you shouldn't go bankrupt because you get cancer or another serious illness, and today it does. It should be portable. We have got several ways—and we can talk about this in the future. It shouldn't just be tied to your job. And the COBRA payments now, you have to be Bill Gates to pay for it. You would have to have an affordable way to do that.

And lastly, every single person ought to make an investment, ought to have some investment. Let me give you a very quick example. Let's say a patient on the Medicaid/TennCare system in Tennessee would come to my office to be treated for a cold, as he was talking about; a perfectly rational decision because it costs nothing to do that. If you go down to the local pharmacy to get some medicine, it might cost you $15 or $20 to be treated for the same cold.

With this system right here we are talking about, exactly what happened in that graph, Dr. GINGREY, is what is going to happen to the national system; you are going to push people out of a higher quality private system into the public system that we have seen.

I had patients who had to go to Knoxville—which is 100 miles from where I live—to see an orthopedist because no one would take the Medicaid-type insurance. And I can go on and on. And we will discuss this further, obviously, as this debate goes on.

I yield back my time, Mr. SCALISE.

Mr. SCALISE. Thank you, Dr. ROE.

I would like to have Dr. GINGREY wrap up this hour that we have had a great discussion on health care.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Representative SCALISE, I thank you for controlling the time, and I know we are getting very close to the end here.

But just to say we are not picking on our great neighbors to the north, Canada, or our great friends in the United Kingdom—they do wonderful things, they are wonderful people, but we don't necessarily feel that we want to adopt their health care system. And of course part of the reason is because so many Canadians come down to our country every year, they spend $1 billion annually on getting health care in the United States, so there must be a problem.

□ 2230

I think the main problem is a long cue because of rationing, and it's going to cost trillions of dollars to try to cover everybody under a single payer system, Mr. Speaker.

We Republicans, the Doctors Caucus on the Republican side, are here tonight to talk about better ways to do it and share that with all of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, and especially with the administration. And we hope that President Obama is listening because I know that he wants to do something to improve health care in this country. But, hopefully, we can talk him out of having a default plan that everybody morphs into a single-payer system.

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 10 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2335

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAYSON) at 11 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. CON. RES. 13, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

Mr. SPRATT submitted the following conference report and statement on the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014:

CONFERENCE REPORT (S. CON. RES. 13)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13), setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2009 and 2011 through 2014.

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

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Sec. 101. Recommended levels and amounts.
Sec. 102. Social Security.
Sec. 103. Postal Service discretionary administrative expenses.
Sec. 104. Major functional categories.

TITLE II—RECONCILIATION
Sec. 201. Reconciliation in the Senate.
Sec. 202. Reconciliation in the House.
TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS
Subtitle A—Senate Reserve Funds
Sec. 301. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to transform and modernize America's health care system.
Sec. 302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in clean energy and preserve the environment.
Sec. 303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for higher education.
Sec. 304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for child nutrition and WIC.
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TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

SEC. 101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2014:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $1,532,571,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010: $1,653,682,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: $1,929,625,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: $2,129,601,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: $2,291,120,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: $2,495,781,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $0.
Fiscal year 2010: −$12,304,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: −$159,006,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: −$230,792,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: −$224,217,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: −$137,877,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $3,675,927,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010: $2,888,691,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: $2,844,910,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: $2,848,117,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: $3,012,193,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: $3,188,847,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $3,356,270,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010: $3,001,311,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: $2,967,908,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: $2,881,842,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: $3,019,375,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: $3,174,814,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS (ON-BUDGET).—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $1,823,699,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010: $1,347,629,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: $1,038,283,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: $752,241,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: $728,255,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: $679,033,000,000.

(5) DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $12,016,335,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010: $13,233,246,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: $14,349,372,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: $15,277,119,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: $16,159,829,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: $17,022,631,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $7,728,718,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010: $8,778,081,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: $9,683,425,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: $10,345,343,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: $10,930,977,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: $11,499,230,000,000.

SEC. 102. SOCIAL SECURITY.

(a) SOCIAL SECURITY REVENUES.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $653,117,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010: $668,208,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: $694,864,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: $726,045,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: $766,065,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: $802,166,000,000.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY OUTLAYS.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts of outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009: $513,029,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010: $544,140,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011: $564,523,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012: $586,897,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013: $612,017,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014: $639,054,000,000.

(c) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $5,296,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $6,072,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,934,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $6,568,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,433,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $6,895,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,809,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $7,223,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,148,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $7,599,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,517,000,000.

SEC. 103. POSTAL SERVICE DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Postal Service for discretionary administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $253,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $253,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $262,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $262,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $267,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $267,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $272,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $272,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $277,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $277,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $283,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $283,000,000.

SEC. 104. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2009 through 2014 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $618,057,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $646,810,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $562,033,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $606,043,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $570,107,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $587,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $579,135,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $576,023,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $589,895,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $584,670,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $603,828,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $595,476,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $40,885,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,797,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $47,866,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $44,668,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $51,505,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $50,423,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $52,205,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,078,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $53,553,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,899,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $54,928,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,777,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $35,389,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,973,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $31,139,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,467,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $33,993,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,532,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $34,246,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,532,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $34,473,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,823,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $34,841,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,141,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $43,919,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,952,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $4,989,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,275,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $5,037,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $9,089,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $4,995,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $11,760,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $5,272,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $11,758,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $5,280,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $11,121,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $56,009,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,834,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $37,587,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $40,557,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $37,859,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,889,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $38,579,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,535,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $38,718,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,191,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $39,338,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,322,000,000.

(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $24,974,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,070,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $23,690,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,951,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $24,726,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,025,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $21,640,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $17,545,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $22,449,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,026,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $23,116,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,090,000,000.

(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $694,439,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $665,437,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $61,113,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $85,750,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $26,181,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,016,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $9,561,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $8,649,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $17,247,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,585,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $11,226,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$2,500,000,000.

(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $122,457,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $87,784,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $88,151,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $95,695,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $89,071,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $96,474,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $90,047,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $95,851,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $90,866,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $96,150,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $91,809,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $96,793,000,000.

(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $23,811,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,983,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $18,308,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,303,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $21,232,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,530,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $16,311,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,767,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $16,202,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $16,270,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $19,147,000,000.

(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $164,276,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $73,219,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $94,430,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $140,624,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $107,858,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $141,412,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $117,121,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $118,480,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $115,931,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $118,911,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $125,788,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $120,959,000,000.

(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $380,158,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $354,397,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $384,309,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $388,885,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $363,778,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $367,412,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $367,840,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $367,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $386,483,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $382,172,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $395,248,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $396,541,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $427,076,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $426,736,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $449,668,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $449,798,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $504,895,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $504,721,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $505,686,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $505,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $540,017,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $540,146,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $593,421,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $593,233,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $520,123,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $503,020,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $536,740,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $540,202,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $509,101,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $512,335,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $451,472,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $452,176,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $455,310,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $455,184,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $455,984,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $454,858,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $31,820,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $31,264,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $20,255,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $20,378,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $23,380,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,513,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $26,478,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $26,628,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $29,529,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $32,728,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,728,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $97,705,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $94,831,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $106,498,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $105,578,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $112,977,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $112,520,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $108,839,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $108,242,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $113,942,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $113,293,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $116,163,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $115,624,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $55,783,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $49,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $53,400,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,043,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $53,892,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,589,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $53,738,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,468,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $53,569,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $54,537,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $54,247,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $54,058,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $30,405,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,629,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $21,979,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,757,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $22,264,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,099,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $22,620,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,689,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $22,396,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,196,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $22,898,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,167,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $288,952,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $288,952,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $284,153,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $284,153,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $323,325,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $323,325,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $387,488,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $387,488,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $470,412,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $470,412,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $558,265,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $558,265,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $7,150,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,788,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $1,157,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,548,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, −$14,278,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$8,066,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, −$14,914,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$13,147,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, −$16,126,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$14,979,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, −$16,670,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$15,235,000,000.
(20) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, −$78,206,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$78,206,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, −$68,774,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$68,774,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, −$71,993,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$71,993,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, −$74,970,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$74,970,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, −$77,945,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$77,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, −$79,861,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$79,861,000,000.
(21) Overseas Deployments and Other Activities (970):
Fiscal year 2009:
(A) New budget authority, $90,745,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,147,000,000.
Fiscal year 2010:
(A) New budget authority, $130,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $98,410,000,000.
Fiscal year 2011:
(A) New budget authority, $50,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $76,118,000,000.
Fiscal year 2012:
(A) New budget authority, $50,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $65,221,000,000.
Fiscal year 2013:
(A) New budget authority, $50,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $56,722,000,000.
Fiscal year 2014:
(A) New budget authority, $50,000,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,110,000,000.

TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

SEC. 201. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE.

(a) COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—The Senate Committee on Finance shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

(b) COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.—The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

(c) SUBMISSIONS.—In the Senate, not later than October 15, 2009, the Senate committees named in subsections (a) and (b) shall submit their recommendations to the Senate Committee on the Budget. Upon receiving all such recommendations, the Senate Committee on the Budget shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

SEC. 202. RECONCILIATION IN THE HOUSE.

(a) HEALTH CARE REFORM.—

(1) The House Committee on Energy and Commerce shall report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

(2) The House Committee on Ways and Means shall report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

(3) The House Committee on Education and Labor shall report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

(b) INVESTING IN EDUCATION.—The House Committee on Education and Labor shall report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by $1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

(c) SUBMISSIONS.—In the House, not later than October 15, 2009, the House committees named in subsections (a) and (b) shall submit their recommendations to the House Committee on the Budget. Upon receiving all such recommendations, the House Committee on the Budget shall report to the House a reconciliation bill carrying out all such changes without any substantive revision.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

Subtitle A—Senate Reserve Funds

SEC. 301. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO TRANSFORM AND MODERNIZE AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

(a) TRANSFORM AND MODERNIZE AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution, and make adjustments to the

pay-as-you-go ledger that are deficit-neutral over 11 years, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that are deficit-neutral, reduce excess cost growth in health care spending and are fiscally sustainable over the long term, and—

(1) protect families' financial health including restraining the growth of health premiums and other health-related costs;

(2) make health coverage affordable to businesses (in particular to small business and individuals who are self-employed), households, and governments, including by reducing wasteful and inefficient spending in the health care system with periodic reports on savings achieved through these efforts, and by moving forward with improvements to the health care delivery system, including Medicare;

(3) aim for quality, affordable health care for all Americans;

(4) provide portability of coverage and assurance of coverage with appropriate consumer protections;

(5) guarantee choice of health plans and health care providers to Americans;

(6) invest in prevention and wellness and address issues of health disparities;

(7) improve patient safety and quality care, including the appropriate use of health information technology and health data, and promote transparency in cost and quality information to Americans; or

(8) maintain long-term fiscal sustainability and pays for itself by reducing health care cost growth, improving productivity, or dedicating additional sources of revenue;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(b) OTHER REVISIONS.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that—

(1) increase the reimbursement rate for physician services under section 1848(d) of the Social Security Act and that include financial incentives for physicians to improve the quality and efficiency of items and services furnished to Medicare beneficiaries through the use of consensus-based quality measures;

(2) include measures to encourage physicians to train in primary care residencies and ensure an adequate supply of residents and physicians;

(3) improve the Medicare program for beneficiaries and protect access to outpatient therapy services (including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services) through measures such as repealing the current outpatient therapy caps while protecting beneficiaries from associated premium increases; or

(4) promote payment policies that address the systemic inequities of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement that lead to access problems in rural areas, including access to primary care and outpatient services, hospitals, and an adequate supply of providers in the workforce or that reward quality and efficient care and address geographic variations in spending in the Medicare program;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 302. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INVEST IN CLEAN ENERGY AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT.

(a) INVESTING IN CLEAN ENERGY AND PRESERVING THE ENVIRONMENT.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would—

(1) reduce our Nation's dependence on imported energy;

(2) produce green jobs;

(3) promote renewable energy development (including expediting research on the viability of using higher ethanol blends at the service station pump);

(4) authorize long-term contracts for procurement of alternative fuels from domestic sources, provided that such procurement is consistent with section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140);

(5) accelerate the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of advanced technologies to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants and other industrial emission sources and to use coal in an environmentally acceptable manner;

(6) strengthen and retool manufacturing supply chains;

(7) create a clean energy investment fund;

(8) improve electricity transmission;

(9) encourage conservation and efficiency;

(10) make improvements to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program;

(11) set aside additional funding from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for Arctic oil spill research;

(12) implement water settlements;

(13) provide additional resources for wildland fire management activities (including the removal of the requirement for State matching funds); or

(14) preserve or protect public lands, oceans or coastal areas;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019. The legislation may include tax provisions.

(b) CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would—

(1) invest in clean energy technology initiatives;

(2) decrease greenhouse gas emissions;

(3) create new jobs in a clean technology economy;

(4) strengthen the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States;

(5) diversify the domestic clean energy supply to increase the energy security of the United States;

(6) protect consumers (including policies that address regional differences);

(7) provide incentives for cost-savings achieved through energy efficiencies;

(8) provide voluntary opportunities for agriculture and forestry communities to contribute to reducing the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; and

(9) help families, workers, communities, and businesses make the transition to a clean energy economy;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 303. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that make higher education more accessible and affordable while maintaining a competitive private sector role in the student loan program, which may include legislation to expand and strengthen student aid, such as Pell Grants, or increase college enrollment and completion rates for low-income students, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019. The legislation may include tax provisions.

SEC. 304. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR CHILD NUTRITION AND WIC.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would reauthorize child nutrition programs or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (the WIC program), by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 305. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) INFRASTRUCTURE.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that provide for a robust Federal investment in America's infrastructure, which may include projects for public housing, energy, water, transportation, freight and passenger rail, or other infrastructure projects, by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(b) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that provide new contract authority paid out of the Highway Trust Fund for surface transportation programs to the extent such new contract authority is offset by an increase in receipts to the Highway Trust Fund (excluding transfers from the general fund of the Treasury into the Highway Trust Fund not offset by a similar increase in receipts), provided further that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(c) MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would authorize multimodal transportation projects that—

(1) provide a set of performance measures;

(2) require a cost-benefit analysis be conducted to ensure accountability and overall project goals are met; and

(3) provide flexibility for States, cities, and localities to create strategies that meet the needs of their communities;

by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(d) FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS AND INSURANCE REFORM.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that provide for levee modernization, maintenance, repair, and improvement, or provide for flood insurance reform and modernization, by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 306. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC STABILIZATION AND GROWTH.

(a) MANUFACTURING.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports, including tax legislation, that would revitalize and strengthen the United States domestic manufacturing sector by increasing Federal research and development, by expanding the scope and effectiveness of manufacturing programs across the Federal Government, by increasing efforts to train and retrain manufacturing workers, by enhancing workers' technical skills in the use of the new advanced manufacturing technologies to produce competitive energy efficient products, by increasing support for sector workforce training, by increasing support for the redevelopment of closed manufacturing plants, by increasing support for development of alternative fuels and leap-ahead automotive and energy technologies such as advanced batteries, or by establishing tax incentives to encourage the continued production in the United States of advanced technologies and the infrastructure to support such technologies, by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(b) TAX RELIEF.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution by the amounts provided by one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would provide tax relief, including but not limited to extensions of expiring and expired tax relief, or refundable tax relief, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(c) TAX REFORM.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would reform the Internal Revenue Code to ensure a sustainable revenue base that would lead to a fairer and more efficient tax system and to a more competitive business environment for United States enterprises, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(d) TRADE.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports related to trade by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(e) HOUSING ASSISTANCE.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports related to housing assistance, which may include low income rental assistance, or assistance provided through the Housing Trust Fund created under section 1131 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(f) UNEMPLOYMENT MITIGATION.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that reduce the unemployment rate or provide assistance to the unemployed, particularly in the states and localities with the highest rates of unemployment, or improve the implementation of the unemployment compensation program, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 307. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS AND WOUNDED SERVICEMEMBERS.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would—

(1) expand the number of disabled military retirees who receive both disability compensation and retired pay;

(2) accelerate the phase-in of concurrent receipt;

(3) reduce or eliminate the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan annuities and Veterans' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation;

(4) enhance or maintain the affordability of health care for military personnel, military retirees or veterans;

(5) improve disability benefits or evaluations for wounded or disabled military personnel or veterans (including measures to expedite the claims process);

(6) enhance servicemember education benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve by ensuring those benefits keep pace with the national average cost of tuition; or

(7) expand veterans' benefits (including for veterans living in rural areas);

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 308. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR JUDICIAL PAY AND JUDGESHIPS, POSTAL RETIREE ASSISTANCE, AND CERTAIN PENSION OBLIGATIONS.

(a) JUDICIAL PAY AND JUDGESHIPS.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would authorize salary adjustments for justices and judges of the United States, or increase the number of Federal judgeships, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(b) POSTAL RETIREES.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports relating to adjustments to funding for postal retiree health coverage, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(c) PENSION OBLIGATIONS.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would authorize funding to cover the full cost of pension obligations for current and past employees of laboratories and environmental cleanup sites under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy (including benefits paid to security personnel) in a manner that does not impact the missions of those laboratories and environmental cleanup sites, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 309. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION AND FEDERAL CONTRACTING REFORM.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that—

(1) provide funding to the Department of Defense for additional activities to reduce waste, fraud, abuse and overpayments in defense contracting;

(2) enhance the capability of the Federal acquisition or contracting workforce to achieve better value for taxpayers;

(3) reduce the use of no-bid and cost-plus contracts;

(4) reform Department of Defense processes for acquiring weapons systems or services in order to reduce costs, improve cost and schedule estimation, enhance developmental testing of weapons, enhance oversight, or increase the rigor of reviews of programs that experience critical cost growth;

(5) reduce the award of contracts to contractors with seriously delinquent tax debts;

(6) reduce the use of non-competitive contracts and the continuation of task orders for logistics support;

(7) reduce the use of contracts for acquisition, oversight, and management support services;

(8) enhance the capability of auditors and inspectors general to oversee Federal acquisition and procurement;

(9) reform the processes for payment of bonuses to contractors and government executives responsible for over-budget projects and programs that fail to meet basic performance requirements; or

(10) achieve savings by requiring that Federal departments and agencies eliminate improper payments and increase the use of recovery audits;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014

or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 310. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN OUR NATION'S COUNTIES AND SCHOOLS.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that provide for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393) or make changes to the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–565), or both, by the amounts provided by that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 311. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REGULATION.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that authorize the Food and Drug Administration to regulate products and assess user fees on manufacturers and importers of those products to cover the cost of the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory activities, by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(b) DRUG IMPORTATION.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that permit the safe importation of prescription drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration from a specified list of countries, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

(c) FOOD SAFETY.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would improve the safety of the food supply in the United States, by the amounts provided in such legislation for these purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 312. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR A COMPREHENSIVE INVESTIGATION INTO THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that provide resources for a comprehensive investigation to determine the cause of the current financial crisis, hold those responsible accountable, and provide recommendations to prevent another financial crisis of this magnitude from occurring again by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 313. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INCREASED TRANSPARENCY AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that increase transparency at the Federal Reserve System, including audits of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks, to include—

(1) an evaluation of the appropriate number and the associated costs of Federal reserve banks;

(2) publication on its website, with respect to all lending and financial assistance facilities created by the Board to address the financial crisis, of—

(A) the nature and amounts of the collateral that the central bank is accepting on behalf of American taxpayers in the various lending programs, on no less than a monthly basis;

(B) the extent to which changes in valuation of credit extensions to various special purpose vehicles, such as Maiden Lane I, Maiden Lane II, and Maiden Lane III, are a result of losses on collateral which will not be recovered;

(C) the number of borrowers that participate in each of the lending programs and details of the credit extended, including the extent to which the credit is concentrated in one or more institutions; and

(D) information on the extent to which the central bank is contracting for services of private sector firms for the design, pricing, management, and accounting for the various lending programs and the terms and nature of such contracts and bidding processes; and

(3) including the identity of each entity to which the Board has provided all loans and other financial assistance since March 24, 2008, the value or amount of that financial assistance, and what that entity is doing with such financial assistance;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 314. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program by the amounts provided in such legislation for such purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 315. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR PROVISION OF CRITICAL RESOURCES TO FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other levels and limits in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would provide firefighters and fire departments with critical resources under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters Grant of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for such purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 316. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE TAX EQUITY FOR STATES WITHOUT PERSONAL INCOME TAXES, AND OTHER SELECTED TAX RELIEF POLICIES.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would extend permanently the deduction for State and local sales taxes, extend incentives for enhanced charitable giving from individual retirement accounts, including life-income gifts, or enhance the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care tax credit, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 317. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROMOTE INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS AND FINANCIAL SECURITY.

The chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the aggregates, allocations, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that promote financial security through financial literacy, retirement planning, and savings incentives, including individual development accounts and child savings accounts, provided that such legislation does not increase the deficit over either the period of the total fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 318. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO INCREASE FDIC AND NCUA BORROWING AUTHORITY.

The chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the aggregates, allocations, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports to increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration, provided that such legislation does not increase the deficit over either the period of the total fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 319. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that—

(1) make improvements to child welfare programs, including strengthening the recruitment and retention of foster families, or make improvements to the child support enforcement program;

(2) improve the Federal foster care payment system to better support children, improve family support, family preservation, family reunification services, address the needs of children prior to removal, during removal, and post placement or address the needs of children who have been abused or neglected; or

(3) provide funds to states for a program of home visits to low-income mothers-to-be and low-income families that will produce sizeable, sustained improvements in the health, well-being, or school readiness of children or their parents;

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

SEC. 320. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR A 9/11 HEALTH PROGRAM.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports that would establish a program, including medical monitoring and treatment, addressing the adverse health impacts linked to the September 11, 2001 attacks, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2009 through 2019.

Subtitle B—House Reserve Funds

SEC. 321. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that makes improvements to health care in America, which may include making affordable health coverage available for all, improving the quality of health care, reducing rising health care costs, building on and strengthening existing public and private insurance coverage, including employer-sponsored coverage, and preserving choice of provider and plan by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 322. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR COLLEGE ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY, AND COMPLETION.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that makes college more affordable or accessible or that increases college enrollment and completion through reforms to the Higher Education Act of 1965 or other legislation, including increasing the maximum Pell grant award annually by an amount equal to one percentage point more than the Consumer Price Index, or student loan reform, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and minimize disruption to schools, students, and the employees of the student loan originating and servicing industry.

SEC. 323. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR INCREASING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that—

(1) provides tax incentives for or otherwise encourages the production of renewable energy or increased energy efficiency;

(2) encourages investment in emerging energy or vehicle technologies or carbon capture and sequestration;

(3) limits and provides for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;

(4) assists businesses, industries, States, communities, the environment, workers, or households as the United States moves toward reducing and offsetting the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions; or

(5) facilitates the training of workers for these industries (''green collar jobs'');

by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 324. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS AND WOUNDED SERVICEMEMBERS.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that would:

(1) expand the number of disabled military retirees who receive both disability compensation and retired pay (concurrent receipt);

(2) accelerate the phase-in of concurrent receipt;

(3) reduce or eliminate the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan annuities and Veterans' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation;

(4) enhance or maintain the affordability of health care for military personnel, military retirees or veterans;

(5) improve disability benefits or evaluations for wounded or disabled military personnel or veterans (including measures to expedite the claims process);

(6) enhance servicemember education benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve by ensuring those benefits keep pace with the national average cost of tuition; or

(7) expand veterans' benefits (including for veterans living in rural areas);

by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 325. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR CERTAIN TAX RELIEF.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that provides for tax relief that supports working families (such as expanding the refundable child credit), businesses, States, or communities, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 326. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR A 9/11 HEALTH PROGRAM.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that would establish a program, including medical monitoring and treatment, addressing the adverse health impacts linked to the September 11, 2001, attacks by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 327. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR CHILD NUTRITION.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that reauthorizes, expands, or improves child nutrition programs by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 328. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR STRUCTURAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORMS.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that makes structural reforms to make the unemployment insurance system respond better to serious economic downturns by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 329. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR CHILD SUPPORT.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that increases parental support for children, particularly from non-custodial parents, including legislation that results in a greater share of collected child support reaching the child, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 330. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that capitalizes the existing Affordable Housing Trust Fund by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 331. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HOME VISITING.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that provides funds to states for a program of home visits to low-income mothers-to-be and low-income families which will produce sizeable, sustained improvements in the health, well-being, or school readiness of children or their parents, by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 332. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TRIGGER.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that makes the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program more responsive to energy price increases by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 333. DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR COUNTY PAYMENTS LEGISLATION.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that provides for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393) or makes changes to the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–565) by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure would not increase the deficit or decrease the surplus for either time period provided in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 334. RESERVE FUND FOR THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REAUTHORIZATION.

The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates,

and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that reauthorizes surface transportation programs or that authorizes other transportation-related spending by providing new contract authority by the amounts provided in such measure if such measure establishes or maintains a solvent Highway Trust Fund over the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2015. ''Solvency'' is defined as a positive cash balance. Such measure may include a transfer into the Highway Trust Fund from other Federal funds, as long as the transfer of Federal funds is fully offset.

TITLE IV—BUDGET PROCESS

Subtitle A—Senate Provisions

PART I—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 401. DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS, PROGRAM INTEGRITY INITIATIVES, AND OTHER ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) SENATE POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill or joint resolution (or amendment, motion, or conference report on that bill or joint resolution) that would cause the discretionary spending limits in this section to be exceeded.

(2) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—

(A) WAIVER.—This subsection may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this subsection shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this subsection.

(b) SENATE DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—In the Senate and as used in this section, the term ''discretionary spending limit'' means—

(1) for fiscal year 2009, $1,391,471,000,000 in new budget authority and $1,220,843,000,000 in outlays; and

(2) for fiscal year 2010, $1,082,250,000,000 in new budget authority and $1,269,471,000,000 in outlays;

as adjusted in conformance with the adjustment procedures in subsection (c).

(c) ADJUSTMENTS IN THE SENATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the reporting of a bill or joint resolution relating to any matter described in paragraph (2), or the offering of an amendment thereto or the submission of a conference report thereon—

(A) the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may adjust the discretionary spending limits, budgetary aggregates, and allocations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, by the amount of new budget authority in that measure for that purpose and the outlays flowing therefrom; and

(B) following any adjustment under subparagraph (A), the Senate Committee on Appropriations may report appropriately revised suballocations pursuant to section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to carry out this subsection.

(2) MATTERS DESCRIBED.—Matters referred to in paragraph (1) are as follows:

(A) CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEWS AND SSI REDETERMINATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates $273,000,000 for continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations for the Social Security Administration, and provides an additional appropriation of up to $485,000,000 for continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations for the Social Security Administration, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and aggregates may be adjusted by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, but not to exceed $485,000,000 in budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom for fiscal year 2010.

(ii) ASSET VERIFICATION.—The additional appropriation of $485,000,000 may also provide that a portion of that amount, not to exceed $34,000,000, instead may be used for asset verification for Supplemental Security Income recipients, but only if and to the extent that the Office of the Chief Actuary estimates that the initiative would be at least as cost effective as the redeterminations of eligibility described in subparagraph (i).

(B) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TAX ENFORCEMENT.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates $7,100,000,000 for the Internal Revenue Service for enhanced tax enforcement to address the Federal tax gap (taxes owed but not paid) and provides an additional appropriation of up to $890,000,000 for the Internal Revenue Service for enhanced tax enforcement to address the Federal tax gap, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and aggregates may be adjusted by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, but not to exceed $890,000,000 in budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom for fiscal year 2010.

(C) HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates up to $311,000,000 to the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control program at the Department of Health and Human Services, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and aggregates may be adjusted by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, but not to exceed $311,000,000 in budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom for fiscal year 2010.

(D) UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IMPROPER PAYMENT REVIEWS.—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates $10,000,000 for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews, and provides an additional appropriation of up to $50,000,000 for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and aggregates may be adjusted by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, but not to exceed $50,000,000 in budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom for fiscal year 2010.

(3) LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP).—If a bill or joint resolution is reported making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates $3,200,000,000 in funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and provides an additional appropriation of up to $1,900,000,000 for that program, then the discretionary spending limits, allocation to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and aggregates may be adjusted by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, but not to exceed $1,900,000,000 in budget authority and outlays flowing therefrom for fiscal year 2010.

(4) ADJUSTMENTS TO SUPPORT ONGOING OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may adjust the discretionary spending limits, allocations to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and aggregates for one or more—

(A) bills reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations or passed by the House of Representatives;

(B) joint resolutions or amendments reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations;

(C) amendments between the Houses received from the House of Representatives or Senate amendments offered by the authority of the Senate Committee on Appropriations; or

(D) conference reports;

making appropriations for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 for overseas deployments and other activities by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes (and so designated pursuant to this paragraph), up to the amounts of budget authority specified in section 104(21) for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 and the new outlays flowing therefrom.

(5) REVISED APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If after adoption of this resolution by the Congress, the President submits his budget pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) re-estimates the budget, the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may adjust the discretionary spending limits, budgetary aggregates, and allocations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 by the aggregate difference for discretionary appropriations and related outlays between the CBO re-estimate and the President's Budget.

(B) SUBALLOCATIONS.—Following any adjustment under subparagraph (A), the Senate Committee on Appropriations may report appropriately revised suballocations pursuant to section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to carry out this paragraph.

(d) INAPPLICABILITY.—In the Senate, subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 312 of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress) shall no longer apply.

SEC. 402. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) POINT OF ORDER.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that would provide an advance appropriation.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''advance appropriation'' means any new budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2010, or any new budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2011.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Advance appropriations may be provided—

(1) for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 for programs, projects, activities, or accounts identified in the joint explanatory statement of managers accompanying this resolution under the heading ''Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations'' in an aggregate amount not to exceed $28,852,000,000 in new budget authority in each year;

(2) for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and

(3) for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsection (a) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

(d) FORM OF POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under subsection (a) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(e) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report shall be deemed stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(f) INAPPLICABILITY.—In the Senate, section 313 of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress) shall no longer apply.

SEC. 403. EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

(a) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.—In the Senate, with respect to a provision of direct spending or receipts legislation or appropriations for discretionary accounts that Congress designates as an emergency requirement in such measure, the amounts of new budget authority, outlays, and receipts in all fiscal years resulting from that provision shall be treated as an emergency requirement for the purpose of this section.

(b) EXEMPTION OF EMERGENCY PROVISIONS.—Any new budget authority, outlays, and receipts resulting from any provision designated as an emergency requirement, pursuant to this section, in any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report shall not count for purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress) (relating to pay-as-you-go), section 311 of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress) (relating to long-term deficits), and sections 401 and 404 of this resolution (relating to discretionary spending and short-term deficits). Designated emergency provisions shall not count for the purpose of revising allocations, aggregates, or other levels pursuant to procedures established under section 301(b)(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 for deficit-neutral reserve funds and revising discretionary spending limits set pursuant to section 301 of this resolution.

(c) DESIGNATIONS.—If a provision of legislation is designated as an emergency requirement under this section, the committee report and any statement of managers accompanying that legislation shall include an explanation of the manner in which the provision meets the criteria in subsection (f).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''direct spending'', ''receipts'', and ''appropriations for discretionary accounts'' mean any provision of a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that affects direct spending, receipts, or appropriations as those terms have been defined and interpreted for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(e) POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—When the Senate is considering a bill, resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report, if a point of order is made by a Senator against an emergency designation in that measure, that provision making such a designation shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

(2) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—

(A) WAIVER.—Paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this subsection shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution, as the case may be. An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this subsection.

(3) DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a provision shall be considered an emergency designation if it designates any item as an emergency requirement pursuant to this subsection.

(4) FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under paragraph (1) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(5) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report shall be deemed stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(f) CRITERIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, any provision is an emergency requirement if the situation addressed by such provision is—

(A) necessary, essential, or vital (not merely useful or beneficial);

(B) sudden, quickly coming into being, and not building up over time;

(C) an urgent, pressing, and compelling need requiring immediate action;

(D) subject to paragraph (2), unforeseen, unpredictable, and unanticipated; and

(E) not permanent, temporary in nature.

(2) UNFORESEEN.—An emergency that is part of an aggregate level of anticipated emergencies, particularly when normally estimated in advance, is not unforeseen.

(g) INAPPLICABILITY.—In the Senate, section 204(a) of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008, shall no longer apply.

SEC. 404. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION INCREASING SHORT-TERM DEFICIT.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report (except measures within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Appropriations) that would cause a net increase in the deficit in excess of $10,000,000,000 in any fiscal year provided for in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget unless it is fully offset over the period of all fiscal years provided for in the most recently adopted concurrent resolution on the budget.

(b) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL IN THE SENATE.—

(1) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(c) LIMITATION.—The provisions of this section shall not apply to any bills, joint resolutions, amendments, motions, or conference reports for which the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget has made adjustments to the allocations, levels or limits contained in this resolution pursuant to Section 301(a) of this resolution.

(d) DETERMINATIONS OF BUDGET LEVELS.—For purposes of this section, the levels shall be determined on the basis of estimates provided by the Senate Committee on the Budget.

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall expire on September 30, 2018.

(f) INAPPLICABILITY.—In the Senate, section 315 of S. Con. Res. 70 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution in the budget for fiscal year 2009, shall no longer apply.

SEC. 405. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST CERTAIN LEGISLATION RELATED TO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that extends the authority or reauthorizes surface transportation programs that appropriates budget authority from sources other than the Highway Trust Fund, including the Mass Transit Account of such fund.

(b) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS IN THE SENATE.—

(1) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEALS.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

(c) SUNSET.—This section shall expire on September 30, 2018.

PART II—OTHER PROVISIONS

SEC. 411. OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE.

In the Senate, all committees are directed to review programs within their jurisdiction to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in program spending, giving particular scrutiny to issues raised by Government Accountability Office reports. Based on these oversight efforts and committee performance reviews of programs within their jurisdiction, committees are directed to include recommendations for improved governmental performance in their annual views and estimates reports required under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Senate Committee on the Budget.

SEC. 412. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

In the Senate, notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and section 2009a of title 39, United States Code, the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any concurrent resolution on the budget shall include in its allocations under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Senate Committee on Appropriation amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and of the Postal Service.

SEC. 413. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.

(a) APPLICATION.—In the Senate, any adjustments of allocations and aggregates made pursuant to this resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as allocations and aggregates contained in this resolution.

(c) BUDGET COMMITTEE DETERMINATIONS.—For purposes of this resolution the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for a fiscal year or period of fiscal years shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the Senate Committee on the Budget.

(d) ADJUSTMENTS.—The chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may adjust the aggregates, allocations, and other levels and limits in this resolution for legislation which has received final Congressional approval in the same form by the House of Representatives and the Senate, but has yet to be presented to or signed by the President at the time of final consideration of this resolution.

SEC. 414. ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.

Upon the enactment of a bill or joint resolution providing for a change in concepts or definitions, the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may make adjustments to the levels and allocations in this resolution in accordance with section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (as in effect prior to September 30, 2002).

SEC. 415. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

The Senate adopts the provisions of this subtitle—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the Senate and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the Senate to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate.

Subtitle B—House Enforcement Provisions

SEC. 421. ADJUSTMENTS FOR DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES.

(a) ADJUSTMENTS FOR CURRENT POLICY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For the policies set forth in and not to exceed the amounts in paragraph (2), and subject to the condition specified in paragraph (3), when the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget evaluates the budgetary effects of any provision in a bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this concurrent resolution, or the Rules of the House of Representatives relative to baseline estimates consistent with section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, he may exclude from his evaluation the budgetary effects of such provisions if such effects would have been reflected in a baseline adjusted for current policy.

(2) POLICIES AND AMOUNTS.—Paragraph (1) shall apply only to the following provisions:

(A) MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS.—An increase in the deficit of not to exceed $38,000,000,000 in fiscal years 2010 through 2014 and of not to exceed $38,000,000,000 in fiscal years 2010 through 2019 by reforming the Medicare payment system for physicians to—

(i) change incentives to encourage efficiency and higher quality care in a way that supports fiscal sustainability;

(ii) improve payment accuracy to encourage efficient use of resources and ensure that primary care receives appropriate compensation;

(iii) improve coordination of care among all providers serving a patient in all appropriate settings; or

(iv) hold providers accountable for their utilization patterns and quality of care.

(B) MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF.—A decrease in revenues (or increase in outlays, as appropriate) of an amount not to exceed $512,165,000,000 in fiscal years 2010 through 2014 and of an amount not to exceed $1,294,476,000,000 in fiscal years 2010 through 2019, resulting from extending certain provisions of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 for middle class tax relief, including—

(i) the 10 percent individual income tax bracket;

(ii) marriage penalty relief;

(iii) the child credit at $1,000 and partial refundability of the credit;

(iv) education incentives;

(v) other incentives for middle class families and children;

(vi) other reductions to individual income tax brackets; and

(vii) small business tax relief.

(C) REFORM OF THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.—A decrease in revenues of an amount not to exceed $214,433,000,000 in fiscal years 2010 through 2014 and fiscal years 2010 through 2019 resulting from reform of the AMT so that tens of millions of working families will not become subject to it.

(D) REFORM OF THE ESTATE AND GIFT TAX.—A decrease in revenues of an amount not to exceed $72,033,000,000 in fiscal years 2010 through 2014 and of an amount not to exceed $256,244,000,000 in fiscal years 2010 through 2019 resulting from reform of the Estate and Gift Tax so that only a minute fraction of estates owe tax, by extending the law as in effect for 2009 for the Estate and Gift Tax.

(3) CONDITION.—Subsection (a) shall apply only if the House of Representatives has previously passed a bill to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements or the measure containing the provision being evaluated by the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget imposes such requirements and such bill is designated as providing statutory pay-as-you-go-requirements under this subsection.

(4) REVISIONS.—The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may revise or adjust the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution to reflect current policy adjustments made pursuant to this section.

(b) DEPOSIT INSURANCE.—When the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget evaluates the budgetary effects of a provision of a bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this resolution, or the Rules of the House of Representatives, the chairman shall exclude the budgetary effects of any provision that affects the full funding of the deposit insurance guarantee commitment in effect on the date of enactment of Public Law 110–343, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

SEC. 422. ADJUSTMENTS TO DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

(a) PROGRAM INTEGRITY INITIATIVES.—

(1) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM INTEGRITY INITIATIVES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates $273,000,000 for continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations for the Social Security Administration and (except as provided in subparagraph (B)) provides an additional appropriation of up to $485,000,000, and that amount is designated for continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations for the Social Security Administration, the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations shall be increased by the amount of the additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority for fiscal year 2010.

(B) ASSET VERIFICATION.—The additional appropriation of $485,000,000 may also provide that a portion of that amount, not to exceed $34,000,000, instead may be used for asset verification for Supplemental Security Income recipients, but only if and to the extent that the Office of the Chief Actuary estimates that the initiative would be at least as cost effective as the redeterminations of eligibility described in subparagraph (A).

(2) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TAX COMPLIANCE.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates $4,904,000,000 to the Internal Revenue Service for Enforcement and provides an additional appropriation of up to $600,000,000 for Enforcement to address the Federal tax gap, and provides that such sums as may be necessary shall be available from the Operations Support account in the Internal Revenue Service to fully support these Enforcement activities, the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations shall be increased by the amount of the additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority for fiscal year 2010.

(3) HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL PROGRAM.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates up to $311,000,000, and the amount is designated to the health care fraud and abuse control program at the Department of Health and Human Services, the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations shall be increased by the amount of additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority for fiscal year 2010.

(4) UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY ACTIVITIES.—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates $10,000,000 for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews for the Department of Labor and provides an additional appropriation of up to $50,000,000, and the amount is designated for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews for the Department of Labor, the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations shall be increased by the amount of additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority for fiscal year 2010.

(5) PROCEDURE FOR ADJUSTMENTS.—Prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report, the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget shall make the adjustments set forth in this subsection for the incremental new budget authority in that measure and the outlays resulting from that budget authority if that measure meets the requirements set forth in this subsection.

(b) LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP).—In the House, prior to consideration of any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that appropriates $3,200,000,000 in funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program and provides additional appropriations of up to $1,900,000,000 for that program, if a mandatory trigger for LIHEAP is not enacted, the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may allocate such additional budget authority and outlays resulting from that budget authority to the House Committee on Appropriations.

(c) REVISED APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If after adoption of this resolution by the Congress, the President submits his budget pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) re-estimates the budget, the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may adjust the discretionary spending limits, budgetary aggregates, and the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations by the aggregate difference for discretionary appropriations and related outlays between the CBO re-estimate and the President's Budget.

(2) SUBALLOCATIONS.—Following any adjustment under subparagraph (A), the House Committee on Appropriations may report appropriately revised suballocations pursuant to section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to carry out this paragraph.

SEC. 423. COSTS OF OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS AND EMERGENCY NEEDS.

(a) OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.—

(1) In the House, if any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report makes appropriations for fiscal year 2009 or fiscal year 2010 for overseas deployments and other activities and such amounts are so designated pursuant to this paragraph, then the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations may be adjusted by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose up to the amounts of budget authority specified in section 104(21) for fiscal year 2009 or fiscal year 2010 and the new outlays resulting therefrom.

(2) In the House, if any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report makes appropriations for fiscal year 2009 or fiscal year 2010 for overseas deployments and other activities above the amounts of budget authority and new outlays specified in paragraph (1) and such amounts are so designated pursuant to this paragraph, then new budget authority, outlays, or receipts resulting therefrom shall not count for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 or this resolution.

(b) EMERGENCY NEEDS.—If any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report makes appropriations for discretionary amounts and such amounts are designated as necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to this subsection, then new budget authority and outlays resulting therefrom shall not count for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 or this resolution.

SEC. 424. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, except as provided in subsection (b), any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report making a general appropriation or continuing appropriation may not provide for advance appropriations.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Advance appropriations may be provided—

(1) for fiscal year 2011 for programs, projects, activities, or accounts identified in the joint explanatory statement of managers to accompany this resolution under the heading ''Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations'' in an aggregate amount not to exceed $28,852,000,000 in new budget authority, and for 2012, accounts separately identified under the same heading; and

(2) for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities accounts of the Veterans Health Administration.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''advance appropriation'' means any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making general appropriations or any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2010.

SEC. 425. OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE.

In the House, all committees are directed to conduct rigorous oversight hearings to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in all aspects of Federal spending and Government operations, giving particular scrutiny to issues raised by the Federal Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General of the United States. Based upon these oversight efforts, the committees are directed to make recommendations to reduce wasteful Federal spending to promote deficit reduction and long-term fiscal responsibility. Such recommendations should be submitted to the House Committee on the Budget in the views and estimates reports prepared by committees as required under 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

SEC. 426. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the House, notwithstanding section 302(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, and section 4001 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on any concurrent resolution on the budget shall include in its allocation under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the House Committee on Appropriations amounts for the discretionary administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and of the Postal Service.

(b) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of applying section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, estimates of the level of total new budget authority and total outlays provided by a measure shall include any off-budget discretionary amounts.

SEC. 427. APPLICATION AND EFFECT OF CHANGES IN ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.

(a) APPLICATION.—In the House, any adjustments of allocations and aggregates made pursuant to this resolution shall—

(1) apply while that measure is under consideration;

(2) take effect upon the enactment of that measure; and

(3) be published in the Congressional Record as soon as practicable.

(b) EFFECT OF CHANGED ALLOCATIONS AND AGGREGATES.—Revised allocations and aggregates resulting from these adjustments shall be considered for the purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 as allocations and aggregates included in this resolution.

(c) BUDGET COMMITTEE DETERMINATIONS.—For purposes of this resolution, the levels of new budget authority, outlays, direct spending, new entitlement authority, revenues, deficits, and surpluses for a fiscal year or period of fiscal years shall be determined on the basis of estimates made by the House Committee on the Budget.

(d) ADJUSTMENTS.—The chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may adjust the aggregates, allocations, and other levels in this resolution for legislation which has received final Congressional approval in the same form by the House of Representatives and the Senate, but has yet to be presented to or signed by the President at the time of final consideration of this resolution.

SEC. 428. ADJUSTMENTS TO REFLECT CHANGES IN CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS.

Upon the enactment of any bill or joint resolution providing for a change in budgetary concepts or definitions, the chairman of the House Committee on the Budget shall adjust any appropriate levels and allocations in this resolution accordingly.

SEC. 429. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

The House adopts the provisions of this subtitle—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the House, and these rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with other such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the House of Representatives to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of the House of Representatives.

TITLE V—POLICY

SEC. 501. POLICY ON MIDDLE-CLASS TAX RELIEF AND REVENUES.

It is the policy of this resolution to minimize fiscal burdens on working families and their children and grandchildren. It is the policy of this resolution to extend the following tax relief consistent with current policy—

(1) relief for the tens of millions of middle-income households who would otherwise be subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) under current law;

(2) middle-class tax relief; and

(3) elimination of estate taxes on all but a minute fraction of estates.

In total, this resolution supports the extension of over $1,750,000,000,000 in tax relief to individuals and families relative to current law. This resolution supports additional, deficit-neutral tax relief, including the extension of AMT relief, expanding the eligibility for the refundable child credit, the research and experimentation tax credit, the deduction for State and local sales taxes, the enactment of a tax credit for school construction bonds, and other tax relief for working families. The cost of enacting such policies may be offset by reforms within the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that produce higher rates of tax compliance to close the ''tax gap'' and reduce taxpayer burdens through tax simplification. The President's budget proposes a variety of other revenue offsets. Unless expressly provided, this resolution does not assume any of the specific revenue offset proposals provided for in the President's budget. Decisions about specific revenue offsets are made by the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance, which are the tax-writing committees.

SEC. 502. POLICY ON DEFENSE PRIORITIES.

It is the policy of this resolution that—

(1) there is no higher priority than the defense of our Nation, and therefore the Administration and Congress will make the necessary investments and reforms to strengthen our military so that it can successfully meet the threats of the 21st century;

(2) acquisition reform is needed at the Department of Defense to end excessive cost growth in the development of new weapons systems and to ensure that weapons systems are delivered on time and in adequate quantities to equip our servicemen and servicewomen;

(3) the Department of Defense should review defense plans to ensure that weapons developed to counter Cold War-era threats are not redundant and are applicable to 21st century threats;

(4) sufficient resources should be provided for the Department of Defense to aggressively address the 758 unimplemented recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) since 2001 to improve practices at the Department of Defense, which could save billions of dollars that could be applied to priorities identified in this section;

(5) the Department of Defense should review the role that contractors play in its operations, including the degree to which contractors are performing inherently governmental functions, to ensure it has the most effective mix of government and contracted personnel;

(6) the Department of Defense report to Congress on its assessment of Cold War-era weaponry, its progress on implementing GAO recommendations, and its review of contractors at the Department as outlined in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) by a date to be determined by the appropriate committees;

(7) the GAO provide a report to the appropriate congressional committees by December 31, 2009, on the Department of Defense's progress in implementing its audit recommendations;

(8) ballistic missile defense technologies that are not proven to work through adequate testing and that are not operationally viable should not be deployed, and that no funding should be provided for the research or development of space-based interceptors;

(9) cooperative threat reduction and other nonproliferation programs (securing ''loose nukes'' and other materials used in weapons of mass destruction), which were highlighted as

high priorities by the 9/11 Commission, need to be funded at a level that is commensurate with the evolving threat;

(10) readiness of our troops, particularly the National Guard and Reserves, is a high priority, and that continued emphasis is needed to ensure adequate equipment and training;

(11) improving military health care services and ensuring quality health care for returning combat veterans is a high priority;

(12) military pay and benefits should be enhanced to improve the quality of life for military personnel and their families;

(13) the Department of Defense should make every effort to investigate the national security benefits of energy independence, including those that may be associated with alternative energy sources and energy efficiency conversions;

(14) the Administration's budget requests should continue to comply with section 1008, Public Law 109–364, the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, and that to the extent practicable overseas military operations should no longer be funded through emergency supplemental appropriations; and

(15) when assessing security threats and reviewing the programs and funding needed to counter these threats, the Administration should do so in a comprehensive manner that includes all agencies involved in our national security.

TITLE VI—SENSE OF THE CONGRESS

SEC. 601. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON VETERANS' AND SERVICEMEMBERS' HEALTH CARE.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Congress supports excellent health care for current and former members of the United States Armed Services—they have served well and honorably and have made significant sacrifices for this Nation;

(2) the President's budget will improve health care for veterans by increasing appropriations for VA by 10 percent more than the 2009 level, increasing VA's appropriated resources for every year after 2010, and restoring health care eligibility to additional nondisabled veterans with modest incomes;

(3) VA is not and should not be authorized to bill private insurance companies for treatment of health conditions that are related to veterans' military service;

(4) VA may find it difficult to realize the level of increase in medical care collections estimated in the President's budget for 2010 using existing authorities, and increases to veterans beneficiary travel reimbursement are important; therefore, this resolution provides $673,000,000 more for Function 700 (Veterans Benefits and Services) than the President's budget to safeguard the provision of health care to veterans;

(5) it is important to continue providing sufficient and timely funding for veterans' and servicemembers' health care; and

(6) this resolution provides additional funding above the 2009 levels for VA to research and treat mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury.

SEC. 602. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON HOMELAND SECURITY.

It is the sense of the Congress that because making the country safer and more secure is such a critical priority, the resolution therefore provides robust resources in the four budget functions—Function 400 (Transportation), Function 450 (Community and Regional Development), Function 550 (Health), and Function 750 (Administration of Justice)—that fund most nondefense homeland security activities that can be used to address our key security priorities, including—

(1) safeguarding the Nation's transportation systems, including rail, mass transit, ports, and airports;

(2) continuing with efforts to identify and to screen for threats bound for the United States;

(3) strengthening border security;

(4) enhancing emergency preparedness and training and equipping first responders;

(5) helping to make critical infrastructure more secure and resilient against the threat of terrorism and natural disasters;

(6) making the Nation's cyber infrastructure resistive to attack; and

(7) increasing the preparedness of the public health system.

SEC. 603. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON PROMOTING AMERICAN INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Congress should provide sufficient investments to enable our Nation to continue to be the world leader in education, innovation, and economic growth as envisioned in the goals of the America COMPETES Act;

(2) this resolution builds on significant funding provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for scientific research and education in Function 250 (General Science, Space and Technology), Function 270 (Energy), Function 300 (Natural Resources and Environment), Function 500 (Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services), and Function 550 (Health);

(3) the Congress also should pursue policies designed to ensure that American students, teachers, businesses, and workers are prepared to continue leading the world in innovation, research, and technology well into the future; and

(4) this resolution recognizes the importance of the extension of investments and tax policies that promote research and development and encourage innovation and future technologies that will ensure American economic competitiveness.

SEC. 604. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING PAY PARITY.

It is the sense of the Congress that rates of compensation for civilian employees of the United States should be adjusted at the same time, and in the same proportion, as are rates of compensation for members of the uniformed services.

SEC. 605. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY AND STUDENT LOAN REFORM.

It is the Sense of the Congress that—

(1) nothing in the resolution should be construed to reduce any assistance that makes college more affordable and accessible for students, including but not limited to student aid programs and services provided by nonprofit State agencies and private lenders;

(2) private and non-profit lenders, originators, and loan servicers help students plan for, apply to, and pay for post-secondary education and training;

(3) any reform of the federal student loan programs to ensure that students have reliable and efficient access to federal loans should include some future role for the currently involved private and non-profit entities, including state non-profits with 100% FFEL lending in the State, and capitalize on the current infrastructure provided by private and non-profit entities, in order both to provide employment to many Americans during this time of economic distress and to maintain valuable services that make post-secondary education more accessible and attainable for many Americans; and

(4) therefore, pursuant to any changes to the student loan programs, loan processing, administration, and servicing should continue to be performed, as needed, by for-profit and non-profit entities.

SEC. 606. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON GREAT LAKES RESTORATION.

It is the sense of the Congress that this resolution recognizes the need to address significant and long-standing problems affecting the major large scale aquatic, estuarine, and coastal ecosystems nationwide. This resolution includes funding for a new interagency initiative to address such regional ecosystems. It also includes funding to work with Great Lakes States, tribes, local communities, and organizations to more effectively address issues prioritized in the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative. This initiative could address issues such as invasive species, habitat restoration and conservation, non-point source pollution, and contaminated sediment. The resolution also supports the President's proposal to use outcome-oriented performance goals and measures to target the most significant problems and track progress in addressing these ecosystems.

SEC. 607. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) additional legislative action is needed to ensure that States have the necessary resources to collect all child support that is owed to families and to allow them to pass 100 percent of support on to families without financial penalty; and

(2) when 100 percent of child support payments are passed to the child, rather than administrative expenses, program integrity is improved and child support participation increases.

And the House agree to the same.

JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,
ROSA L. DELAURO,
ALLEN BOYD,
Managers on the Part of the House.

KENT CONRAD,
PATTY MURRAY,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE

The managers on the part of the House and the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13), setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, submit the following joint statement to the House and the Senate in explanation of the effect of the action agreed upon by the managers and recommended in the accompanying conference report:

The House amendment struck all of the Senate concurrent resolution after the resolving clause and inserted the House-passed concurrent resolution on the budget (H. Con. Res. 85) as a substitute text.

The Senate recedes from its disagreement to the amendment of the House with an amendment that is a substitute for the Senate concurrent resolution and the House amendment. The differences between the Senate concurrent resolution, the House amendment, and the substitute agreed to in conference are noted below, except for clerical corrections, conforming changes made necessary by agreements reached by the conferees, and minor drafting and clarifying changes.

DISPLAYS AND AMOUNTS

The required contents of concurrent budget resolutions are set forth in section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The years in this document are fiscal years unless otherwise noted.

The treatment of budget function levels in the House-passed and Senate-passed budget resolutions and the conference report is as follows:

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate concurrent resolution includes all of the items required under section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution includes all of the items required as part of a concurrent budget resolution under section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act other than the spending and revenue levels for Social Security (which are not required for the House, but are used to enforce a point of order applicable only in the Senate).

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes all of the items required by section 301(a) of the Congressional Budget Act.

AGGREGATE AND FUNCTION LEVELS

Pursuant to section 301(a)(4) of the Congressional Budget Act, the budget resolution must set appropriate levels for each major functional category based on the 302(a) allocations and the budgetary totals.

The respective levels of the Senate concurrent resolution, the House concurrent resolution, and conference agreement for each major budget function, as well as revenue totals, are discussed in the section after the numerical tables. A summary of the overall budget policy is as follows:

Total spending is $3.444 trillion in budget authority (BA) and $3.555 trillion in outlays in 2010, and $17.783 trillion in BA and $18.031 trillion in outlays over 2010–2014.

Discretionary spending totals $1.226 trillion in BA and $1.376 trillion in outlays in 2010, and $5.958 trillion in BA and $6.521 trillion in outlays over 2010–2014. Excluding funding for overseas deployments and other activities, and for disasters accounted for in Function 920, discretionary spending for 2010 totals $1.086 trillion in BA and $1.273 trillion in outlays. These aggregate amounts (minus cap adjustments for program integrity initiatives and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) are allocated to the Appropriations Committees to be suballocated among their respective appropriations subcommittees.

Mandatory spending totals $2.218 trillion in BA and $2.178 trillion in outlays in 2010, and $11.825 trillion in BA and $11.510 trillion in outlays over 2010–2014. This includes $2 billion in reconciled savings over 2009–2014. These savings are reflected in Function 920 and will be determined by the committees of jurisdiction. (The resolution assumes the instructions will be used for health care reform and investing in education.)

Revenue totals $2.322 trillion in 2010, and $14.157 trillion over five years. Specific policies will be determined by the Committee on Finance in the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means in the House.

The conference agreement uses the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) March 2009 baseline.

The conference agreement reduces the budget deficit from $1.233 trillion in 2010 to $523 billion in 2014.

The following section describes the conference agreement's revenue levels and spending according to the budget's functional categories.

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
CONFERENCE REPORT
Total Spending, Revenues, Deficit/Surplus, and Debt

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
Summary							
Budget Authority	**4,201.576**	**3,444.158**	**3,420.344**	**3,444.688**	**3,634.668**	**3,839.044**	**17,782.902**
On	3,675.927	2,888.691	2,844.910	2,848.117	3,012.193	3,188.847	14,782.758
Off	525.649	555.467	575.434	596.571	622.475	650.197	3,000.144
Outlays	**3,878.897**	**3,554.647**	**3,540.931**	**3,475.520**	**3,638.517**	**3,821.368**	**18,030.983**
On	3,356.270	3,001.311	2,967.908	2,881.842	3,019.375	3,174.814	15,045.250
Off	522.627	553.336	573.023	593.678	619.142	646.554	2,985.733
Revenues	**2,185.688**	**2,321.890**	**2,624.489**	**2,855.646**	**3,057.185**	**3,297.947**	**14,157.157**
On	1,532.571	1,653.682	1,929.625	2,129.601	2,291.120	2,495.781	10,499.809
Off	653.117	668.208	694.864	726.045	766.065	802.166	3,657.347
Deficit (-)/Surplus	**-1,693.209**	**-1,232.757**	**-916.442**	**-619.874**	**-581.332**	**-523.421**	**-3,873.826**
On	-1,823.699	-1,347.629	-1,038.283	-752.241	-728.255	-679.033	-4,545.441
Off	130.490	114.872	121.841	132.367	146.923	155.612	671.614
Debt Held by the Public	7,728.718	8,778.081	9,683.425	10,345.343	10,930.977	11,499.230	--
Debt Subject to Limit	12,016.335	13,233.246	14,349.372	15,277.119	16,159.829	17,022.631	--
By Function							
050 National Defense							
Budget Authority	618.057	562.033	570.107	579.135	589.895	603.828	2,904.998
Outlays	646.810	606.043	587.945	576.023	584.670	595.476	2,950.157
150 International Affairs							
Budget Authority	40.885	47.866	51.505	52.205	53.553	54.928	260.057
Outlays	37.797	44.668	50.423	52.078	52.899	52.777	252.845
250 General Science, Space, and Technology							
Budget Authority	35.389	31.139	33.993	34.246	34.473	34.841	168.692
Outlays	30.973	32.467	34.532	33.532	33.823	34.141	168.495
270 Energy							
Budget Authority	43.919	4.989	5.037	4.995	5.272	5.280	25.573
Outlays	2.952	6.275	9.089	11.760	11.758	11.121	50.003
300 Natural Resources and Environment							
Budget Authority	56.009	37.587	37.859	38.579	38.718	39.338	192.081
Outlays	36.834	40.557	39.889	39.535	39.191	39.322	198.494
350 Agriculture							
Budget Authority	24.974	23.690	24.726	21.640	22.449	23.116	115.621
Outlays	23.070	23.951	24.025	17.545	22.026	22.090	109.637
370 Commerce and Housing Credit							
Budget Authority	699.092	64.375	28.248	9.533	17.224	11.209	130.589
Outlays	670.090	89.012	40.083	8.621	5.562	-2.517	140.761
On Budget Authority	694.439	61.113	26.181	9.561	17.247	11.226	125.328
Outlays	665.437	85.750	38.016	8.649	5.585	-2.500	135.500
Off Budget Authority	4.653	3.262	2.067	-0.028	-0.023	-0.017	5.261
Outlays	4.653	3.262	2.067	-0.028	-0.023	-0.017	5.261
400 Transportation							
Budget Authority	122.457	88.151	89.071	90.047	90.866	91.809	449.944
Outlays	87.784	95.695	96.474	95.851	96.150	96.793	480.963
450 Community and Regional Development							
Budget Authority	23.811	18.308	21.232	16.311	16.202	16.270	88.323
Outlays	29.983	29.303	27.530	24.767	21.945	19.147	122.692
500 Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services							
Budget Authority	164.276	94.430	107.858	117.121	115.931	125.788	561.128
Outlays	73.219	140.624	141.412	118.480	118.911	120.959	640.386

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
CONFERENCE REPORT
Total Spending, Revenues, Deficit/Surplus, and Debt

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
550 Health							
Budget Authority	380.158	384.309	363.778	367.840	386.483	395.248	1,897.658
Outlays	354.397	388.885	367.412	367.391	382.172	396.541	1,902.401
570 Medicare							
Budget Authority	427.076	449.668	504.895	505.686	540.017	593.421	2,593.687
Outlays	426.736	449.798	504.721	505.436	540.146	593.233	2,593.334
600 Income Security							
Budget Authority	520.123	536.740	509.101	451.472	455.310	455.984	2,408.607
Outlays	503.020	540.202	512.335	452.176	455.184	454.858	2,414.755
650 Social Security							
Budget Authority	686.427	703.408	728.422	757.525	792.485	831.958	3,813.798
Outlays	682.849	701.400	726.144	754.782	789.302	828.315	3,799.943
On Budget Authority	31.820	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
Outlays	31.264	20.378	23.513	26.628	29.679	32.728	132.926
Off Budget Authority	654.607	683.153	705.042	731.047	762.956	799.230	3,681.428
Outlays	651.585	681.022	702.631	728.154	759.623	795.587	3,667.017
700 Veterans Benefits and Services							
Budget Authority	97.705	106.498	112.977	108.839	113.942	116.163	558.419
Outlays	94.831	105.578	112.520	108.242	113.293	115.624	555.257
750 Administration of Justice							
Budget Authority	55.783	53.400	53.892	53.738	53.569	54.247	268.846
Outlays	49.853	52.043	55.589	55.468	54.537	54.058	271.695
800 General Government							
Budget Authority	30.405	21.979	22.264	22.620	22.396	22.898	112.157
Outlays	24.629	22.757	23.099	23.689	23.196	23.167	115.908
900 Net Interest							
Budget Authority	169.752	168.353	207.625	269.888	347.712	427.965	1,421.543
Outlays	169.752	168.353	207.625	269.888	347.712	427.965	1,421.543
On Budget Authority	288.952	284.153	323.325	387.488	470.412	558.265	2,023.643
Outlays	288.952	284.153	323.325	387.488	470.412	558.265	2,023.643
Off Budget Authority	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
Outlays	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
920 Allowances							
Budget Authority	7.150	1.157	-14.278	-14.914	-16.126	-16.670	-60.831
Outlays	1.788	2.548	-8.066	-13.147	-14.979	-15.235	-48.879
950 Undistributed Offsetting Receipts							
Budget Authority	-92.617	-83.922	-87.968	-91.818	-95.703	-98.577	-457.988
Outlays	-92.617	-83.922	-87.968	-91.818	-95.703	-98.577	-457.988
On Budget Authority	-78.206	-68.774	-71.993	-74.970	-77.945	-79.861	-373.543
Outlays	-78.206	-68.774	-71.993	-74.970	-77.945	-79.861	-373.543
Off Budget Authority	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
Outlays	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
970 Overseas Deployments and Other Activities							
Budget Authority	90.745	130.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	330.000
Outlays	24.147	98.410	76.118	65.221	56.722	52.110	348.581

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
CONFERENCE REPORT
Discretionary Spending

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
Summary							
Total Discretionary							
Budget Authority	**1,489.366**	**1,226.236**	**1,158.062**	**1,171.073**	**1,189.577**	**1,213.359**	**5,958.307**
Outlays	**1,246.778**	**1,376.372**	**1,327.798**	**1,271.448**	**1,269.020**	**1,276.268**	**6,520.906**
Defense							
Budget Authority	614.426	556.128	564.293	573.612	584.421	598.249	2,876.703
Outlays	641.927	600.048	582.107	570.461	579.217	589.904	2,921.737
Nondefense							
Budget Authority	874.940	670.108	593.769	597.461	605.156	615.110	3,081.604
Outlays	604.851	776.324	745.691	700.987	689.803	686.364	3,599.169
By Function							
050 National Defense							
Budget Authority	614.426	556.128	564.293	573.612	584.421	598.249	2,876.703
Outlays	641.927	600.048	582.107	570.461	579.217	589.904	2,921.737
150 International Affairs							
Budget Authority	42.666	51.000	55.136	55.526	55.895	56.471	274.028
Outlays	41.300	47.487	51.781	53.701	54.723	54.975	262.667
250 General Science, Space, and Technology							
Budget Authority	35.264	31.014	33.868	34.121	34.348	34.716	168.067
Outlays	30.855	32.329	34.405	33.400	33.692	34.016	167.842
270 Energy							
Budget Authority	44.998	6.180	6.215	6.027	5.972	5.915	30.309
Outlays	5.350	9.039	11.486	13.418	13.236	12.719	59.898
300 Natural Resources and Environment							
Budget Authority	54.596	35.285	35.717	36.155	36.622	37.201	180.980
Outlays	36.252	38.973	37.734	37.099	36.786	37.165	187.757
350 Agriculture							
Budget Authority	6.349	6.131	6.204	6.275	6.345	6.445	31.400
Outlays	6.111	6.217	6.174	6.224	6.286	6.375	31.276
370 Commerce and Housing Credit							
Budget Authority	13.216	13.391	6.383	5.110	4.240	3.966	33.090
Outlays	6.253	13.459	9.302	7.159	5.917	4.520	40.357
On Budget Authority	12.963	13.129	6.116	4.838	3.963	3.683	31.729
Outlays	6.000	13.197	9.035	6.887	5.640	4.237	38.996
Off Budget Authority	0.253	0.262	0.267	0.272	0.277	0.283	1.361
Outlays	0.253	0.262	0.267	0.272	0.277	0.283	1.361
400 Transportation							
Budget Authority	79.061	31.436	31.925	32.443	32.933	33.295	162.032
Outlays	85.668	93.462	94.195	93.437	93.614	94.103	468.811
450 Community and Regional Development							
Budget Authority	23.006	17.930	21.059	16.118	16.187	16.255	87.549
Outlays	26.252	26.904	26.559	24.005	21.501	19.204	118.173
500 Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services							
Budget Authority	188.508	89.417	97.440	103.135	107.416	111.357	508.765
Outlays	94.814	138.899	131.054	106.917	107.799	110.965	595.634
550 Health							
Budget Authority	75.483	58.556	59.034	59.515	59.951	60.636	297.692
Outlays	57.635	64.806	63.890	60.965	59.498	59.754	308.913
570 Medicare							
Budget Authority	5.390	5.600	5.766	5.974	6.199	6.455	29.994
Outlays	5.255	5.570	5.736	5.928	6.169	6.420	29.823

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
CONFERENCE REPORT
Discretionary Spending

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
600 Income Security							
Budget Authority	74.067	64.678	65.488	66.022	66.505	67.265	329.958
Outlays	64.056	69.323	70.540	69.319	68.718	67.803	345.703
650 Social Security							
Budget Authority	6.386	6.072	6.568	6.895	7.223	7.599	34.357
Outlays	5.479	6.057	6.566	6.959	7.298	7.517	34.397
On Budget Authority	1.090	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.534	0.123	0.133	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.556
Off Budget Authority	5.296	6.072	6.568	6.895	7.223	7.599	34.357
Outlays	4.945	5.934	6.433	6.809	7.148	7.517	33.841
700 Veterans Benefits and Services							
Budget Authority	49.394	53.396	54.552	55.992	57.523	59.111	280.574
Outlays	46.757	52.584	54.101	55.622	57.073	58.663	278.043
750 Administration of Justice							
Budget Authority	54.099	49.306	52.426	52.378	52.307	53.022	259.439
Outlays	48.018	49.883	53.004	53.158	53.287	52.889	262.221
800 General Government							
Budget Authority	24.562	19.365	19.681	20.000	20.323	20.737	100.106
Outlays	18.861	20.196	20.536	20.919	21.177	21.069	103.897
900 Net Interest							
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
On Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Off Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
920 Allowances							
Budget Authority	7.150	1.351	-13.693	-14.225	-14.833	-15.336	-56.736
Outlays	1.788	2.726	-7.490	-12.464	-13.693	-13.903	-44.824
950 Undistributed Offsetting Receipts							
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
On Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Off Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
970 Overseas Deployments and Other Activities							
Budget Authority	90.745	130.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	330.000
Outlays	24.147	98.410	76.118	65.221	56.722	52.110	348.581

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
CONFERENCE REPORT
Mandatory Spending

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
Summary							
Total Mandatory							
Budget Authority	**2,712.210**	**2,217.922**	**2,262.282**	**2,273.615**	**2,445.091**	**2,625.685**	**11,824.595**
Outlays	**2,632.119**	**2,178.275**	**2,213.133**	**2,204.072**	**2,369.497**	**2,545.100**	**11,510.077**
On-Budget							
Budget Authority	2,192.110	1,668.789	1,693.683	1,684.211	1,830.116	1,983.370	8,860.169
Outlays	2,114.690	1,631.135	1,646.810	1,617.475	1,757.780	1,906.346	8,559.546
Off-Budget							
Budget Authority	520.100	549.133	568.599	589.404	614.975	642.315	2,964.426
Outlays	517.429	547.140	566.323	586.597	611.717	638.754	2,950.531
By Function							
050 National Defense							
Budget Authority	3.631	5.905	5.814	5.523	5.474	5.579	28.295
Outlays	4.883	5.995	5.838	5.562	5.453	5.572	28.420
150 International Affairs							
Budget Authority	-1.781	-3.134	-3.631	-3.321	-2.342	-1.543	-13.971
Outlays	-3.503	-2.819	-1.358	-1.623	-1.824	-2.198	-9.822
250 General Science, Space, and Technology							
Budget Authority	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.625
Outlays	0.118	0.138	0.127	0.132	0.131	0.125	0.653
270 Energy							
Budget Authority	-1.079	-1.191	-1.178	-1.032	-0.700	-0.635	-4.736
Outlays	-2.398	-2.764	-2.397	-1.658	-1.478	-1.598	-9.895
300 Natural Resources and Environment							
Budget Authority	1.413	2.302	2.142	2.424	2.096	2.137	11.101
Outlays	0.582	1.584	2.155	2.436	2.405	2.157	10.737
350 Agriculture							
Budget Authority	18.625	17.559	18.522	15.365	16.104	16.671	84.221
Outlays	16.959	17.734	17.851	11.321	15.740	15.715	78.361
370 Commerce and Housing Credit							
Budget Authority	685.876	50.984	21.865	4.423	12.984	7.243	97.499
Outlays	663.837	75.553	30.781	1.462	-0.355	-7.037	100.404
On Budget Authority	681.476	47.984	20.065	4.723	13.284	7.543	93.599
Outlays	659.437	72.553	28.981	1.762	-0.055	-6.737	96.504
Off Budget Authority	4.400	3.000	1.800	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	3.900
Outlays	4.400	3.000	1.800	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	3.900
400 Transportation							
Budget Authority	43.396	56.715	57.146	57.604	57.933	58.514	287.912
Outlays	2.116	2.233	2.279	2.414	2.536	2.690	12.152
450 Community and Regional Development							
Budget Authority	0.805	0.378	0.173	0.193	0.015	0.015	0.774
Outlays	3.731	2.399	0.971	0.762	0.444	-0.057	4.519
500 Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services							
Budget Authority	-24.232	5.013	10.418	13.986	8.515	14.431	52.363
Outlays	-21.595	1.725	10.358	11.563	11.112	9.994	44.752
550 Health							
Budget Authority	304.675	325.753	304.744	308.325	326.532	334.612	1,599.966
Outlays	296.762	324.079	303.522	306.426	322.674	336.787	1,593.488
570 Medicare							
Budget Authority	421.686	444.068	499.129	499.712	533.818	586.966	2,563.693
Outlays	421.481	444.228	498.985	499.508	533.977	586.813	2,563.511

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
CONFERENCE REPORT
Mandatory Spending

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
600 Income Security							
Budget Authority	446.056	472.062	443.613	385.450	388.805	388.719	2,078.649
Outlays	438.964	470.879	441.795	382.857	386.466	387.055	2,069.052
650 Social Security							
Budget Authority	680.041	697.336	721.854	750.630	785.262	824.359	3,779.441
Outlays	677.370	695.343	719.578	747.823	782.004	820.798	3,765.546
On Budget Authority	30.730	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
Outlays	30.730	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
Off Budget Authority	649.311	677.081	698.474	724.152	755.733	791.631	3,647.071
Outlays	646.640	675.088	696.198	721.345	752.475	788.070	3,633.176
700 Veterans Benefits and Services							
Budget Authority	48.311	53.102	58.425	52.847	56.419	57.052	277.845
Outlays	48.074	52.994	58.419	52.620	56.220	56.961	277.214
750 Administration of Justice							
Budget Authority	1.684	4.094	1.466	1.360	1.262	1.225	9.407
Outlays	1.835	2.160	2.585	2.310	1.250	1.169	9.474
800 General Government							
Budget Authority	5.843	2.614	2.583	2.620	2.073	2.161	12.051
Outlays	5.768	2.561	2.563	2.770	2.019	2.098	12.011
900 Net Interest							
Budget Authority	169.752	168.353	207.625	269.888	347.712	427.965	1,421.543
Outlays	169.752	168.353	207.625	269.888	347.712	427.965	1,421.543
On Budget Authority	288.952	284.153	323.325	387.488	470.412	558.265	2,023.643
Outlays	288.952	284.153	323.325	387.488	470.412	558.265	2,023.643
Off Budget Authority	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
Outlays	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
920 Allowances							
Budget Authority	0.000	-0.194	-0.585	-0.689	-1.293	-1.334	-4.095
Outlays	0.000	-0.178	-0.576	-0.683	-1.286	-1.332	-4.055
950 Undistributed Offsetting Receipts							
Budget Authority	-92.617	-83.922	-87.968	-91.818	-95.703	-98.577	-457.988
Outlays	-92.617	-83.922	-87.968	-91.818	-95.703	-98.577	-457.988
On Budget Authority	-78.206	-68.774	-71.993	-74.970	-77.945	-79.861	-373.543
Outlays	-78.206	-68.774	-71.993	-74.970	-77.945	-79.861	-373.543
Off Budget Authority	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
Outlays	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
970 Overseas Deployments and Other Activities							
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
SENATE-PASSED RESOLUTION
Total Spending, Revenues, Deficit/Surplus, and Debt

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
Summary							
Budget Authority	**4,193.698**	**3,409.433**	**3,375.292**	**3,408.884**	**3,612.557**	**3,814.841**	**17,621.007**
On	3,668.049	2,853.966	2,799.858	2,812.313	2,990.082	3,164.644	14,620.863
Off	525.649	555.467	575.434	596.571	622.475	650.197	3,000.144
Outlays	**3,878.160**	**3,534.362**	**3,510.238**	**3,450.634**	**3,622.304**	**3,799.526**	**17,917.064**
On	3,355.533	2,981.026	2,937.215	2,856.956	3,003.162	3,152.972	14,931.331
Off	522.627	553.336	573.023	593.678	619.142	646.554	2,985.733
Revenues	**2,159.314**	**2,288.280**	**2,613.790**	**2,849.632**	**3,052.666**	**3,291.995**	**14,096.363**
On	1,506.196	1,620.072	1,918.926	2,123.586	2,286.601	2,489.829	10,439.015
Off	653.117	668.208	694.864	726.045	766.065	802.166	3,657.347
Deficit (-)/Surplus	**-1,718.846**	**-1,246.082**	**-896.448**	**-601.002**	**-569.638**	**-507.531**	**-3,820.701**
On	-1,849.337	-1,360.954	-1,018.289	-733.370	-716.560	-663.142	-4,492.315
Off	130.490	114.872	121.841	132.367	146.923	155.612	671.614
Debt Held by the Public	7,754.355	8,817.043	9,702.393	10,345.439	10,919.379	11,471.742	--
Public Debt	12,067.919	13,298.235	14,394.517	15,303.842	16,175.508	17,022.970	--
By Function							
050 National Defense							
Budget Authority	693.557	691.703	619.767	628.785	639.535	653.458	3,233.248
Outlays	671.725	695.628	662.705	642.223	641.425	646.834	3,288.815
150 International Affairs							
Budget Authority	55.333	50.667	48.186	50.421	53.324	55.992	258.590
Outlays	38.011	48.853	51.034	51.649	52.556	53.223	257.314
250 General Science, Space, and Technology							
Budget Authority	35.389	31.139	33.993	35.008	35.557	36.211	171.908
Outlays	30.973	32.467	33.032	33.749	34.971	36.066	170.285
270 Energy							
Budget Authority	43.919	4.489	4.404	4.427	4.619	4.540	22.479
Outlays	2.952	6.210	8.906	10.341	5.613	0.484	31.553
300 Natural Resources and Environment							
Budget Authority	56.009	37.687	37.914	38.376	38.256	38.602	190.834
Outlays	36.834	40.690	39.928	39.419	38.883	38.788	197.709
350 Agriculture							
Budget Authority	24.974	23.620	24.602	21.500	22.295	22.920	114.937
Outlays	23.070	23.881	23.914	17.410	21.877	21.906	108.987
370 Commerce and Housing Credit							
Budget Authority	699.092	64.375	27.998	9.277	16.962	10.941	129.554
Outlays	670.090	89.080	39.865	8.372	5.306	-2.779	139.844
On Budget Authority	694.439	61.113	25.931	9.305	16.985	10.958	124.293
Outlays	665.437	85.818	37.798	8.400	5.329	-2.762	134.583
Off Budget Authority	4.653	3.262	2.067	-0.028	-0.023	-0.017	5.261
Outlays	4.653	3.262	2.067	-0.028	-0.023	-0.017	5.261
400 Transportation							
Budget Authority	122.457	75.246	75.301	75.885	75.758	75.642	377.833
Outlays	87.784	95.695	96.147	95.184	95.017	94.972	477.016
450 Community and Regional Development							
Budget Authority	23.811	16.338	16.152	16.194	16.043	16.068	80.796
Outlays	29.983	28.924	25.574	22.263	19.640	17.870	114.272
500 Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services							
Budget Authority	164.276	94.430	107.858	117.121	115.931	125.788	561.128
Outlays	73.219	140.624	141.412	118.480	118.911	120.959	640.386
550 Health							
Budget Authority	380.158	385.447	363.906	368.156	387.170	396.523	1,901.202
Outlays	354.397	389.191	368.001	367.749	382.650	397.368	1,904.959

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
SENATE-PASSED RESOLUTION
Total Spending, Revenues, Deficit/Surplus, and Debt

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
570 Medicare							
Budget Authority	427.076	442.828	487.518	491.854	539.711	592.893	2,554.804
Outlays	426.736	442.959	487.336	491.626	539.862	592.733	2,554.517
600 Income Security							
Budget Authority	520.123	536.609	507.502	450.091	454.160	454.931	2,403.293
Outlays	503.020	539.949	511.314	450.856	453.935	453.726	2,409.780
650 Social Security							
Budget Authority	686.427	703.408	728.422	757.525	792.485	831.958	3,813.798
Outlays	682.849	701.400	726.144	754.782	789.302	828.315	3,799.943
On Budget Authority	31.820	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
Outlays	31.264	20.378	23.513	26.628	29.679	32.728	132.926
Off Budget Authority	654.607	683.153	705.042	731.047	762.956	799.230	3,681.428
Outlays	651.585	681.022	702.631	728.154	759.623	795.587	3,667.017
700 Veterans Benefits and Services							
Budget Authority	97.705	106.490	112.806	108.643	113.722	115.929	557.590
Outlays	94.831	105.593	112.355	108.048	113.071	115.388	554.455
750 Administration of Justice							
Budget Authority	55.783	53.499	52.061	51.866	51.651	51.488	260.564
Outlays	49.853	52.064	54.204	53.839	52.679	51.635	264.422
800 General Government							
Budget Authority	30.405	22.324	22.483	22.715	22.445	22.812	112.779
Outlays	24.629	23.024	23.328	23.814	23.260	23.113	116.538
900 Net Interest							
Budget Authority	169.821	168.758	208.094	270.020	347.373	427.026	1,421.270
Outlays	169.821	168.758	208.094	270.020	347.373	427.026	1,421.270
On Budget Authority	289.021	284.558	323.794	387.620	470.073	557.326	2,023.370
Outlays	289.021	284.558	323.794	387.620	470.073	557.326	2,023.370
Off Budget Authority	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
Outlays	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
920 Allowances							
Budget Authority	0.000	-16.032	-16.046	-17.512	-19.097	-20.674	-89.360
Outlays	0.000	-7.037	-15.267	-17.655	-18.659	-19.891	-78.507
950 Undistributed Offsetting Receipts							
Budget Authority	-92.617	-83.592	-87.628	-91.468	-95.343	-98.207	-456.238
Outlays	-92.617	-83.592	-87.628	-91.468	-95.343	-98.207	-456.238
On Budget Authority	-78.206	-68.444	-71.653	-74.620	-77.585	-79.491	-371.793
Outlays	-78.206	-68.444	-71.653	-74.620	-77.585	-79.491	-371.793
Off Budget Authority	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
Outlays	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
SENATE-PASSED RESOLUTION
Discretionary Spending

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
Summary							
Total Discretionary							
Budget Authority	**1,481.419**	**1,210.886**	**1,142.921**	**1,162.047**	**1,180.705**	**1,203.369**	**5,899.929**
Outlays	**1,245.972**	**1,362.557**	**1,314.023**	**1,260.003**	**1,252.457**	**1,254.650**	**6,443.690**
Defense							
Budget Authority	689.926	686.128	614.293	623.612	634.421	648.249	3,206.703
Outlays	666.842	689.963	657.207	637.011	636.332	641.632	3,262.145
Nondefense							
Budget Authority	791.493	524.758	528.628	538.435	546.284	555.120	2,693.226
Outlays	579.130	672.594	656.816	622.992	616.125	613.018	3,181.545
By Function							
050 National Defense							
Budget Authority	689.926	686.128	614.293	623.612	634.421	648.249	3,206.703
Outlays	666.842	689.963	657.207	637.011	636.332	641.632	3,262.145
150 International Affairs							
Budget Authority	57.114	53.801	51.817	53.742	55.666	57.535	272.561
Outlays	41.514	51.672	52.392	53.272	54.380	55.421	267.136
250 General Science, Space, and Technology							
Budget Authority	35.264	31.014	33.868	34.883	35.432	36.086	171.283
Outlays	30.855	32.329	32.905	33.617	34.840	35.941	169.632
270 Energy							
Budget Authority	44.998	5.680	5.582	5.459	5.319	5.175	27.215
Outlays	5.350	8.974	11.303	11.999	7.091	2.082	41.448
300 Natural Resources and Environment							
Budget Authority	54.596	35.385	35.772	35.952	36.160	36.465	179.733
Outlays	36.252	39.106	37.773	36.983	36.478	36.631	186.972
350 Agriculture							
Budget Authority	6.349	6.131	6.150	6.205	6.261	6.319	31.066
Outlays	6.111	6.217	6.133	6.159	6.207	6.261	30.976
370 Commerce and Housing Credit							
Budget Authority	13.216	13.391	6.133	4.854	3.978	3.698	32.055
Outlays	6.253	13.527	9.084	6.910	5.661	4.258	39.440
On Budget Authority	12.963	13.129	5.866	4.582	3.701	3.415	30.694
Outlays	6.000	13.265	8.817	6.638	5.384	3.975	38.079
Off Budget Authority	0.253	0.262	0.267	0.272	0.277	0.283	1.361
Outlays	0.253	0.262	0.267	0.272	0.277	0.283	1.361
400 Transportation							
Budget Authority	79.061	31.436	31.310	31.686	31.440	31.117	156.990
Outlays	85.668	93.462	93.868	92.770	92.481	92.282	464.864
450 Community and Regional Development							
Budget Authority	23.006	15.960	15.979	16.001	16.028	16.053	80.022
Outlays	26.252	26.525	24.603	21.501	19.196	17.927	109.753
500 Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services							
Budget Authority	188.508	89.417	97.440	103.135	107.416	111.357	508.765
Outlays	94.814	138.899	131.054	106.917	107.799	110.965	595.634
550 Health							
Budget Authority	75.483	59.694	59.162	59.831	60.638	61.911	301.236
Outlays	57.635	65.112	64.479	61.323	59.976	60.581	311.471

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
SENATE-PASSED RESOLUTION
Discretionary Spending

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
570 Medicare							
Budget Authority	5.390	5.600	5.828	5.862	5.893	5.927	29.111
Outlays	5.255	5.571	5.791	5.838	5.885	5.920	29.006
600 Income Security							
Budget Authority	74.067	64.698	64.153	64.986	65.782	66.669	326.288
Outlays	64.056	69.205	69.774	68.338	67.889	67.126	342.332
650 Social Security							
Budget Authority	6.386	6.072	6.568	6.895	7.223	7.599	34.357
Outlays	5.479	6.057	6.566	6.959	7.298	7.517	34.397
On Budget Authority	1.090	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.534	0.123	0.133	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.556
Off Budget Authority	5.296	6.072	6.568	6.895	7.223	7.599	34.357
Outlays	4.945	5.934	6.433	6.809	7.148	7.517	33.841
700 Veterans Benefits and Services							
Budget Authority	49.394	53.396	54.417	55.855	57.384	58.969	280.021
Outlays	46.757	52.607	53.972	55.487	56.932	58.519	277.517
750 Administration of Justice							
Budget Authority	54.099	49.405	50.595	50.506	50.389	50.263	251.157
Outlays	48.018	49.904	51.619	51.529	51.429	50.466	254.948
800 General Government							
Budget Authority	24.562	19.710	19.900	20.095	20.372	20.651	100.728
Outlays	18.861	20.463	20.765	21.044	21.241	21.015	104.527
900 Net Interest							
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
On Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Off Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
920 Allowances							
Budget Authority	0.000	-16.032	-16.046	-17.512	-19.097	-20.674	-89.360
Outlays	0.000	-7.037	-15.267	-17.655	-18.659	-19.891	-78.507
950 Undistributed Offsetting Receipts							
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
On Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Off Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
SENATE-PASSED RESOLUTION
Mandatory Spending

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
Summary							
Total Mandatory							
Budget Authority	**2,712.279**	**2,198.547**	**2,232.371**	**2,246.837**	**2,431.852**	**2,611.472**	**11,721.078**
Outlays	**2,632.188**	**2,171.805**	**2,196.377**	**2,190.699**	**2,369.873**	**2,544.876**	**11,473.629**
On-Budget							
Budget Authority	2,192.179	1,649.414	1,663.772	1,657.433	1,816.877	1,969.157	8,756.652
Outlays	2,114.759	1,624.665	1,630.054	1,604.102	1,758.156	1,906.122	8,523.098
Off-Budget							
Budget Authority	520.100	549.133	568.599	589.404	614.975	642.315	2,964.426
Outlays	517.429	547.140	566.323	586.597	611.717	638.754	2,950.531
By Function							
050 National Defense							
Budget Authority	3.631	5.575	5.474	5.173	5.114	5.209	26.545
Outlays	4.883	5.665	5.498	5.212	5.093	5.202	26.670
150 International Affairs							
Budget Authority	-1.781	-3.134	-3.631	-3.321	-2.342	-1.543	-13.971
Outlays	-3.503	-2.819	-1.358	-1.623	-1.824	-2.198	-9.822
250 General Science, Space, and Technology							
Budget Authority	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.625
Outlays	0.118	0.138	0.127	0.132	0.131	0.125	0.653
270 Energy							
Budget Authority	-1.079	-1.191	-1.178	-1.032	-0.700	-0.635	-4.736
Outlays	-2.398	-2.764	-2.397	-1.658	-1.478	-1.598	-9.895
300 Natural Resources and Environment							
Budget Authority	1.413	2.302	2.142	2.424	2.096	2.137	11.101
Outlays	0.582	1.584	2.155	2.436	2.405	2.157	10.737
350 Agriculture							
Budget Authority	18.625	17.489	18.452	15.295	16.034	16.601	83.871
Outlays	16.959	17.664	17.781	11.251	15.670	15.645	78.011
370 Commerce and Housing Credit							
Budget Authority	685.876	50.984	21.865	4.423	12.984	7.243	97.499
Outlays	663.837	75.553	30.781	1.462	-0.355	-7.037	100.404
On Budget Authority	681.476	47.984	20.065	4.723	13.284	7.543	93.599
Outlays	659.437	72.553	28.981	1.762	-0.055	-6.737	96.504
Off Budget Authority	4.400	3.000	1.800	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	3.900
Outlays	4.400	3.000	1.800	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	3.900
400 Transportation							
Budget Authority	43.396	43.810	43.991	44.199	44.318	44.525	220.843
Outlays	2.116	2.233	2.279	2.414	2.536	2.690	12.152
450 Community and Regional Development							
Budget Authority	0.805	0.378	0.173	0.193	0.015	0.015	0.774
Outlays	3.731	2.399	0.971	0.762	0.444	-0.057	4.519
500 Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services							
Budget Authority	-24.232	5.013	10.418	13.986	8.515	14.431	52.363
Outlays	-21.595	1.725	10.358	11.563	11.112	9.994	44.752
550 Health							
Budget Authority	304.675	325.753	304.744	308.325	326.532	334.612	1,599.966
Outlays	296.762	324.079	303.522	306.426	322.674	336.787	1,593.488

FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET RESOLUTION
SENATE-PASSED RESOLUTION
Mandatory Spending

($s in billions)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-14
570 Medicare							
Budget Authority	421.686	437.228	481.689	485.992	533.818	586.966	2,525.693
Outlays	421.481	437.388	481.545	485.788	533.977	586.813	2,525.511
600 Income Security							
Budget Authority	446.056	471.911	443.349	385.105	388.378	388.262	2,077.005
Outlays	438.964	470.744	441.540	382.518	386.046	386.600	2,067.448
650 Social Security							
Budget Authority	680.041	697.336	721.854	750.630	785.262	824.359	3,779.441
Outlays	677.370	695.343	719.578	747.823	782.004	820.798	3,765.546
On Budget Authority	30.730	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
Outlays	30.730	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
Off Budget Authority	649.311	677.081	698.474	724.152	755.733	791.631	3,647.071
Outlays	646.640	675.088	696.198	721.345	752.475	788.070	3,633.176
700 Veterans Benefits and Services							
Budget Authority	48.311	53.094	58.389	52.788	56.338	56.960	277.569
Outlays	48.074	52.986	58.383	52.561	56.139	56.869	276.938
750 Administration of Justice							
Budget Authority	1.684	4.094	1.466	1.360	1.262	1.225	9.407
Outlays	1.835	2.160	2.585	2.310	1.250	1.169	9.474
800 General Government							
Budget Authority	5.843	2.614	2.583	2.620	2.073	2.161	12.051
Outlays	5.768	2.561	2.563	2.770	2.019	2.098	12.011
900 Net Interest							
Budget Authority	169.821	168.758	208.094	270.020	347.373	427.026	1,421.270
Outlays	169.821	168.758	208.094	270.020	347.373	427.026	1,421.270
On Budget Authority	289.021	284.558	323.794	387.620	470.073	557.326	2,023.370
Outlays	289.021	284.558	323.794	387.620	470.073	557.326	2,023.370
Off Budget Authority	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
Outlays	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
920 Allowances							
Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
950 Undistributed Offsetting Receipts							
Budget Authority	-92.617	-83.592	-87.628	-91.468	-95.343	-98.207	-456.238
Outlays	-92.617	-83.592	-87.628	-91.468	-95.343	-98.207	-456.238
On Budget Authority	-78.206	-68.444	-71.653	-74.620	-77.585	-79.491	-371.793
Outlays	-78.206	-68.444	-71.653	-74.620	-77.585	-79.491	-371.793
Off Budget Authority	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
Outlays	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445

HOUSE-PASSED 2010 RESOLUTION: TOTAL SPENDING AND REVENUES

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
			Summary				
Total Spending:							
BA	4,200.782	3,447.528	3,441.763	3,509.887	3,718.179	3,936.332	18,053.689
OT	3,879.882	3,549.570	3,554.895	3,533.290	3,712.719	3,908.079	18,258.553
On-Budget:							
BA	3,675.133	2,892.061	2,866.329	2,913.316	3,095.704	3,286.135	15,053.545
OT	3,357.255	2,996.234	2,981.872	2,939.612	3,093.577	3,261.525	15,272.820
Off-Budget:							
BA	525.649	555.467	575.434	596.571	622.475	650.197	3,000.144
OT	522.627	553.336	573.023	593.678	619.142	646.554	2,985.733
Revenues:							
Total	2,185.688	2,327.733	2,627.690	2,915.833	3,127.173	3,309.681	14,308.110
On-budget	1,532.571	1,659.525	1,933.072	2,190.099	2,361.429	2,507.846	10,651.971
Off-budget	653.117	668.208	694.618	725.734	765.744	801.835	3,656.139
Surplus/Deficit (-)							
Total	-1,694.194	-1,221.837	-927.205	-617.457	-585.546	-598.398	-3,950.443
On-budget	-1,824.684	-1,336.709	-1,048.800	-749.513	-732.148	-753.679	-4,620.849
Off-budget	130.490	114.872	121.595	132.056	146.602	155.281	670.406
Debt Subject to Limit (end of	12,017	13,223	14,350	15,276	16,162	17,100	na
Debt Held by the Public (enc	7,730	8,768	9,684	10,344	10,934	11,577	na
			By Function				
National Defense (050):							
BA	618.057	562.033	570.107	579.135	589.895	603.828	2,904.998
OT	646.810	606.043	587.945	576.023	584.670	595.476	2,950.157
International Affairs (150):							
BA	40.885	45.320	49.146	53.742	59.160	64.388	271.756
OT	37.797	43.461	48.642	52.123	55.773	59.292	259.291
General Science, Space, and Technology (250):							
BA	35.389	31.139	31.493	33.373	34.419	35.686	166.110
OT	30.973	32.467	32.407	32.465	33.614	34.835	165.788
Energy (270):							
BA	43.919	5.489	5.539	5.732	6.098	6.227	29.085
OT	2.952	7.267	11.322	13.400	12.133	10.512	54.634
Natural Resources and Environment (300):							
BA	56.009	37.387	38.600	39.249	39.348	40.017	194.601
OT	36.834	40.450	40.237	40.058	39.754	39.957	200.456
Agriculture (350):							
BA	24.974	23.690	24.691	21.644	22.497	23.182	115.704
OT	23.070	23.951	23.998	17.540	22.063	22.150	109.702
Commerce and Housing Credit (370):							
BA	699.092	64.195	28.248	9.533	17.224	11.209	130.409
OT	670.090	88.900	40.021	8.617	5.562	-2.517	140.583
On-budget:							

HOUSE-PASSED 2010 RESOLUTION: TOTAL SPENDING AND REVENUES

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
BA	694.439	60.933	26.181	9.561	17.247	11.226	125.148
OT	665.437	85.638	37.954	8.645	5.585	-2.500	135.322
Off-budget:							
BA	4.653	3.262	2.067	-0.028	-0.023	-0.017	5.261
OT	4.653	3.262	2.067	-0.028	-0.023	-0.017	5.261
Transportation (400):							
BA	122.457	88.151	89.071	90.047	90.866	91.809	449.944
OT	87.784	95.695	96.474	95.851	96.150	96.793	480.963
Community and Regional Development (450):							
BA	23.811	18.308	21.232	21.311	21.202	21.270	103.323
OT	29.983	29.303	27.530	25.722	24.155	22.752	129.462
Education, Training, Employment and Social Services (500):							
BA	164.276	93.689	107.858	117.121	115.931	125.788	560.387
OT	73.219	140.300	141.108	118.391	118.888	120.959	639.646
Health (550):							
BA	380.158	383.911	364.910	369.852	389.719	400.451	1,908.843
OT	354.397	388.746	367.628	368.556	384.359	400.173	1,909.462
Medicare (570):							
BA	427.076	449.653	505.171	513.824	558.235	616.315	2,643.198
OT	426.736	449.784	504.962	513.591	558.381	616.150	2,642.868
Income Security (600):							
BA	520.123	536.169	510.575	478.039	483.386	485.396	2,493.565
OT	503.020	539.918	513.410	478.323	482.745	483.758	2,498.154
Social Security (650):							
BA	686.427	703.408	728.422	757.525	792.485	831.958	3,813.798
OT	682.849	701.400	726.144	754.782	789.302	828.315	3,799.943
On-budget:							
BA	31.820	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
OT	31.264	20.378	23.513	26.628	29.679	32.728	132.926
Off-budget:							
BA	654.607	683.153	705.042	731.047	762.956	799.230	3,681.428
OT	651.585	681.022	702.631	728.154	759.623	795.587	3,667.017
Veterans Benefits and Services (700):							
BA	97.705	106.365	112.842	108.702	113.803	116.021	557.733
OT	94.831	105.468	112.386	108.103	113.151	115.480	554.588
Administration of Justice (750):							
BA	55.783	52.857	53.892	53.738	53.569	54.247	268.303
OT	49.853	51.630	55.503	55.441	54.526	54.058	271.158
General Government (800):							
BA	30.405	21.979	22.316	22.737	22.750	23.415	113.197
OT	24.629	22.757	23.147	23.795	23.492	23.629	116.820
Net Interest (900):							
BA	169.755	168.285	207.566	269.883	347.752	429.837	1,423.323
OT	169.755	168.285	207.566	269.883	347.752	429.837	1,423.323
On-budget:							

HOUSE-PASSED 2010 RESOLUTION: TOTAL SPENDING AND REVENUES

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
BA	288.955	284.085	323.266	387.483	470.452	560.137	2,025.423
OT	288.955	284.085	323.266	387.483	470.452	560.137	2,025.423
Off-budget:							
BA	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
OT	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
Allowances (920):							
BA	14.450	9.422	8.052	6.518	5.543	3.865	33.400
OT	1.788	4.893	5.903	4.750	4.122	2.962	22.630
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):							
BA	-92.617	-83.922	-87.968	-91.818	-95.703	-98.577	-457.988
OT	-92.617	-83.922	-87.968	-91.818	-95.703	-98.577	-457.988
On-budget:							
BA	-78.206	-68.774	-71.993	-74.970	-77.945	-79.861	-373.543
OT	-78.206	-68.774	-71.993	-74.970	-77.945	-79.861	-373.543
Off-budget:							
BA	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
OT	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
Overseas Deployments and Other Activities (970):							
BA	82.648	130.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	330.000
OT	25.129	92.774	76.530	67.694	57.830	52.085	346.913

HOUSE-PASSED 2010 RESOLUTION: DISCRETIONARY SPENDING

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
			Summary				
Total Spending:							
BA	1,488.569	1,229.078	1,179.313	1,205.924	1,232.826	1,265.463	6,112.604
OT	1,247.760	1,370.565	1,341.264	1,298.562	1,302.648	1,317.342	6,630.381
On-Budget:							
BA	1,483.020	1,222.744	1,172.478	1,198.757	1,225.326	1,257.581	6,076.886
OT	1,242.562	1,364.369	1,334.564	1,291.481	1,295.223	1,309.542	6,595.179
Off-Budget:							
BA	5.549	6.334	6.835	7.167	7.500	7.882	35.718
OT	5.198	6.196	6.700	7.081	7.425	7.800	35.202
			By Function				
National Defense (050):							
BA	614.426	556.128	564.293	573.612	584.421	598.249	2,876.703
OT	641.927	600.048	582.107	570.461	579.217	589.904	2,921.737
International Affairs (150):							
BA	42.666	48.454	52.777	57.063	61.502	65.931	285.727
OT	41.300	46.280	50.000	53.746	57.597	61.490	269.113
General Science, Space, and Technology (250):							
BA	35.264	31.014	31.368	33.248	34.294	35.561	165.485
OT	30.855	32.329	32.280	32.333	33.483	34.710	165.135
Energy (270):							
BA	44.998	6.680	6.717	6.764	6.798	6.862	33.821
OT	5.350	10.031	13.719	15.058	13.611	12.110	64.529
Natural Resources and Environment (300):							
BA	54.596	35.085	36.458	36.825	37.252	37.880	183.500
OT	36.252	38.866	38.082	37.622	37.349	37.800	189.719
Agriculture (350):							
BA	6.349	6.131	6.169	6.279	6.393	6.511	31.483
OT	6.111	6.217	6.147	6.219	6.323	6.435	31.341
Commerce and Housing Credit (370):							
BA	13.216	13.211	6.383	5.110	4.240	3.966	32.910
OT	6.253	13.347	9.240	7.155	5.917	4.520	40.179
On-budget:							
BA	12.963	12.949	6.116	4.838	3.963	3.683	31.549
OT	6.000	13.085	8.973	6.883	5.640	4.237	38.818
Off-budget:							
BA	0.253	0.262	0.267	0.272	0.277	0.283	1.361
OT	0.253	0.262	0.267	0.272	0.277	0.283	1.361
Transportation (400):							
BA	79.061	31.436	31.925	32.443	32.933	33.295	162.032
OT	85.668	93.462	94.195	93.437	93.614	94.103	468.811
Community and Regional Development (450):							
BA	23.006	17.930	21.059	21.118	21.187	21.255	102.549
OT	26.252	26.904	26.559	24.960	23.711	22.809	124.943

HOUSE-PASSED 2010 RESOLUTION: DISCRETIONARY SPENDING

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
Education, Training, Employment and Social Services (500):							
BA	188.508	88.676	97.440	103.135	107.416	111.357	508.024
OT	94.814	138.575	130.750	106.828	107.776	110.965	594.894
Health (550):							
BA	75.483	58.158	60.166	61.527	63.187	65.839	308.877
OT	57.635	64.667	64.106	62.130	61.685	63.386	315.974
Medicare (570):							
BA	5.390	5.595	6.042	6.112	6.197	6.269	30.215
OT	5.255	5.566	5.977	6.083	6.184	6.257	30.067
Income Security (600):							
BA	74.067	62.778	65.488	67.210	68.878	70.734	335.088
OT	64.056	67.860	70.141	70.087	70.576	70.760	349.424
Social Security (650):							
BA	6.386	6.072	6.568	6.895	7.223	7.599	34.357
OT	5.479	6.057	6.566	6.959	7.298	7.517	34.397
On-budget:							
BA	1.090	---	---	---	---	---	---
OT	0.534	0.123	0.133	0.150	0.150	---	0.556
Off-budget:							
BA	5.296	6.072	6.568	6.895	7.223	7.599	34.357
OT	4.945	5.934	6.433	6.809	7.148	7.517	33.841
Veterans Benefits and Services (700):							
BA	49.394	53.263	54.417	55.855	57.384	58.969	279.888
OT	46.757	52.474	53.967	55.483	56.931	58.519	277.374
Administration of Justice (750):							
BA	54.099	48.763	52.426	52.378	52.307	53.022	258.896
OT	48.018	49.470	52.918	53.131	53.276	52.889	261.684
General Government (800):							
BA	24.562	19.365	19.733	20.117	20.677	21.254	101.146
OT	18.861	20.196	20.584	21.025	21.473	21.531	104.809
Allowances (920):							
BA	14.450	10.339	9.884	10.233	10.537	10.910	51.903
OT	1.788	5.442	7.396	8.151	8.797	9.552	39.338
Overseas Deployments and Other Activities (970):							
BA	82.648	130.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	330.000
OT	25.129	92.774	76.530	67.694	57.830	52.085	346.913

HOUSE-PASSED RESOLUTION: MANDATORY SPENDING

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
			Summary				
Total Spending:							
BA	2,712.213	2,218.450	2,262.450	2,303.963	2,485.353	2,670.869	11,941.085
OT	2,632.122	2,179.005	2,213.631	2,234.728	2,410.071	2,590.737	11,628.172
On-Budget:							
BA	2,192.113	1,669.317	1,693.851	1,714.559	1,870.378	2,028.554	8,976.659
OT	2,114.693	1,631.865	1,647.308	1,648.131	1,798.354	1,951.983	8,677.641
Off-Budget:							
BA	520.100	549.133	568.599	589.404	614.975	642.315	2,964.426
OT	517.429	547.140	566.323	586.597	611.717	638.754	2,950.531
			By Function				
National Defense (050):							
BA	3.631	5.905	5.814	5.523	5.474	5.579	28.295
OT	4.883	5.995	5.838	5.562	5.453	5.572	28.420
International Affairs (150):							
BA	-1.781	-3.134	-3.631	-3.321	-2.342	-1.543	-13.971
OT	-3.503	-2.819	-1.358	-1.623	-1.824	-2.198	-9.822
General Science, Space, and Technology (250):							
BA	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.625
OT	0.118	0.138	0.127	0.132	0.131	0.125	0.653
Energy (270):							
BA	-1.079	-1.191	-1.178	-1.032	-0.700	-0.635	-4.736
OT	-2.398	-2.764	-2.397	-1.658	-1.478	-1.598	-9.895
Natural Resources and Environment (300):							
BA	1.413	2.302	2.142	2.424	2.096	2.137	11.101
OT	0.582	1.584	2.155	2.436	2.405	2.157	10.737
Agriculture (350):							
BA	18.625	17.559	18.522	15.365	16.104	16.671	84.221
OT	16.959	17.734	17.851	11.321	15.740	15.715	78.361
Commerce and Housing Credit (370):							
BA	685.876	50.984	21.865	4.423	12.984	7.243	97.499
OT	663.837	75.553	30.781	1.462	-0.355	-7.037	100.404
On-budget:							
BA	681.476	47.984	20.065	4.723	13.284	7.543	93.599
OT	659.437	72.553	28.981	1.762	-0.055	-6.737	96.504
Off-budget:							
BA	4.400	3.000	1.800	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	3.900
OT	4.400	3.000	1.800	-0.300	-0.300	-0.300	3.900
Transportation (400):							
BA	43.396	56.715	57.146	57.604	57.933	58.514	287.912
OT	2.116	2.233	2.279	2.414	2.536	2.690	12.152
Community and Regional Development (450):							
BA	0.805	0.378	0.173	0.193	0.015	0.015	0.774
OT	3.731	2.399	0.971	0.762	0.444	-0.057	4.519

HOUSE-PASSED RESOLUTION: MANDATORY SPENDING

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
Education, Training, Employment and Social Services (500):							
BA	-24.232	5.013	10.418	13.986	8.515	14.431	52.363
OT	-21.595	1.725	10.358	11.563	11.112	9.994	44.752
Health (550):							
BA	304.675	325.753	304.744	308.325	326.532	334.612	1,599.966
OT	296.762	324.079	303.522	306.426	322.674	336.787	1,593.488
Medicare (570):							
BA	421.686	444.058	499.129	507.712	552.038	610.046	2,612.983
OT	421.481	444.218	498.985	507.508	552.197	609.893	2,612.801
Income Security (600):							
BA	446.056	473.391	445.087	410.829	414.508	414.662	2,158.477
OT	438.964	472.058	443.269	408.236	412.169	412.998	2,148.730
Social Security (650):							
BA	680.041	697.336	721.854	750.630	785.262	824.359	3,779.441
OT	677.370	695.343	719.578	747.823	782.004	820.798	3,765.546
On-budget:							
BA	30.730	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
OT	30.730	20.255	23.380	26.478	29.529	32.728	132.370
Off-budget:							
BA	649.311	677.081	698.474	724.152	755.733	791.631	3,647.071
OT	646.640	675.088	696.198	721.345	752.475	788.070	3,633.176
Veterans Benefits and Services (700):							
BA	48.311	53.102	58.425	52.847	56.419	57.052	277.845
OT	48.074	52.994	58.419	52.620	56.220	56.961	277.214
Administration of Justice (750):							
BA	1.684	4.094	1.466	1.360	1.262	1.225	9.407
OT	1.835	2.160	2.585	2.310	1.250	1.169	9.474
General Government (800):							
BA	5.843	2.614	2.583	2.620	2.073	2.161	12.051
OT	5.768	2.561	2.563	2.770	2.019	2.098	12.011
Net Interest (900):							
BA	169.755	168.285	207.566	269.883	347.752	429.837	1,423.323
OT	169.755	168.285	207.566	269.883	347.752	429.837	1,423.323
On-budget:							
BA	288.955	284.085	323.266	387.483	470.452	560.137	2,025.423
OT	288.955	284.085	323.266	387.483	470.452	560.137	2,025.423
Off-budget:							
BA	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
OT	-119.200	-115.800	-115.700	-117.600	-122.700	-130.300	-602.100
Allowances (920):							
BA	—	-0.917	-1.832	-3.715	-4.994	-7.045	-18.503
OT	—	-0.549	-1.493	-3.401	-4.675	-6.590	-16.708
Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):							
BA	-92.617	-83.922	-87.968	-91.818	-95.703	-98.577	-457.988
OT	-92.617	-83.922	-87.968	-91.818	-95.703	-98.577	-457.988

HOUSE-PASSED RESOLUTION: MANDATORY SPENDING

(In billions of dollars)

Fiscal year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010-2014
On-budget:							
BA.....	-78.206	-68.774	-71.993	-74.970	-77.945	-79.861	-373.543
OT.....	-78.206	-68.774	-71.993	-74.970	-77.945	-79.861	-373.543
Off-budget:							
BA.....	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445
OT.....	-14.411	-15.148	-15.975	-16.848	-17.758	-18.716	-84.445

REVENUES

Summary

The revenue component of the budget resolution reflects all of the federal government's tax receipts that are classified as ''on-budget.'' This includes individual income taxes; corporate income taxes; excise taxes, such as the gasoline tax; and other taxes, such as estate and gift taxes. Taxes collected for the Social Security system—the Old Age and Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) payroll tax—are ''off-budget.'' The Hospital Insurance payroll tax portion of Medicare, the Federal Unemployment Tax Act payroll tax, railroad retirement and other retirement systems are all ''on-budget.'' Customs duties, tariffs, and other miscellaneous receipts are also included in the revenue component. Pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, Social Security payroll taxes are not included in the budget resolution.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate budget resolution includes $1.6 trillion in on-budget revenues for 2010, and $10.4 trillion over 2010–2014. (The corresponding revenue figures on a unified basis are $2.3 trillion for 2010 and $14.1 trillion over five years.)

The revenue level in the Senate resolution is $825.0 billion below the levels in the CBO baseline over 2010–2014.

The Senate resolution provides substantial tax relief for the middle class. Consistent with the President's budget, the Senate resolution assumes: the 10 percent bracket, child tax credit, marriage penalty relief are made permanent, as well as the related expansions of the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit included in the economic recovery package are extended; the American Opportunity Tax Credit providing a $2,500 credit for higher education is made permanent; an expansion of the existing ''savers credit'' and a new policy to require employers that do not offer 401(k)s to offer automatic enrollment in IRAs. The Senate resolution also follows the President's proposals to extend other 2001 and 2003 tax changes for couples with incomes under $250,000 and singles with incomes under $200,000, including the 25 percent and 28 percent brackets and the preferential rates for capital gains and dividend income.

The Senate resolution assumes three years of alternative minimum tax relief, through 2012, without offsets. It calls for permanent reform of the estate tax, reflecting continuation of the 2009 estate tax parameters, with an exemption of $3.5 million ($7 million for a couple) indexed to inflation and a top rate of 45 percent. The Senate resolution would extend through 2011 those tax provisions that are slated to expire in 2009 or 2010, but that have been routinely extended in the past. These provisions (referred to as ''extenders'') include, among others, the research and experimentation tax credit, the deduction for state and local sales taxes, the deduction for teacher classroom expenses, and the exception for active financing income.

The Senate resolution calls for small business tax relief. It assumes the permanent extension of the section 179 expensing provision for small businesses. In addition, it includes a new proposal to eliminate capital gains taxes for small businesses, going beyond the current 75 percent exclusion. It also calls for expanding the net operating loss carryback rules.

The Senate resolution includes several reserve funds that provide for tax relief, including refundable tax relief and the extension of expired and expiring tax relief, as long as the costs of these provisions are offset. One reserve fund would provide for comprehensive tax reform that would ensure a sustainable revenue base in a tax system that promotes simplicity, fairness, and competitiveness. Additional reserve funds address specific tax issues, such as extending the deduction for state and local sales taxes and the incentives for promoting charitable donations from individual retirement account funds, enhancing the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care tax credit, among other things.

Finally, the Senate resolution assumes enactment of loophole closers and other revenue-raising provisions consistent with levels in the President's budget. The resolution assumes that the Finance Committee will work closely with the Administration to develop the proposals to achieve the revenue levels assumed in the resolution. To help close the tax gap and bolster Internal Revenue Service (IRS) enforcement, the resolution provides additional resources available through a discretionary cap adjustment that directs $890 million to IRS enforcement activities.

House-passed Resolution

The House budget resolution calls for reducing the revenues provided under CBO's baseline forecast by $613.2 billion over the 2009–2014 period and by $1,480.2 billion over the 2010–19 period. This reduction in revenues reflects the House budget resolution's extension of the elements of the 2001–2003 tax cuts benefitting middle class families (including, but not limited to the child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, the 10 percent bracket, education incentives, other benefits for families with children, reductions in other individual income tax brackets, and small business tax relief). The House resolution also extends the estate tax at 2009 levels—eliminating estate taxes on all but a minute fraction of estates by reforming and substantially increasing the unified tax credit. It also includes a one-year patch of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT). The House resolution also accommodates additional AMT relief in a deficit-neutral manner. The House resolution further accommodates deficit-neutral extension of other expiring tax provisions and other proposals that support working families, businesses, states, or communities. It also accommodates other high priority deficit-neutral revenue adjustments, such as tax incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy, the deduction for State and local taxes, and a tax credit for construction of public schools. Decisions about specific revenue offsets are made by the Ways and Means Committee, which has a significant range of offsets that it can consider. However, unless expressly indicated otherwise, the House resolution does not assume any of the specific revenue offset proposals provided for in the President's budget.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes $1.654 trillion in on-budget revenues for 2010, and $10.500 trillion over 2010–2014. (The corresponding revenue figures on a unified basis are $2.322 trillion for 2010 and $14.157 trillion over five years.) The conference agreement provides for three additional years of AMT relief, without offset, a two-year extension of expired and expiring tax provisions, and a new incentive for retirement savings. The agreement supports the permanent extension of tax relief first enacted in 2001 and 2003 to benefit middle-income individuals and families—including extension of the child tax credit, the 10–percent bracket, and marriage penalty relief—and provides for estate tax reform. In addition, the agreement assumes the extension of other 2001 and 2003 tax changes for middle-income taxpayers, including the 25 percent and 28 percent brackets and the preferential rates for investment income. Further, the agreement includes several deficit-neutral reserve funds that accommodate a range of additional tax reform and tax relief proposals, such as expanding eligibility for the refundable child credit, among the most effective tax relief vehicles for working families with children.

The revenue level in the conference agreement is $764 billion below the levels under current law over 2009–2014. Revenue legislation is subject to House and Senate pay-as-you-go rules. In the House, section 421 of the conference agreement allows the chairman of the Budget Committee to make current policy adjustments before evaluating the costs of tax legislation for compliance with House budget rules and procedures, assuming the condition stated in that section is met.

NATIONAL DEFENSE: FUNCTION 050

Function Summary

The National Defense function includes the military activities of the Department of Defense (DoD), the nuclear weapons-related activities of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Nuclear Security Administration, and the national security activities of several other agencies such as the Selective Service, Coast Guard, and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The programs in this function include: the pay and benefits of active, Guard, and reserve military personnel; DoD operations including training, maintenance of equipment, and facilities; health care for military personnel and dependents; procurement of weapons; research and development; construction of military facilities, including housing; research on nuclear weapons; and the cleanup of nuclear weapons production facilities.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution fully funds the President's core defense budget request over the five-year budget window. Total national defense discretionary funding in the Senate resolution is $556.1 billion. This includes $533.7 billion in 2010 for the Department of Defense, $20.3 billion more than the 2009 enacted level exclusive of war funding and defense spending in the economic recovery package.

The Senate resolution reflects the President's request for additional 2009 overseas contingency operations funding of $75.5 billion for the Defense Department. If enacted, this will bring total war funding for 2009 to $152.6 billion. Under President Bush, the total cost of the wars reached $864 billion. The Senate resolution also provides for the 2010 war request of $130 billion. Including requested war funds and mandatory spending, the Senate resolution provides $691.7 billion in BA for defense in 2010.

The Obama Administration has demonstrated its commitment to budgetary transparency when it comes to funding for overseas contingency operations. The Bush Administration failed to honor its commitment to include war costs in its budget request and obscured the fiscal situation by seeking war funding as an emergency even after five years of war in Iraq. The Obama Administration, on the other hand, has provided a good faith estimate of war costs for 2010 and an annual allowance of $50 billion for potential future costs of overseas contingency operations from 2011 onward. These amounts are reflected in the Senate resolution.

In keeping with how the past two budget resolutions have handled war costs, the Senate resolution includes a $130 billion cap adjustment provision for 2010 that allows the Chairman to revise the discretionary spending cap for non-emergency appropriations related to overseas contingency operations such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Senate resolution assumes the use of this cap adjustment and allocates the amounts to the National Defense function. However, the cap adjustment would not prevent further war funding on an emergency basis if war costs exceed the allotted level.

The Senate resolution includes a reserve fund to facilitate enactment of the President's proposal to expand ''concurrent receipt'' of military retired pay and veterans disability compensation to retirees who were medically retired from active service. While full programmatic details will be provided later, the administration has indicated that the budget funds the expansion of the Army and Marine Corps in order to enhance military readiness and reduce the strain of multiple, extended deployments on current servicemembers. Additionally, the President's request includes funding to modernize military barracks and dormitories, and to improve medical care and housing for wounded servicemembers. The Senate resolution supports these objectives.

The Senate resolution also recognizes the serious inequity in how the military death benefits system treats widows and orphans whom our servicemembers and veterans leave behind. The Senate resolution provides a deficit-neutral reserve fund to facilitate the repeal of the law that requires a dollar-for-dollar reduction in Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity benefit payments by benefits received under the Department of Veterans Affairs Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program. Repeal of the offset would allow the widows and orphans whom our servicemembers and veterans leave behind to receive the full SBP amount due to them. Congress recognized the injustice of the SBP–DIC offset in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 when it authorized a special payment to SBP–DIC-affected survivors, but this payment is far below the full amount that is offset.

The ability of the United States military to project power worldwide depends on the aerial refueling tanker fleet. The backbone of this fleet is the KC–135, which is rapidly approaching its 50th year in service. Further postponement of the tanker re-capitalization program will have an adverse effect on our ability to achieve the requirements of the National Military Strategy. Accordingly, the Senate resolution assumes that the Air Force will receive not less than $2.37 billion in 2010, and not less than $13 billion across the Future Years Defense Plan to fund the development and procurement of a next generation aerial refueling tanker.

The National Guard has a long history of outstanding service to our nation, and our nation's reliance on the Guard has only increased since September 11, 2001. The Senate resolution encourages the Appropriations Committee to identify additional resources within the defense budget to address needs for National Guard equipment.

The Senate resolution also assumes no less than $5.55 billion in funding for the Defense Environmental Cleanup account. The environmental management program is charged with efficiently cleaning up the environmental damage resulting from 50 years of nuclear weapons production. The Senate resolution provides for increased funding at several major sites addressed under this program including Hanford, Idaho Falls, Oak Ridge, and Savannah River. This increase brings total environmental management funding for nuclear site cleanup (including amounts in other budget functions) to $6.5 billion.

Defense funding remains at record levels, even after adjusting for inflation. The Department of Defense has had serious trouble with cost growth in its weapons acquisition programs. The Government Accountability Office has found that the total acquisition cost of the Pentagon's 2007 portfolio of major programs has exceeded initial estimates by nearly $300 billion.

The Obama Administration has announced that it will make reform of the acquisition process a top priority in order to get the best possible value for defense spending. The Senate resolution supports that reform effort by including a reserve fund for defense contracting reform. Additionally, the Senate resolution assumes not less than $500 million for the Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, which is already showing great promise as a mechanism for enhancing the capability of the Department of Defense to oversee acquisition programs and get better value for our defense dollar. While the Senate resolution does not project savings from acquisition reform or the contracting reform initiatives announced by the President, successful implementation of those initiatives could result in significant savings in future years that should be reserved for deficit reduction.

The Senate resolution also includes a program integrity cap adjustment dedicated to reducing waste in defense contracting. The cap adjustment allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to increase the discretionary spending cap by up to $100 million to accommodate legislation appropriating funding for the Department of Defense for additional activities to reduce waste, fraud, abuse and overpayments in defense contracting or to enhance the capability of the defense acquisition or contracting workforce to save taxpayer resources. When billions of dollars are wasted due to poor contracting practices, ordering of unneeded spare parts, or other waste, fraud and abuse, it is our troops that suffer.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution reflects a total of $562.0 billion in BA and $606.0 billion in outlays for 2010, and $2.9 trillion in BA and $3.0 trillion in outlays over five years.

There is no higher priority than the defense of our nation, and therefore this resolution makes the necessary investments and calls for the necessary reforms to ensure the country is able to meet the security challenges of the 21st century.

The House resolution includes specific defense policy assumptions in Title V, section 502. It recognizes that as the country faces its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, DoD needs to get the most out of every dollar it spends by making tough but necessary tradeoffs to ensure resources are applied to the most effective and operationally viable programs, and by assessing national security needs in a comprehensive manner that includes all agencies involved in our national security.

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (commonly referred to as the 9/11 Commission) identified terrorists with weapons of mass destruction as our number one threat. Consequently, it is the policy of the House resolution that non-proliferation programs, such as the Cooperative Threat Reduction program and the nonproliferation programs at the Department of Energy, be funded at a level that is commensurate with the evolving threat.

The House resolution recognizes that our most important security resource is our men and women who serve in uniform. To honor their service, it is the policy of the House resolution to not only ensure that they are properly equipped and trained to perform their mission, but that they also have the proper support in terms of health care, pay, and support for their families. The House resolution also includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund for an expansion of eligibility to permit additional disabled military retirees to receive both disability compensation and retired pay.

In recent years, cost overruns on major weapons programs have worsened. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the cost of major weapon systems on DoD's books as of 2007 increased nearly $300 billion above initial estimates. As a result, our military is not able to purchase equipment in adequate quantities to equip our servicemen and servicewomen. To put our defense plans on a sustainable path and to meet our military's equipment requirements, the House resolution affirms the Administration's calls to make acquisition reform a top priority.

According to GAO, government-wide spending on contractor services has more than doubled over the last ten years. DoD has expanded the use of contractors in its acquisition process to aid in program management functions and has relied heavily on contractors to carry out operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This trend has implications for DoD in terms of accountability, operational effectiveness, and cost. Consequently, it is the policy of the House resolution that DoD review the role that contractors play in its operations, including the degree to which contractors are performing inherently governmental functions, to ensure it has the most effective mix of government and contracted personnel.

GAO has performed numerous audits and has produced numerous recommendations regarding DoD's programs and processes that have produced billions of dollars of savings. According to a GAO report released in December 2008, DoD implemented 1,682 recommendations made by GAO from 2001 to 2007 that have resulted in financial benefits exceeding $89 billion. There are still 758 recommendations made over that period that DoD has not yet implemented that could yield billions of dollars in further savings. The House resolution continues to highlight the need for DoD to continue to make implementation of GAO recommendations a top priority and, to the extent possible, encourages DoD to use savings resulting from implemented GAO recommendations toward any upfront investments needed to implement the remaining 758 recommendations.

The House resolution encourages the committees with jurisdiction over defense to continue to conduct vigorous oversight with the objective of ferreting out wasteful practices, fraud, and abuse. It encourages the committees to require DoD to report to Congress on its progress in implementing GAO recommendations, the role contractors play in its operations, its assessment of the applicability of Cold War-era weapons to meet 21st century threats, and how well DoD's comprehensive Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) plan is moving the Department toward achieving a clean audit.

DoD spends billions of dollars on fuel and electricity for its planes, ships, vehicles and facilities each year and increasing world demand for energy could therefore have significant consequences for our military in the future. As a result, the House resolution calls on DoD to investigate the benefit of alternative energy sources and energy efficiency conversions. The Department should pursue those technologies that could reduce its energy needs, enhance expeditionary operations, achieve savings, and reduce dependence on unreliable energy sources.

The House resolution continues to recognize the need for the DoD to develop a shipbuilding plan that is viable in terms of providing an adequate number of ships for the Navy to perform its mission and that is viable in terms of sustaining the industrial base.

Our national security is not solely dependent on our military, and other agencies and programs are important to effectively address the threats of today and mitigate the possibility of future threats. Therefore, it is the policy of the House resolution that coordination is needed to ensure that all of our agencies involved in our national security work in a complementary way, and that when assessing security threats and the funding needed to counter them, the Administration should do so in a comprehensive manner that includes all agencies involved in our national security.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement for Function 050 includes a total of $562.0 billion in BA and $606.0 billion in outlays in 2010, and $2.9 trillion in BA and $3.0 trillion in outlays over five years. Consistent with both the House- and Senate-passed resolutions, the conference agreement affirms the importance of reforming the defense acquisition and contracting processes to achieve better value for the American taxpayer.

For mandatory programs, the conference agreement provides $5.9 billion in BA and $6.0 billion in outlays in 2010, and $28.3 billion in BA and $28.4 billion in outlays over five years.

The conference agreement reflects the cost of overseas deployments and other activities in Function 970, as in the House-passed resolution. Consistent with the Senate resolution, the conference agreement allows the discretionary spending caps to be adjusted to accommodate appropriations for such costs.

The conference agreement includes deficit-neutral reserve funds addressing defense-related matters. Both chambers have deficit neutral reserve funds to accommodate initiatives related to meeting our commitments to the nation's military personnel, veterans, and survivors. The Department of Defense and congressional committees of jurisdiction are encouraged to reverse the decision to eliminate credit toward DOD retirement pay for service in the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II.

The conference agreement also includes a Senate deficit-neutral reserve fund providing for legislation that would reform defense contracting and acquisition policy in order to achieve better value for taxpayer resources. The reserve fund would accommodate legislation that provided for additional activities to reduce waste, fraud, abuse, and overpayments in defense contracting or to enhance the capability of the defense acquisition or contracting workforce, among other purposes.

The conference agreement includes a statement of policy on defense issues (section 502) that outlines key priorities to be funded within the defense allocation and the need for the Department of Defense to reform its acquisition process and to do a better job of reining in wasteful spending, particularly with regard to contracting practices and continuing funding of Cold War-era weapons systems that may not be as effective against today's threats. It also highlights the need for DoD to place greater emphasis on implementing GAO recommendations, which could yield billions of dollars in savings.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS: FUNCTION 150

Function Summary

Function 150 covers funding for U.S. international activities, including: operating and securing U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the world; providing military assistance to allies; assisting refugees; aiding developing nations; dispensing economic assistance to fledgling democracies; promoting U.S. exports abroad; making U.S. payments to international organizations; and contributing to international peacekeeping efforts. The major agencies in this function include the Departments of State, Agriculture, and the Treasury; the U.S. Agency for International Development; and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Senate-passed Resolution

The President's request for international affairs activities, as re-estimated by CBO, is $53.8 billion. This represents an increase of $15.6 billion above the non-emergency 2009 level. However, the size of the year-over-year increase requested by the President's budget reflects a change in concept, as the President seeks to transfer international affairs funding in support of overseas contingency operations and programs with predictable and recurring funding requirements that have previously been funded in supplementals to the base budget. This more transparent budgeting is commendable.

Typically, the baseline used for year-over-year comparisons in the Congressional budget resolution excludes all supplementals and emergency funding. Therefore, the President's decision to reduce or eliminate emergency requests for international affairs in 2010 artificially inflates the year-over-year increase. A more realistic comparison, including enacted bridge funding in the 2009 level, shows a year-over-year increase of $11.5 billion for the President's request.

The Senate resolution calls for $53.8 billion for the international affairs function and assumes that the top priorities in allocating the increase for international affairs will be related to core national security concerns such as counter-proliferation and anti-terrorism, as well as enhancing the capacity of the State Department and USAID to assume responsibilities that have been taken on by the military.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $45.3 billion in BA and $43.5 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $271.8 billion in BA and $259.3 billion in outlays over five years. The total BA level for 2010 reflects discretionary BA of $48.5 billion and mandatory BA of −$3.1 billion. This function has negative mandatory BA and outlay levels. These levels reflect receipts of the foreign military sales trust fund, the repayment of loans and credits by foreign nations, and the liquidation of economic assistance loans, foreign military financing loans, Export-Import Bank loans, and housing and other credit guaranty programs.

The 2009 level of discretionary BA includes $4.5 billion in enacted supplemental appropriations. It does not include an additional $7.1 billion in supplemental appropriations for 2009 that the President has requested for international affairs, which is included under Function 970 (Overseas Deployments and Other Activities).

For 2010, the House resolution provides $10.2 billion (26.8 percent) more discretionary BA than the 2009 level, excluding supplemental funding, and $5.8 billion (13.6 percent) more funding than total enacted funding for 2009 so far. The House resolution provides $5.4 billion (9.9 percent) less than the President's 2010 budget, which includes his proposal to provide in the regular budget request funding that has in recent years been requested and appropriated as supplemental funding. Pursuant to the House resolution, funding designated as an emergency or for overseas deployments and other activities does not count against the House Appropriations Committee's allocation provided in this resolution.

The House shares the President's commitment to reduce global hunger and poverty. The House resolution provides funding in this function to help achieve the goal of cutting it in half by no later than 2015.

The House notes the strong support for H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, which the House approved on February 23, 2009. The House also approved this legislation during the 110th Congress (H.R. 1595). The bill authorizes compensation to the Guamanian victims of the Imperial Japanese military occupation during World War II.

Conference Agreement

International Affairs discretionary spending under the conference agreement totals $51.0 billion in BA and $47.5 billion in outlays for 2010. This represents an increase of $12.8 billion in BA above the non-emergency 2009 level and $8.7 billion above the 2009 level adjusted to include enacted supplemental funding (other than American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding).

Including negative mandatory spending, the conference agreement provides an overall total of $47.9 billion in BA and $44.7 billion in outlays for 2010, and $260 billion in BA and $253 billion in outlays over five years.

GENERAL SCIENCE, SPACE AND TECHNOLOGY: FUNCTION 250

Function Summary

The General Science, Space, and Technology function includes funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), except aviation programs, the National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as programs in the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution provides an increase above the President's requested level over the five-year window by providing $31.1 billion in BA and $32.5 billion in outlays for 2010, and $171.9 billion in BA and $170.3 billion in outlays over five years.

The Senate resolution funds the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at $18.7 billion for 2010. This level of funding recognizes the importance of our nation's space program and endorses the agency's balanced goals of exploration, science, and aeronautics. This level of funding also reflects the vital role our space program plays in driving scientific and technological advancements critical to our economy.

NASA currently intends to retire its Space Shuttles at the end of 2010. The criteria for Shuttle retirement, however, remains the completion of scheduled flights, and a fixed retirement date could create dangerous scheduling pressures. Consequently, the Senate resolution recognizes the possibility that currently planned Shuttle missions may continue beyond the end of 2010, and provides $2.5 billion above the President's request for 2011 with additional resources for NASA in the outyears.

Currently, NASA projects a five-year gap in U.S. human space flight capability. During that gap the United States will need to purchase space flight services from Russia, costing in excess of $500 million. The Senate resolution recognizes the strategic importance of uninterrupted access to space and supports efforts to reduce or eliminate this five-year gap in U.S. human space flight.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $31.1 billion in BA and $32.5 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $166.1 billion in BA and $165.8 billion in outlays over five years.

The House budget resolution total for this function equals the level requested by the President for FY 2010, and for all five years in the budget window. Funding for scientific research and education is also included in Function 270 (Energy), Function 300 (Environment and Natural Resources), Function 350 (Agriculture), Function 370 (Commerce

and Housing Credit), Function 400 (Transportation), Function 500 (Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services), and Function 550 (Health). This funding will support the science and technology goals of the House Leadership's Innovation Agenda and the America COMPETES Act: to put NSF funding on a path toward doubling, to train more qualified science and math teachers, and to invest in basic research on energy technologies.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes $31.1 billion in BA and $32.5 billion in outlays in 2010, and $168.7 billion in BA and $168.5 billion in outlays over five years.

The conference agreement provides additional resources throughout the five year budget window, as requested by the President, for COMPETES Act and other Innovation programs in Function 250 as well as in other functions.

The conference agreement recognizes the scientific and technological contributions of our nation's manned and unmanned space program and the strategic importance of uninterrupted human access to space, and supports efforts to reduce the impending gap in US human spaceflight. The conference agreement matches the President's request for NASA in 2010 (while acknowledging that an additional $400 million was appropriated for NASA exploration in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) and provides $2.5 billion above the President's request in 2011. The additional funding is provided in 2011 in anticipation that the funding is needed for the remaining eight space shuttle missions to safely fly and to complete the construction and equipping of the international space station.

ENERGY: FUNCTION 270

Function Summary

Function 270 covers energy-related programs including research and development, environmental clean-up, and rural utility loans. Most of these programs are within the Department of Energy (DOE). This function covers a portion of the appropriated funding for DOE but does not include DOE's national security activities, which are in Function 050 (National Defense), or its basic research and science activities, which are in Function 250 (General Science, Space and Technology). This function also includes the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $4.5 billion in BA and $6.2 billion in outlays for 2010, and $22.5 billion in BA and $31.6 billion in outlays over five years.

Our nation's economic and national security are directly linked to our energy policy. We must confront the challenges of global climate change and our nation's addiction to foreign oil. By doing so, we can also create the green jobs that will drive our nation's economic recovery. To meet these challenges, President Obama and the Congress have responded with a historic investment of resources in a strategy to reduce our dependence on imported energy.

The economic recovery package included $38.7 billion to fund important energy priorities such as modernizing the electric grid, renewable energy and transmission loan guarantees, local government energy efficiency and conservation grants, weatherization assistance, carbon capture and sequestration technology, energy efficiency and renewable energy research and development, and advanced battery development. When the emergency funding provided in the stimulus and other bills is included, overall funding for the Department of Energy climbed from approximately $24 billion in 2008 to $73 billion in 2009. This $73 billion 2009 funding level represents the largest budget in the history of the Department of Energy.

The Senate resolution builds on the investments in the economic recovery package by fully funding the President's request for 2010 energy discretionary funding. The energy funding level in the Senate resolution will provide increases for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program. These increases will accommodate investments in important priorities such as wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and biorefinery R&D, hydrogen, vehicle/building technologies and the weatherization assistance program. The Senate resolution supports increased funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. The resolution also includes increases to invest in the development of low carbon coal technologies such as carbon capture and sequestration. The resolution supports continued funding increases for the Department of Energy's loan guarantee program.

The Senate resolution would increase funding for electricity delivery and energy reliability. The funding increase could be used to modernize the electric grid, enhance security and reliability of energy infrastructure, and facilitate recovery from disruptions to energy supply.

The Senate resolution supports the reclassification of receipts for the annual operating expenses of Southeastern, Southwestern, and Western Area Power Administrations (PMAs). By reclassifying the receipts from mandatory to discretionary, power rates will become more closely linked to the annual appropriations they fund. This direct link will promote long-term planning and improve the overall efficiency and reliability of the Federal power program.

The Senate resolution includes an energy reserve fund to accommodate legislation that advances important priorities such as reducing our Nation's dependence on imported energy, producing green jobs, promoting renewable energy development, improving electricity transmission, creating a clean energy investment fund, and encouraging conservation and efficiency. The legislation could also include energy tax proposals. This reserve fund could be used for legislation such as a proposal to extend the permissible term of power purchase agreements used by federal agencies to acquire renewable energy. It could also be used for a proposal to expand the economic recovery package's investments in transmission infrastructure and smart grid technology. Additionally, the reserve fund could accommodate a proposal to create a Clean Energy Investment Fund. That type of proposal could aid in the transition to a low-carbon economy by using financing tools such as direct loans and loan guarantees to invest in clean energy technologies.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $5.5 billion in BA and $7.3 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $29.1 billion in BA and $54.6 billion in outlays over five years. The total BA level for 2010 reflects discretionary BA of $6.7 billion and mandatory BA of −$1.2 billion.

The 2009 level of discretionary BA includes $39.4 billion in emergency appropriations from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and other legislation. The House resolution for 2010 builds on this funding for renewable energy, energy efficiency, emerging energy and vehicle technologies, and other important investments to increase the United States' energy independence and create new jobs. The House resolution provides $1.0 billion (18.4 percent) more in appropriated funding for 2010 than the 2009 level of regular appropriations. The House resolution recognizes the importance of continuing adequate funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps lower-income families to reduce their energy bills and increase the comfort and safety of their homes.

The House urges the Appropriations Committee to include language in its appropriations bill to implement a ''net zero'' policy for the annual expenses of the Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs). The President's budget also supports this proposal. Reclassifying these receipts would more closely link the PMAs' annual appropriations with payments from their customers.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement provides a total of $5.0 billion in BA and $6.3 billion in outlays for 2010, and $25.6 billion in BA and $50.0 billion in outlays over five years. The conference agreement provides $6.2 billion in 2010 for discretionary programs in this function. This is $500 million more than the President's proposed discretionary funding level for 2010. (The total BA and outlay levels are lower than the discretionary BA and outlay levels because this function has negative mandatory BA and outlay levels, reflecting the fact that the U.S. government collects more money than it spends marketing federally produced power and collects fees from commercial nuclear reactors.)

The conference agreement includes a significant commitment of resources to invest in emerging energy technologies, promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, and reduce our nation's dependence on imported energy. The conference agreement includes deficit-neutral reserve funds to accommodate energy legislation. Like the Senate-passed and House-passed resolutions, the conference agreement supports reclassifying the receipts of the Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) to more closely link the PMAs' annual appropriations with payments from their customers.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT: FUNCTION 300

Function Summary

The Natural Resources and Environment function consists of funding for water resources, conservation, land management, pollution control and abatement, and recreational resources. Major departments and agencies in this function are the Department of the Interior (including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Minerals Management Service), conservation-oriented and land management agencies within the Department of Agriculture (including the Forest Service), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at the Department of Commerce, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $37.7 billion in BA and $40.7 billion in outlays for 2010, and $190.8 billion in BA and $197.7 billion in outlays over five years.

The Senate resolution recognizes that we have an obligation to current and future generations to take meaningful action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The resolution includes a reserve fund to accommodate legislation that would invest in clean energy technology initiatives, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, or help families, workers, communities, and businesses make the transition to a clean energy economy. The resolution includes no specific assumptions regarding the policy details of such a proposal.

The details of the proposal will be left to the committees of jurisdiction and the legislative process.

If climate change legislation brings new revenues into the Treasury, the Senate resolution would support the President's proposal to invest $15 billion per year in a variety of clean energy technology initiatives. These initiatives would accelerate the widespread deployment of energy efficient technologies, increase our reliance on clean and renewable energy sources, and move America forward on the path to energy security.

The Senate resolution fully funds the President's request for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The resolution includes $3.9 billion for EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. The overall EPA funding level could accommodate significant increases for Superfund, the brownfields program and a variety of other EPA programs. The resolution would accommodate increases for water infrastructure priorities at the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Senate resolution recognizes the importance of the Bureau of Reclamation rural water program to support ongoing Municipal, Rural, and Industrial (MR&I) systems for the Great Plains Region. The Bureau of Reclamation supplies drinking water to 2.6 million people in the Great Plains region and is encouraged to prioritize the completion of the Pick Sloan-Missouri Basin Program—Garrison Diversion Unit, Mni Wiconi, Lewis and Clark, Perkins County, Fort Peck Reservation/Dry Prairie, and Rocky Boys/North Central rural water system projects. The Senate resolution supports funding these vital rural water development projects at a level that is as close to $292 million as possible.

The Senate resolution includes increases for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Interior which are sufficient to fully fund ongoing Everglades Restoration activities, including construction of authorized projects contained in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the Everglades National Park Expansion Act.

The funding levels in the Senate resolution allow for increases for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In addition, the resolution includes a reserve fund which would accommodate legislation to preserve or protect oceans or coastal areas.

The Senate resolution assumes increases for the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service. The resolution also includes the President's proposal to increase funding for land acquisition programs. The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund which could be used for legislation that preserves or protects public lands. This could include, but is not limited to, legislation that protects national parks, national monuments, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national recreation areas.

The Senate resolution fully funds wildfire suppression activities at the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. The resolution commends the President for taking steps to budget for growing annual fire suppression costs. It provides the 10-year average for fire suppression costs and assumes that an additional $357 million will be provided if appropriated funds are exhausted and the severity of the fire season requires additional funding. The Senate resolution also included increases in funding for hazardous fuel reduction.

The Senate resolution recognizes the need to address significant and long-standing problems affecting the major large scale aquatic, estuarine, and coastal ecosystems nationwide. The Senate resolution includes funding for a new interagency initiative to address such regional ecosystems. It assumes the President's request of $475 million to work with Great Lakes states, tribes, and local communities and organizations to address issues prioritized in the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative. This initiative could address issues such as invasive species, nonpoint source pollution, habitat restoration and contaminated sediment. The resolution also supports the President's proposal to use outcome-oriented performance goals and measures to target the most significant problems and track progress in addressing these ecosystems.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $37.4 billion in BA and $40.5 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $194.6 billion in BA and $200.5 billion in outlays over five years.

The House budget resolution matches the President's total discretionary funding request for this function, and provides increased resources for programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, and other EPA programs. The House recognizes the need for maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and other U.S. territories, and encourages relevant federal agencies to work with territory governments on this issue. The House resolution also allows for additional funding for other programs at NOAA, the Department of the Interior, and the Forest Service.

For mandatory spending, the House resolution assumes levels provided by current law.

The House resolution includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund that accommodates legislation to increase investments in renewable energy and energy independence, encourage new technological development, take steps to provide for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and help families, businesses, the environment and industries adapt to the new energy economy.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes a total of $37.6 billion in BA and $40.6 billion in outlays for 2010, and $192.1 billion in BA and $198.5 billion in outlays over five years. The conference agreement provides $35.3 billion in 2010 for discretionary programs in this function. This is $200 million more than the President's proposed discretionary funding level for 2010.

The conference agreement includes significant increases for natural resources and environment programs, including a variety of programs at the Environmental Protection Agency. The agreement provides additional resources for agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation to invest in national water infrastructure priorities. It also increases funding for a number of other programs throughout the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The funding levels in the conference agreement include the President's proposal to provide additional funding for wildland fire suppression activities at the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior. The conference agreement could also accommodate increases in funding for hazardous fuel reduction activities. The conference agreement includes deficit-neutral reserve funds which could be used for legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

AGRICULTURE: FUNCTION 350

Function Summary

The Agriculture function includes farm income stabilization, agricultural research, and other services administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The discretionary programs include research and education programs, economics and statistics services, administration of the farm support programs, farm loan programs, meat and poultry inspection, and a portion of the Public Law 480 international food aid program. The mandatory programs include commodity programs, crop insurance, and certain farm loans.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution reflects a total of $23.6 billion in BA and $23.9 billion in outlays for 2010, and $114.9 billion in BA and $109.0 billion in outlays over five years. During Committee consideration, an amendment was adopted assuming $70 million in savings per year in crop insurance over the next five years. The amendment dedicated $175 million for child nutrition and $175 million for deficit reduction. Besides these changes, the Senate resolution leaves all other nutrition, conservation, renewable energy, and farm safety net improvements included in the 2008 Farm Bill unchanged.

Given our current fiscal situation, the Senate resolution recognizes that all areas of the federal budget need to be examined for savings. Even though the 2008 Farm Bill received over 80 votes in the Senate and was fully paid for, the Senate resolution would support targeted savings in agriculture, including some savings in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the federal crop insurance program.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $23.7 billion in BA and $24.0 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $115.7 billion in BA and $109.7 billion in outlays over five years. The House resolution provides resources for commodity support, agricultural research, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including activities to support eradication of the Asian Longhorn Beetle.

For mandatory spending, the House resolution assumes levels provided by current law. For discretionary programs, the House resolution matches the levels in the President's budget.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement calls for a total of $23.7 billion in BA and $24.0 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $115.6 billion in BA and $109.6 billion in outlays over five years. For discretionary spending, the conference agreement assumes $6.1 billion in BA and $6.2 billion in outlays for 2010. For mandatory spending, the agreement matches CBO's baseline estimate for March 2009 (assuming levels provided by current law), leaving all of the nutrition, conservation, renewable energy, and farm safety net improvements made in the 2008 Farm Bill unchanged.

COMMERCE AND HOUSING CREDIT: FUNCTION 370

Function Summary

The Commerce and Housing Credit function includes mortgage credit, the Postal Service, deposit insurance, and other advancement of commerce (the majority of the discretionary and mandatory spending in this function). The mortgage credit component of this function includes housing assistance through the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), and rural housing programs of the Department of Agriculture. The function also includes net Postal Service spending and spending for deposit insurance activities of banks, thrifts, and credit unions. Most of the Commerce Department is

provided for in this function, including the International Trade Administration, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Patent and Trademark Office, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Bureau of the Census. Finally, the function also includes funding for independent agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the majority of the Small Business Administration.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $64.4 billion in unified BA and $89.1 billion in unified outlays for 2010, and $129.6 billion in unified BA and $139.8 billion in unified outlays over five years. (The corresponding on-budget figures are $61.1 billion in BA and $85.8 billion in outlays for 2010, and $124.3 billion in BA over five years and $134.6 billion in outlays over five years.) The Senate resolution includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund that would allow for additional investments in housing assistance, including low-income rental assistance and assistance provided through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The Senate resolution provides $880 million for the Small Business Administration and adopts the Administration's budget level for the Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP), which is authorized in the America COMPETES Act.

House-passed Resolution

For the unified budget, the House resolution calls for a total of $64.2 billion in BA and $88.9 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $130.4 billion in BA and $140.6 billion in outlays over five years. (The budget resolution provides only the on-budget amounts, which are $60.9 billion in BA and $85.6 billion in outlays for 2010, and $125.1 billion in BA and $135.3 billion in outlays over five years.)

The discretionary function total for 2010 includes significantly increased funding to ensure that the Bureau of the Census has the necessary resources to hire workers and to complete the 2010 Census. The 2010 total also fully accounts for funding to support Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and other mortgage credit programs in order to respond to the current housing crisis.

The House notes that the goal of the Treasury's Troubled Assets Relief Program is to help stabilize credit and housing markets, not to use eventual returns to support additional, non-related spending. Proceeds from the sale of troubled assets, repayments of loans, or other resulting revenues to the Treasury from Federal assistance provided under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Public Law 110–343, should be available to reduce the Federal deficit and the public debt.

Conference Agreement

For the unified budget, the conference agreement calls for a total of $64.4 billion in BA and $89.0 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $130.6 billion in BA and $140.8 billion in outlays over five years. (The conference agreement provides only the on-budget amounts, which are $61.1 billion in BA and $85.8 billion in outlays for 2010, and $125.3 billion in BA and $135.5 billion in outlays over five years.) The discretionary function total includes significantly increased funding for the Bureau of the Census, reflecting execution of the 2010 census, and continues to support the Small Business Administration and the Manufacturing Extension Program. The 2010 total also fully accounts for funding to support Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and other mortgage credit programs in order to respond to the current housing crisis.

The conference agreement supports efforts to provide additional investment in and oversight of housing assistance. Both the Senate and the House include reserve funds that allow for investments in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The Senate economic stabilization reserve fund also allows for additional investments in low-income rental assistance. The conference agreement also supports efforts to increase the capacity of HUD's Inspector General to investigate cases of FHA loan fraud. The HUD Inspector General's office has not expanded even as the number of FHA-approved lenders has doubled over the past two years.

The conference agreement notes that the goal of the Treasury's Troubled Assets Relief Program is to help stabilize credit and housing markets, not to use eventual returns to support additional, non-related spending. Proceeds from the sale of troubled assets, repayments of loans, or other resulting revenues to the Treasury from Federal assistance provided under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Public Law 110–343, should be available to reduce the Federal deficit and the public debt.

TRANSPORTATION: FUNCTION 400

Function Summary

The Transportation function consists mostly of the programs administered by the Department of Transportation, including programs for highways, mass transit, aviation, and maritime activities. This function also includes two components of the Department of Homeland Security: the Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration. In addition, this function includes several small transportation-related agencies and the research program for civilian aviation at NASA.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $75.2 billion in BA and $95.7 billion in outlays for 2010, and $377.8 billion in BA and $477.0 billion in outlays over five years. The Senate resolution includes an infrastructure reserve fund that would be available for surface transportation programs and multimodal transportation projects. The reserve fund anticipates that future surface transportation investments will be paid for and the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund will be maintained for the length of the surface transportation authorization. The Senate resolution understands that the surface transportation reauthorization will augment current investments, and provides funding levels for highways, transit, and safety programs which will be adjusted when a reauthorization bill is reported. The Senate resolution does not adopt the administration's proposed change to scoring of contract authority. The Senate resolution continues the unprecedented commitment to high speed rail made in the economic recovery package by providing $1 billion for high speed rail in 2010.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $88.2 billion in BA and $95.7 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $449.9 billion in BA and $481.0 billion in outlays over five years.

The House budget resolution recognizes that transportation programs are charged with helping to pull the economy out of the recession. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made significant investments in highway construction, mass transit, passenger rail, and aviation. In addition, as the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU) expires, the House will craft a new highway and transit bill for the 2010–2015 period.

The House's task of reauthorizing highway construction programs is made more difficult by a large set of current law rescissions to contract authority, a form of mandatory budget authority. Beginning in 2010, the House resolution restores the mandatory baseline for the federal-aid highway program so that its funding authority is in line with current projections of obligation limitations. The House resolution retains current scorekeeping practices for contract authority programs.

In order to address the highway and transit programs during reauthorization, the House resolution includes a surface transportation reserve fund that provides further increases to highway and transit contract authority if the future legislation maintains a solvent Highway Trust Fund.

Finally, as a part of the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, the House resolution accommodates increases to the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

Conference Agreement

The Conference agreement calls for a total of $88.2 billion in BA and $95.7 billion in outlays for 2010, and $449.9 billion in BA and $481.0 billion in outlays over five years. The conference agreement recognizes that this year's economic recovery package made significant investments in highway construction, mass transit, passenger rail, and aviation that will create badly needed jobs to help sustain the recovery. The conference agreement recognizes that continued investment in infrastructure programs is important and includes House and Senate infrastructure reserve funds to accommodate legislation to reauthorize surface transportation programs and ensure the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund for the length of the surface transportation authorization.

The task of reauthorizing highway construction programs is made more difficult by a large set of current law rescissions to contract authority, a form of mandatory budget authority. Beginning in 2010, the conference agreement restores the mandatory baseline for the federal-aid highway program so that its funding authority is in line with current projections of obligation limitations. In the Senate, it will not be in order for legislation that extends or reauthorizes surface transportation bills to appropriate budget authority for those programs outside of the Highway Trust Fund. The conference agreement also does not adopt the administration's proposed change to scoring of contract authority and does not assume increases to fuel taxes.

The Senate infrastructure reserve fund would also accommodate legislation that makes additional investments in multimodal transportation projects, passenger and freight rail and could also accommodate legislation regarding the Denali Commission, an independent federal agency focusing on rural Alaskan communities.

The conference agreement continues the unprecedented commitment to high speed rail made in the economic recovery package by providing $1 billion for high speed rail in 2010. Finally, as a part of the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, the conference agreement accommodates increases to the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: FUNCTION 450

Function Summary

The Community and Regional Development function includes federal programs to improve community economic conditions, promote rural development, and assist in federal preparations for and response to disasters. This function provides appropriated funding for the Community Development Block Grant, Department of Agriculture

rural development programs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (including homeland security grants), and other disaster mitigation and community development-related programs. It also provides mandatory funding for the federal flood insurance program.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $16.3 billion in BA and $28.9 billion in outlays for 2010, and $80.8 billion in BA and $114.3 billion in outlays over five years.

The Senate resolution recognizes the importance of providing investments in our communities and protecting the homeland. The Senate resolution includes increased funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the largest source of federal grant assistance in support of state and local government housing and community development efforts, and for grants to local governments to revitalize closed manufacturing plants. The Senate resolution also supports funding for Department of Homeland Security grant programs and BIA programs.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $18.3 billion in BA and $29.3 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $103.3 billion in BA and $129.5 billion in outlays over five years.

The House budget resolution provides increased funding to accommodate urgent community development and homeland security needs, which could include full funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), similar to the President's budget. Function 450 also accommodates funding for a new National Infrastructure Bank, capitalized with federal funds, to direct public and private dollars towards infrastructure investments of national or regional significance. However, because a National Infrastructure Bank is not yet authorized, the House resolution includes initial funding in 2010 and larger amounts over the 2011–2014 period.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes a total of $18.3 billion in BA and $29.3 billion in outlays for 2010, and $88.3 billion in BA and $122.7 billion in outlays over five years.

The conference agreement provides increased funding levels that will provide needed investments in our communities and homeland security. The agreement provides increased funding, which could include full funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and for grants to local governments to revitalize closed manufacturing plants. The conference agreement also includes $2.0 billion in 2010 and $5.0 billion in 2011 for a National Infrastructure Bank, if authorized, with an understanding that at least one quarter of the funding would be targeted to rural areas. The conference agreement also supports funding for Department of Homeland Security grant programs and BIA programs.

EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT, AND SOCIAL SERVICES: FUNCTION 500

Function Summary

The Education, Training, Employment and Social Services function includes funding for the Department of Education, as well as programs in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Department of Labor. This function provides funding for elementary and secondary, career and technical, and post-secondary educational programs; job training and employment services; children and family services; and statistical analysis and research related to these areas. It also contains funding for the Library of Congress and independent research and arts agencies.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $94.4 billion in BA and $140.6 billion in outlays for 2010, and $561.1 billion in BA and $640.4 billion in outlays over five years.

Building on the investments in education and training provided in the economic recovery package, the Senate resolution fully funds the President's request for education and training programs over the five-year budget window. Investments in education and training programs have sound economic benefits and the Senate-passed resolution provides Americans a complete and competitive education from cradle to career.

There is increasing evidence that investing in high quality early childhood education programs, such as Head Start, is a solid investment, yielding $10 in reduced social costs for every dollar invested. Despite these benefits, many preschool students do not have access to quality early education programs. The Senate-passed resolution provides expanded resources to invest in the long-term returns of early education.

Moreover, decreased federal funding for education has implications at the state and local level. When the federal government reduces its share of funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, state and local governments have to cut programs to cover the decreasing share of special education.

The Senate resolution calls for a significant investment to build our human capital through programs targeting low-income students, such as Title I, and for innovative and effective strategies to reduce achievement gaps and improve student learning in grade schools, middle schools, and high schools. The competitive educational advantage we used to enjoy, relative to other nations, has eroded significantly in recent years.

The Senate resolution proposes to reduce barriers to higher education by including provisions that could accommodate the President's student aid proposals, such as expanding Pell grants. The President has challenged our students to commit to at least one year of post-secondary study. However, many low- and moderate-income high school graduates who are fully prepared to go to college do not because of financial barriers. Employers indicate that we are not producing enough trained workers with the skills for the modern workplace, particularly in high-growth sectors such as health care and green energy technologies. Increasingly, these sectors require some form of post-secondary education or job re-training.

The Senate resolution recognizes that effective education and training programs are necessary to restart U.S. economic growth and allow our citizens to compete in the global economy. It makes this effort a high priority. The Senate resolution also provides the President's requested level for the Corporation for National and Community Service to encourage Americans to serve their community and country.

The Senate resolution provides a deficit-neutral reserve fund for higher education to facilitate enactment of legislation to make college more accessible and affordable.

The Senate resolution adopted three amendments to the Higher Education reserve fund which would maintain a competitive student loan program; facilitate expanded funding for programs that provide need-based grants and community work-study programs; and facilitate expanded funding for programs that provide outreach to low-income students to prepare for college. The Senate also adopted an amendment to the Economic Stabilization and Growth reserve fund to provide specialized training for workers in emerging industries. In addition the Senate adopted an amendment to provide a reserve fund for after-school programs.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $93.7 billion in BA and $140.3 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $560.4 billion in BA and $639.6 billion in outlays over five years.

The 2010 House resolution supports the President's investments in education from early childhood through post-secondary education and training and shares the President's goal of improving American education and creating a workforce that is prepared to compete and succeed in the global economy. The House resolution supports the President's plan to make a new investment in early childhood education, improve student achievement in elementary and secondary education through both proven strategies and innovative approaches, and increase the number of high school graduates that attend and complete higher education by making college more affordable and accessible. The House resolution also accommodates the President's support for strong job training services that will prepare Americans for stable and high-paying jobs.

The 111th Congress has already made significant new investments in education in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided about $100 billion that states will use primarily to maintain elementary, secondary, and higher education services. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act targeted significant funds to Title I (Education for the Disadvantaged), Head Start, and special education, where the funding can be used to train more teachers to provide needed services in the future. The House budget resolution builds upon that start by providing the level of funding in the President's request for education, job training, and social services for 2010.

The House resolution's funding could support services that will help students meet high standards and will provide effective teachers and principals, including investments in key programs such as Head Start and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It also could support the No Child Left Behind Act programs that work to close the achievement gap and ensure that all children learn, including Impact Aid and after-school services. The funding could be used as a down payment on a comprehensive literacy initiative for the nation that encompasses early childhood, elementary, and secondary education.

This year Congress increased the maximum Pell Grant award by $619—the largest annual increase for a program that helps more than seven million students pay for college. The House resolution provides discretionary funding to support the President's Pell grant increase for 2010. Going forward, the House resolution could accommodate the President's proposals to provide additional assistance to help more low-income high school graduates attend and complete college, provided they are enacted in a fiscally responsible way. Further assistance could include expanding access to Historically Black Colleges and Universities as well as Hispanic-serving institutions and other minority-serving institutions, which continue to make important contributions towards increasing the percentage of minority students gaining a college degree.

The House urges the Committee on Education and Labor to review options for the student loan program that will maintain a role for FFELP lenders in the student loan program, and to look to ways to achieve savings that capitalize on current infrastructure and minimize the disruption to students

and the employees of FFELP lenders who currently serve 75 percent of loans at American colleges, universities, and community colleges.

The House resolution continues to support two-year advance funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and recognizes that public television and radio stations are experiencing financial distress as a result of the recession.

The House resolution contains a reserve fund to accommodate legislation that makes college more affordable, consistent with the House pay-as-you-go rule. It also contains fiscally responsible reconciliation instructions directing the Committee on Education and Labor to report a bill that invests in education while reducing the deficit by $1 billion over the 2009–2014 period.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement calls for a total of $94.4 billion in BA and $140.6 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $561.1 billion in BA and $640.4 billion in outlays over five years.

The conference agreement recognizes the importance of investing in education and training programs to build a highly skilled workforce that can compete in the global marketplace and provides the President's requested level for education, training and social service programs in every year over the five-year budget window. The increased funding will assist Americans from cradle to career with job training programs, access to higher education through Pell grants and state programs targeted to low-income students, elementary and secondary education programs such as Title I and IDEA, and expanded resources for Head Start and other early education programs.

The conference agreement contains deficit-neutral reserve funds for higher education legislation in both the House and Senate. It also includes a Senate reserve fund for 21st Century Learning Centers.

The conference agreement includes a Sense of Congress provision on college affordability and student loan reform that reaffirms the importance of the student aid services provided by both non-profit and for-profit entities in the student loan program, as well as the employment they provide across the country.

HEALTH: FUNCTION 550

Function Summary

The Health function includes most direct health care service programs as well as funding for anti-bioterrorism activities, national biomedical research, protecting the health of the general population and workers in their places of employment, providing health services for under-served populations, and promoting training for the health care workforce. The major programs in this function include Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), health benefits for federal workers and retirees, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Indian Health Service (IHS), and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $385.4 billion in BA and $389.2 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $1.9 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.

The Senate resolution includes increased funding above the 2010 baseline level consistent with the President's health priorities for NIH, HRSA, CDC, IHS, and FDA. Significant increases for Community Health Centers, health professions, and the National Health Service Corps within HRSA are also included. Increases above the President's request are also included for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, the organ transplantation program, and several other programs.

In addition, the Senate resolution contains several health care related deficit-neutral reserve funds, including reserve funds for health care reform legislation and for improvements at the FDA.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $383.9 billion in BA and $388.7 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $1.9 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.

The discretionary resources for Function 550 for 2010 match the President's 2010 request and increase funding over the 2010 baseline level, enabling support of the President's priorities for cancer research, food safety, and other important programs. The House resolution provides critical resources for public health, which includes programs focused on addressing health promotion and disease prevention. Preventative health care measures and disease management have the potential to lead to more efficient use of health care spending, and reduced illness, as well as an improvement in the health of the public.

Programs in Function 550 are also addressed in the House resolution's deficit-neutral reserve funds for health care reform and the 9/11 health program.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes a total of $384.3 billion in BA and $388.9 billion in outlays for 2010, and $1.9 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.

Discretionary funding levels for Function 550 include increased funding above the 2010 baseline level consistent with the President's health priorities for NIH, HRSA, CDC, IHS, and FDA. In addition, the conference agreement assumes significant increases for Community Health Centers, health professions, and the National Health Service Corps within HRSA as well as food safety efforts at FDA. Increases are also included for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and the organ transplantation program as well as additional funding for IHS to help meet the needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The conference agreement provides critical resources for public health, which includes programs focused on addressing health promotion and disease prevention. Preventative health care measures and disease management have the potential to lead to more efficient use of health care spending, and reduced illness, as well as an improvement in the health of the public.

In addition, programs in Function 550 are also addressed in several health care related deficit-neutral reserve funds, including a reserve fund for health care reform legislation.

MEDICARE: FUNCTION 570

Function Summary

The Medicare function includes funding to administer and to provide benefits under the Medicare program. Medicare is a federal health insurance program that currently covers 45 million Americans aged 65 and older, as well as younger adults who are disabled or suffer from end-stage renal disease.

Congress provides an annual appropriation for the costs of administering Medicare, including resources to conduct program integrity activities to guard against improper payments, fraud, and abuse. The remainder of spending in this function is mandatory and reflects payments to health care providers and private insurance plans, as well as beneficiary premiums and other receipts and payments to the Medicare trust funds, under the Part A Hospital Insurance (HI) program, the Part B Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI) program, the Part C Medicare Advantage program, and the Part D Prescription Drug program.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $442.8 billion in BA and $443.0 billion in outlays for 2010, and $2.6 trillion in BA and $2.6 trillion in outlays over five years. The mandatory spending levels in the Senate resolution are at the CBO baseline level in all years covered by the resolution. In addition, the Senate resolution includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund in Sec. 201(b) for legislation that increases the reimbursement rate for Medicare physician services (and overrides a large payment rate cut that would otherwise go into effect on January 1, 2010) and addresses other Medicare benefit and payment issues. In addition, the Senate resolution also contemplates Medicare physician payment reform as a component of comprehensive health reform and subject to the flexibility of the reserve fund in Sec. 201(a).

The discretionary spending levels in the Senate resolution assume $25 million over the period 2010 to 2012 to begin addressing the administrative costs associated with legislation that would reduce the potential for identity theft by requiring the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards.

For 2010, the discretionary funding levels in this function include a discretionary cap adjustment of up to $311 million for program integrity activities of the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC program) to address improper payments, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare program.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $449.7 billion in BA and $449.8 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $2.6 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.

The House budget resolution function level for Medicare assumes that the payment rates in effect for physicians for 2009 will stay in effect through 2019. This assumption is consistent with the President's budget and is based on Congressional actions in recent years to prevent cuts in physician payments that would otherwise be required by the Sustainable Growth Rate formula. However, like the President's budget, the House budget resolution does not intend this assumption as a reflection of future policy. Instead, the assumption represents a realistic and meaningful benchmark against which to measure the fiscal effects of legislation reforming the Medicare physician payment system. The House resolution includes a reserve fund (Sec. 314) to accommodate legislation for improvements in Medicare's system for paying physicians.

The House resolution provides a discretionary cap adjustment of $311 million for additional activities aimed at detecting and preventing Medicare fraud and other improper payments. The Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control program is a joint effort of the Department of Health and Human Services, the HHS Office of the Inspector General, and the Department of Justice.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement reflects a total of $449.7 billion in BA and $449.8 billion in outlays in 2010, and $2.6 trillion in BA and $2.6 trillion in outlays over five years.

For 2010, the discretionary spending levels in this function are $5 million above the President's request. Over five years, the discretionary funding in this function assumes

$25 million to begin addressing the administrative costs associated with legislation that would reduce the potential for identity theft by requiring the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to remove Social Security numbers from Medicare cards.

The mandatory spending levels in this function assume $38 billion above the CBO baseline level, which reflects Medicare payment rates in effect for physicians for 2009 staying in effect through 2010, 2011, and at least part of 2012. However, the conference agreement does not intend this assumption as a reflection of future policy. In the Senate, legislation that would freeze physician payments at current levels, provide a positive update for physician payments, or reform the Medicare physician payment system, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, must be compliant with Sec. 301(a) or Sec. 301(b) in this conference agreement. In the House, Sec. 421 of the conference agreement allows the chairman of the Budget Committee to treat the additional $38 billion as a current policy adjustment before evaluating the costs of legislation affecting Medicare physician payments for compliance with House budget rules and procedures, assuming the condition stated in that section is met.

The conference agreement includes a Senate reserve fund (Sec. 301) and a House reserve fund (Sec. 321) to accommodate comprehensive health reform legislation and related provisions, including legislation for improvements in Medicare's system for paying physicians.

INCOME SECURITY: FUNCTION 600

Function Summary

The Income Security function contains a range of income security programs including: (1) major cash and in-kind means-tested entitlements; (2) general retirement, disability, and pension programs excluding Social Security and veterans' compensation programs; (3) federal and military retirement programs; (4) unemployment compensation; (5) low-income housing programs; and (6) other low-income support programs. Major federal entitlement programs in this function include unemployment insurance, food stamps, child nutrition, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), foster care, child support enforcement, child care, Supplemental Security Income, and spending for the refundable portion of the Earned Income Credit.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $536.6 billion in BA and $539.9 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $2.4 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.

The resolution provides increased funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. These funds for LIHEAP will help to continue providing heating and cooling assistance to over five million low-income households, including the working poor, disabled persons, elderly, and families with young children. The Senate resolution continues to support funding for the Public Housing Capital Fund, Hope VI Distressed Housing Program, Housing for the Disabled, Housing for the Elderly, and the Section 8 tenant-based Housing Choice Voucher program and the project-based Section 8 program. The resolution includes increases for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

In addition, the Senate resolution includes deficit-neutral reserve funds for improvements to child welfare, child support enforcement, foster care financing, and LIHEAP, as well as for the reauthorization of the child nutrition and WIC programs, and for establishing or expanding early childhood home visitation programs.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $536.2 billion in BA and $539.9 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $2.5 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.

The House budget resolution matches the President's increase in discretionary funding for Function 600 in order to invest in children and meet urgent needs of low-income families and elderly and disabled people in difficult economic times. These resources will build upon the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided increases in mandatory and discretionary funding for child care, child support, and assistance to needy families.

The House shares the President's commitment to ending childhood hunger in the United States by 2015, and funding to move toward that goal is provided here. The House resolution accommodates continued economically-driven increases in participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which is currently projected to have 9.8 million participants in 2010. The House resolution also includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund and additional funding to accommodate a reauthorization of child nutrition programs that will improve meal quality and access.

The House resolution provides the necessary funding to continue rental housing assistance to families, elderly, and disabled people who rely on assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The House also recognizes the unmet need for affordable housing, both by including a deficit-neutral reserve fund for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and by providing additional discretionary resources for affordable housing preservation.

The House resolution also accommodates the President's proposal to make the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) more quickly responsive to rising energy costs, coupled with an increase in regular discretionary funding to allow the program to reach families in need.

In addition to the policies mentioned above, mandatory programs in Function 600 are also addressed in deficit-neutral reserve funds for home visiting, structural reform of extended unemployment benefits, and child support.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes a total of $536.7 billion in BA and $540.2 billion in outlays for 2010, and $2.4 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.

The conference agreement provides discretionary funding increases consistent with President's budget request for Function 600 in order to invest in children and meet urgent needs of low-income families and elderly and disabled people. The conference agreement supports the President's request of $3.2 billion for LIHEAP in 2010. However the agreement also includes a discretionary cap adjustment for an additional $1.9 billion, for a total LIHEAP funding level of $5.1 billion if the President's funding level of $3.2 billion is included in an appropriations measure. These funds for LIHEAP will help to continue providing heating and cooling assistance to over five million low-income households, including the working poor, disabled persons, elderly, and families with young children.

The conference agreement accommodates funding for increases in participation in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which is currently projected to have 9.8 million participants in 2010. The conference agreement also continues to support funding for important housing assistance programs for low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled.

In addition, the conference agreement includes deficit-neutral reserve funds for improvements to child welfare, child support enforcement, foster care financing, and LIHEAP, as well as for the reauthorization of the child nutrition and WIC programs to help meet the President's goal of ending childhood hunger in the United States, and for establishing or expanding home visitation programs.

SOCIAL SECURITY: FUNCTION 650

Function Summary

The Social Security function includes funding for the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) programs, which provide earned Social Security benefits to over 52 million eligible retired workers, disabled persons, and their spouses and survivors. In addition, this function provides funding to the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to administer the Social Security program and ensure program integrity.

Under provisions of the Congressional Budget Act and the Budget Enforcement Act, the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) trust fund and the Disability Insurance (DI) trust fund are off-budget and do not appear in the budget resolution totals. A small portion of spending in Function 650, the general fund transfer of income taxes on Social Security benefits to the trust funds and outlays resulting from funding authorized in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is considered on-budget and appears in the budget resolution totals.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for $20.3 billion in on-budget BA and $20.4 billion in on-budget outlays for 2010, and $132.4 billion in on-budget BA and $132.9 billion in on-budget outlays over five years. (The corresponding figures on a unified basis are $703.4 billion in BA and $701.4 billion in outlays for 2010 and $3.8 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.) This spending reflects the general fund transfer of income taxes on Social Security benefits to the trust funds and the outlay effect of funding for the Social Security Administration (SSA) that was authorized in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For 2010, the Senate resolution provides $6.1 billion in BA and $5.9 billion in off-budget discretionary outlays for SSA administrative expenses, as outlined in section 102(c) of the resolution, which matches the President's budget request. When combined with funding resources in Function 570 (Medicare) and Function 600 (Income Security), the total administrative budget for SSA assumed in the Senate resolution is $11.6 billion. This substantial increase over the FY09 level is intended to help address the serious and unacceptable backlog of Social Security disability claims and hearings, as well as other backlog workloads for which additional resources are needed.

The discretionary funding levels in the Senate resolution assume a discretionary cap adjustment of $485 million to fund additional continuing disability reviews and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations, if appropriators provide a base funding level for these program integrity initiatives of $273 million.

House-passed Resolution

For the unified budget, the House resolution calls for a total of $703.4 billion in BA and $701.4 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $3.8 trillion in BA and outlays over five years. (The budget resolution provides only the on-budget amounts, which are $20.3 billion in BA and $20.4 billion in outlays for 2010, and

$132.4 billion in BA and $132.9 billion in outlays over five years.)

The administrative budget for the SSA includes resources in Function 570 (Medicare) and Function 600 (Income Security) as well as Function 650. The House resolution assumes an $11.6 billion funding level for the administrative expenses at the SSA, the same as the President's budget level. The increased resources will enable SSA to address the rising number of disability and retirement claims, as well as address the serious backlog of disability claims and hearings and provide for improved service to the American public.

Included in the total funding level above are resources to accommodate $485 million through an adjustment of the discretionary allocation for program integrity initiatives. The adjustment allows the SSA to conduct an increasing number of Continuing Disability Reviews (CDRs) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) redeterminations. The language also allows funding of up to $34 million of the $485 million allocation adjustment to be used for asset verification for SSI recipients, but only if it has a return on investment at least as high as a low-priority SSI redetermination of eligibility, at a 4:1 return.

Conference Agreement

For the unified budget, the conference agreement calls for $703.4 billion in BA and $701.4 billion in outlays for 2010, and $3.8 trillion in BA and outlays over five years. (The conference agreement provides only the on-budget amounts, which are $20.3 billion in BA and $20.4 billion in outlays for 2010, and $132.4 billion in BA and $132.9 billion in outlays over five years.)

For 2010, the conference agreement provides total net discretionary resources for the administrative expenses of SSA (across all relevant functions) of $11.6 billion, meeting the President's requested level. The total SSA funding level in the conference agreement assumes the President's full request for a cap adjustment for program integrity efforts (including CDRs, SSI redeterminations and SSI asset verification). It also reflects the President's full request for more resources to address the serious backlog of disability claims and hearings, as well as other backlog workloads for which additional resources are needed.

VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICES: FUNCTION 700

Function Summary

Function 700 covers the programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including veterans' medical care, compensation and pensions, education and rehabilitation benefits, and housing programs. It also includes the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and the American Battle Monuments Commission. More than 99 percent of appropriated veterans' funding goes to VA, and more than 85 percent of this funding is for VA medical care and hospital services.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $106.5 billion in BA and $105.6 billion in outlays for 2010, and $557.6 billion in BA and $554.5 billion in outlays over five years. The Senate resolution provides a $5.6 billion increase for the VA in 2010, and continues that commitment by increasing funding for the VA by $27 billion over the next five years. The Senate resolution also provides additional resources to the VA so that veterans' insurance need not be billed for service-connected VA care and for increased beneficiary travel reimbursement. Once again, the Senate resolution recognizes the deep debt our nation owes to those who have served in defending our country and continues to provide critical resources to ensure that they get the quality health care they deserve.

In addition, the Senate resolution understands that there is an urgent need for funding of grants for State Veterans Cemeteries with the aging of the WWII generation. Unfortunately, funding levels have not kept up with need. Therefore, the Senate resolution supports adequate funding that can address the costs of constructing new cemeteries as well as the needs of existing State Veterans Cemeteries.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $106.4 billion in BA and $105.5 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $557.7 billion in BA and $554.6 billion in outlays over five years. The total BA level for 2010 includes discretionary BA of $53.3 billion.

The 2009 level of discretionary BA includes $1.6 billion in emergency appropriations from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and other legislation. For 2010, the House resolution provides $5.5 billion (11.5 percent) more discretionary BA than the 2009 level (excluding emergency funding) and $540 million (1.0 percent) more than the President's 2010 budget.

The House resolution emphasizes the high priority that the House places on continuing to provide sufficient and timely funding for veterans' health care. The House resolution provides full funding to support excellent health care for veterans. It includes funding to restore health care eligibility to additional non-disabled veterans with modest incomes (Priority Group 8), consistent with the President's budget. In addition, the House resolution provides funding above the 2009 levels for VA to research and treat mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injury. In particular, the House resolution recognizes the importance of ensuring adequate funding for neuropsychiatric-PTSD staff and research.

The House resolution affirms that VA is not and should not be authorized to bill private insurance companies for treatment of health conditions that are related to veterans' military service. VA already is authorized to bill such companies for treatment of conditions that are not service-connected. The House resolution adds $540 million to the President's strong budget for veterans to safeguard the provision of health care if, using existing authorities, VA does not realize the level of increase in these medical care collections that is estimated in the President's budget.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement calls for a total of $106.5 billion in BA and $105.6 billion in outlays for 2010, and $558.4 billion in BA and $555.3 billion in outlays over five years. The conference agreement provides an 11.7 percent increase for discretionary BA for veterans' health care and other services (excluding emergency funding), and continues that commitment by increasing discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and related agencies by more than $27 billion over the next five years. The decrease in mandatory BA and outlays between 2011 and 2012 reflects the timing of monthly benefit payments—primarily, disability compensation and pensions—in any given fiscal year. It is not the result of any reduction in benefits. As a result, 2011 includes 13 benefit payment dates, while 2012 contains only 11 benefit payment dates.

The conference agreement includes funding to restore health care eligibility to additional non-disabled veterans with modest incomes (Priority Group 8), consistent with the President's budget. In addition, the agreement provides funding above the 2009 levels for VA to research and treat mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injury. The conference agreement supports increasing the number of healthcare professionals in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to meet the needs of the expanding number of veterans and to fill vacant healthcare professional positions at VHA. The conference agreement supports enhanced incentives for healthcare professionals of the VHA who serve in rural areas and increases to veterans beneficiary travel reimbursement. The conference agreement also provides additional resources to the VA so that veterans' private insurance need not be billed for service-connected VA care, and the agreement affirms that VA is not and should not be authorized to bill private insurance companies for treatment of health conditions that are related to veterans' military service.

In addition, the conference agreement recognizes that there is an urgent need to open new national and State Veterans Cemeteries with the aging of the WWII generation. Unfortunately, funding levels for grants for State Veterans Cemeteries have not kept up with the need. Therefore, the conference agreement supports adequate funding that can address the costs of constructing new cemeteries as well as the needs of existing State Veterans Cemeteries.

Sections 402 and 424 of the conference agreement include language exempting the following VA accounts from a point of order against advance appropriations: Medical Services, Medical Support and Compliance, and Medical Facilities.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: FUNCTION 750

Function Summary

The Administration of Justice function includes funding for federal law enforcement activities at the Department of Justice (DOJ) including criminal investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The function also includes funding for border enforcement by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Additionally, the function includes funding for civil rights enforcement and prosecution; federal block, categorical, and formula law enforcement grant programs to state and local governments; prison construction and operation; the United States Attorneys; and the federal judiciary.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $53.5 billion in BA and $52.1 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $260.6 billion in BA and $264.4 billion in outlays over five years.

The Senate resolution recognizes the important role the partnership between federal, state, and local law enforcement entities plays in maintaining safe communities. For example, the Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) grant program provides funding that is critical in many urban and rural areas in maintaining police presence, carrying out criminal investigations, combating methamphetamine, and in training and equipping law enforcement officers. This and other support for local law enforcement remain a priority.

The Senate resolution includes funding to protect children by funding Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act programs. The Senate resolution also provides resources to support the Administration's efforts to combat drug, gun, and cash smuggling by cartels and for addressing potential spillover violence along the Southern border.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $52.9 billion in BA and $51.6 billion in outlays

for 2010, and for $268.3 billion in BA and $271.2 billion in outlays over five years.

The House budget resolution provides significant resources for our federal and local law enforcement programs, matching the level in the President's budget. The House resolution provides increased funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as it meets the country's domestic crime fighting, financial fraud investigation, and national security needs. In addition, the House resolution supports the Department of Justice's programs and initiatives that hire and equip police officers, combat drugs, protect juveniles, and that provide other important services to our communities. For example, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program includes hiring grants for new police officers, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) provides flexible resources to our communities to meet a variety of their criminal justice needs, and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) reimburses states and localities for their incarceration costs—and the House resolution recognizes the importance of these and other programs.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement calls for a total of $53.4 billion in BA and $52.0 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $268.8 billion BA and $271.7 billion in outlays over five years. The conference agreement provides significant resources for federal and local law enforcement programs. The conference agreement provides increased funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as it meets the country's domestic crime fighting, financial fraud investigation, and national security needs.

The conference agreement supports the Department of Justice's programs and initiatives that hire and equip police officers and that provide other important services to our communities. For example, the conference agreement supports drug control efforts in urban and rural areas by including funding for High Intensity Drug Areas (HIDTA) programs and drug interdiction efforts carried out by both the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. In addition, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program includes hiring grants and grants to combat methamphetamine, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) provides flexible resources to our communities to meet a variety of their criminal justice needs, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) reimburses states and localities for their incarceration costs, and Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act programs prevents crimes against children.

The conference agreement includes funding for Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. These funds supplement support for violence prevention and services activities. In particular, the conference agreement supports the VAWA Long-Term Stability/Housing for Victims Program, which builds collaborations between domestic violence service providers, housing providers, and developers to leverage existing resources and create housing solutions that meet victims' need for long-term housing. Helping victims remain safe and stable over time is critical since victims of domestic violence often return to their abusers because they cannot find long-term housing.

Finally, the conference agreement provides additional funding to support the President's initiative to combat violence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: FUNCTION 800

Function Summary

The General Government function consists of the activities of the Legislative Branch, the Executive Office of the President, general tax collection and fiscal operations of the Department of the Treasury (including the IRS), the Office of Personnel Management, the property and personnel costs of the General Services Administration, and general purpose fiscal assistance to states, localities, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of $22.3 billion in BA and $23.0 billion in outlays for 2010, and $112.8 billion in BA and $116.5 billion in outlays over five years.

The Senate resolution supports enhanced Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax enforcement to address the tax gap. The resolution fully funds the President's budget request for the IRS and includes the President's request for additional resources for IRS enforcement. By including a discretionary cap adjustment of $890 million, the budget resolution would direct approximately $8 billion to IRS enforcement activities. A similar cap adjustment was included in the 2009 budget resolution.

The Senate resolution assumes that rates of compensation for civilian employees of the United States should be adjusted at the same time, and in the same proportion, as are rates of compensation for members of the uniformed services.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $22.0 billion in BA and $22.8 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $113.2 billion in BA and $116.8 billion in outlays over five years.

The House budget resolution includes a program integrity initiative to increase IRS tax compliance efforts to collect unpaid taxes. In a change from previous years, the amounts included within the House resolution's adjustments for this purpose focus solely on amounts in IRS's Enforcement account. The House resolution assumes the full level for IRS activities proposed by the President.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes $22.0 billion in BA and $22.8 billion in outlays for 2010, and $112.2 billion in BA and $115.9 billion in outlays over five years. It fully funds the President's budget request for IRS enforcement activities, including additional resources available through a discretionary cap adjustment. The Senate retains an $890 million discretionary cap adjustment, which would require approximately $8 billion for IRS enforcement related activities. The House reflects an equivalent amount for enforcement activities using a cap adjustment for the Enforcement account and additional funding from related accounts.

NET INTEREST: FUNCTION 900

Function Summary

The Net Interest function is entirely mandatory with no discretionary components. It consists primarily of the interest paid by the federal government to private and foreign government holders of U.S. Treasury securities. It includes the interest on the public debt after deducting the interest income received by the federal government from trust fund investments, loans and cash balances, and earnings of the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust.

Senate-passed Resolution

For the unified budget, the Senate resolution calls for BA and outlays of $168.8 billion for 2010 and $1.4 trillion over five years. (The budget resolution provides only the on-budget amounts, which total $284.6 billion in BA and outlays for 2010 and $2.0 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.)

House-passed Resolution

For the unified budget, the House resolution calls for a total of $168.3 billion in BA and outlays for 2010, and for $1.4 trillion in BA and outlays over five years. (The budget resolution provides only the on-budget amounts, which are $284.1 billion in BA and outlays for 2010, and $2.0 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.)

Conference Agreement

For the unified budget, the conference agreement calls for BA and outlays of $168.4 billion for 2010 and $1.4 trillion over five years. (The on-budget amounts are $284.2 billion in BA and outlays for 2010 and $2.0 trillion in BA and outlays over five years.)

ALLOWANCES: FUNCTION 920

Function Summary

The Allowances function is used for planning purposes to address the budgetary effects of proposals or assumptions that cross several budget functions. Once such changes are enacted, the budgetary effects are distributed to the appropriate budget function.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for a total of −$16.0 billion in BA and −$7.0 billion in outlays for 2010, and −$89.4 billion in BA and −$78.8 billion in outlays over five years.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution calls for a total of $9.4 billion in BA and $4.9 billion in outlays for 2010, and for $33.4 billion in BA and $22.6 billion in outlays over five years.

Function 920 includes a placeholder to recognize the potential costs of disasters over the resolution period. It also includes a variety of savings, including savings related to program integrity initiatives, savings pursuant to reconciliation instructions, and savings to offset program initiatives in other budget functions.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement calls for a total of $1.2 billion in BA and $2.5 billion in outlays for 2010, and −$60.8 billion in BA and −$48.9 billion in outlays over five years. These funding levels include a placeholder for 2009 and 2010 to recognize the potential costs of disasters. Offsetting these amounts are other non-security discretionary adjustments, savings pursuant to reconciliation instructions, and offsets for policy in other budget functions.

UNDISTRIBUTED OFFSETTING RECEIPTS: FUNCTION 950

Function Summary

The Undistributed Offsetting Receipts function includes major offsetting receipt items that would distort the funding levels of other functional categories if they were distributed to them. Examples of such items include the employer share of federal employee retirement benefits, outer continental shelf rents and royalties, and the sale of major assets.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution calls for unified undistributed offsetting receipts of −$83.6 billion in BA and outlays for 2010 and −$456.2 billion in BA and outlays over five years. (The on-budget totals for BA and outlays are −$68.4 billion for 2010 and −$371.8 billion over five years.) The Senate resolution matches the CBO's baseline estimate of undistributed offsetting receipts.

House-passed Resolution

For the unified budget, the House resolution calls for a total of −$83.9 billion in BA and outlays for 2010, and for −$458.0 billion in BA and outlays over five years. (The budget resolution provides only the on-budget amounts, which are −$68.8 billion in BA and outlays for 2010, and −$373.5 billion in BA and outlays over five years.)

The negative spending in Function 950 represents CBO's baseline estimate of undistributed offsetting receipts and the impact of concurrent receipt policy.

Conference Agreement

For the unified budget, the conference agreement includes undistributed offsetting receipts of −$83.9 billion in BA and outlays for 2010 and −$458.0 billion in BA and outlays over five years. (The on-budget amounts are −$68.8 billion in BA and outlays for 2010 and −$373.5 billion in BA and outlays over five years.)

OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES: FUNCTION 970

Function Summary

This function includes funding for overseas deployments and other activities.

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution did not include Function 970.

House-passed Resolution

The House resolution includes amounts equal to the President's budget to account for any future House consideration of appropriations for overseas deployments and other activities.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes Function 970 to account for the President's pending supplemental request, other Presidential requests, and an estimate of potential future costs of overseas deployments.

RECONCILIATION

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution did not include any reconciliation instructions.

House-passed Resolution

Title II of the House resolution includes reconciliation instructions. The instructions direct committees to make changes in laws under its jurisdiction that affect revenues or direct spending to achieve a specified budgetary result. The legislation used to implement those instructions is reported as a reconciliation bill.

Section 201 of the House resolution includes reconciliation instructions to committees assumed to be used for health care reform and for education, but not for other policies. In section 201(a), entitled Health Care Reform, the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means each are instructed to report changes in laws by September 29, 2009, to reduce the deficit by $1 billion for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014. In section 201(b), entitled Investments in Education, the Committee on Education and Labor is instructed to report changes in laws by September 30, 2009, to reduce the deficit by $1 billion for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014. Reconciliation instructions do not preclude the consideration of legislation in these policy areas under regular order.

Procedural language included in section 201(c) of the House resolution permits but does not require the Clerk of the House to join two separate reconciliation measures that meet the above descriptions, once one such measure has passed the House, for the purpose of forming a single engrossed reconciliation bill within the meaning of section 310 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The House has adopted a rule relating to reconciliation instructions (clause 7 of rule XXI) that requires that any reconciliation instruction must not increase the deficit or reduce the surplus over the time periods specified in the House pay-as-you-go rule. The reconciliation instructions provided in title II of the House resolution satisfy the requirement of clause 7 of rule XXI of the House of Representatives.

Conference Agreement

The conference agreement includes reconciliation instructions.

For the Senate, Sec. 201 of the conference agreement provides reconciliation instructions to the Committee on Finance and Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions to report changes in laws within their jurisdiction that reduce the deficit by $1,000,000,000 each for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014. The deadline for these committees to report legislation complying with their instructions is October 15, 2009.

For the House, Sec. 202 of the conference agreement provides two sets of reconciliation instructions, one intended for health reform and one intended for education. The deadline for affected committees to report legislation complying with each set of instructions is October 15, 2009. The committees shall report reconciliation legislation directly to the House Committee on the Budget.

Sec. 202(a), for health reform, instructs the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Education and Labor to report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by $1.0 billion for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014. Because of overlapping committee jurisdictions in the House with respect to health programs and related policies, the House Committee on the Budget assumes that legislation reported pursuant to Sec. 201(a) by the three named committees will, in combination, result in total net deficit reduction of at least $1.0 billion for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

Sec. 202(b), for education, instructs the Committee on Education and Labor to report changes in laws to reduce the deficit by $1.0 billion for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2014.

It is assumed that reconciliation will not be used for changes in legislation related to global climate change.

RESERVE FUNDS

The Senate and House use reserve funds in connection with consideration of legislation that complies with each chamber's rules. The conference agreement therefore contains reserve funds for the House and for the Senate to address the rules and procedures that apply in each chamber.

Senate-passed Resolution

Sec. 201. Transform and modernize America's health care system

(a) Transform and Modernize America's Health Care System: The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of health reform legislation that expand affordable coverage, improve health care quality and health outcomes, and constrain costs, provided that such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2019, reduces excess cost growth in health care spending, and is fiscally-sustainable over the long-term. The reserve fund reflects the eight principles for health reform outlined in the President's budget and provides maximum flexibility to the authorizing Committees to determine the appropriate level of spending and the offsets that may be required to pay for these investments.

(b) Other Revisions: The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation in the following areas, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019:

(1) Physician Payments—legislation that increases the reimbursement rate for physician services under Medicare Part B.

(2) Physician Training—legislation to encourage physicians to train in primary care residencies and ensure an adequate supply of residents and physicians.

(3) Medicare Outpatient Therapy—legislation to improve the Medicare program for beneficiaries and protect access to outpatient therapy services (including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services) while protecting beneficiaries from associated premium increases.

(4) Geographic Variation—legislation to promote Medicare payment policies that reward quality and efficient care and address geographic variation in spending.

(5) Medicare Advantage Enrollees—legislation to protect Medicare Advantage enrollees from premium increases and benefit reductions in their Medicare Advantage plans that would result from estimates in the 2010 Medicare Advantage Call Letter.

Sec. 202. Investing in clean energy and preserving the environment

The Senate-passed resolution includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation in the following areas, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

(a) Investing in Clean Energy and Preserving the Environment: Legislation that would reduce our Nation's dependence on imported energy including through expanded offshore oil and gas production in the Outer Continental Shelf, produce green jobs, promote renewable energy development, strengthen and retool manufacturing supply chains, create a clean energy investment fund, improve electricity transmission, encourage conservation and efficiency (including through industrial energy efficiency programs), make improvements to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, set aside additional funding from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for Arctic oil spill research conducted by the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, implement water settlements, or preserve or protect public lands, oceans or coastal areas, by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the cost of producing energy from domestic sources, including oil and gas from the Outer Continental Shelf or other areas; would not increase the cost of energy for American families; would not increase the cost of energy for domestic manufacturers, farmers, fishermen, or other domestic industries; and would not enhance foreign competitiveness against U.S. businesses. The legislation may include tax provisions.

(b) Climate Change Legislation: Legislation that would invest in clean energy technology initiatives, decrease greenhouse gas emissions (without regulating carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions from biological processes associated with livestock production), create new jobs in a clean technology economy, strengthen the manufacturing competitiveness of the United States, diversify the domestic clean energy supply to increase the energy security of the United States, protect consumers (including policies that address regional differences), provide incentives for cost-savings achieved through energy efficiencies, provide voluntary opportunities for agriculture and forestry communities to contribute to reducing the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and help families, workers, communities, and businesses make the transition to a clean energy economy, without increasing electricity or gasoline prices or increasing the overall burden on consumers, through the use of revenues and policies provided in such legislation.

(c) Allocations: The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget shall not revise the allocations in this resolution if the legislation provided for in subsections (a) or (b) is reported from any committee pursuant to section 310 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Sec. 203. Higher education

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would make higher education more accessible and more affordable while maintaining a competitive student loan program that provides students and institutions of higher education with a comprehensive choice of loan products and services which may include legislation to expand and strengthen student aid, such as Pell grants, or increase college enrollment and completion rates for low income students such as by investing in programs that provide need-based grants and community work study programs or provide outreach to low-income students to prepare for college, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019. This may include tax legislation.

Sec. 204. Child nutrition and WIC

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would reauthorize child nutrition programs and/or the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (the WIC program), provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 205. Investments in America's infrastructure

(a) Infrastructure: The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would provide a sustained robust federal investment in infrastructure, which may include public housing, energy, water, transportation, including freight and passenger rail, or other infrastructure projects, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

The Senate-passed resolution also allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the allocations to allow funding for the Denali Commission for each applicable fiscal year at a level equal to not less than the level of funding made available for the Denali Commission during 2006.

(b) Surface Transportation: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would provide new budget authority for surface transportation programs to the extent such new budget authority is offset by an increase in receipts to the Highway Trust Fund (excluding transfers from the general fund of the Treasury into the Highway Trust Fund not offset by a similar increase in receipts), provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(c) Multimodal Transportation Projects: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would authorize multimodal transportation projects that—

(1) provide a set of performance measures;

(2) require a cost-benefit analysis be conducted to ensure accountability and overall project goals are met; and

(3) provide flexibility for States, cities, and localities to create strategies that meet the needs of their communities

—provided the legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(d) Flood Control Projects: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that provide for levee modernization, maintenance, repair, and improvement, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(e) Allowing Amtrak Passengers to Securely Transport Firearms on Passenger Trains: The Senate resolution states that none of amounts made available in the reserve fund authorized under this section may be used to provide financial assistance for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) unless Amtrak passengers are allowed to securely transport firearms in their checked baggage.

Sec. 206. Promote economic stabilization and growth

(a) Manufacturing: The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would revitalize and strengthen the United States domestic manufacturing sector by increasing Federal research and development, by expanding the scope and effectiveness of manufacturing programs across the Federal Government, by increasing efforts to train and retrain manufacturing workers, by enhancing workers' technical skills in the use of the new advanced manufacturing technologies to produce competitive energy efficient products, by increasing support for sector workforce training, by increasing support for the redevelopment of closed manufacturing plants, by increasing support for development of alternative fuels and leap-ahead automotive and energy technologies such as advanced batteries, or by establishing tax incentives to encourage the continued production in the United States of advanced technologies and the infrastructure to support such technologies, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(b) Tax Relief: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would provide tax relief including, but not limited to, extensions of expiring and expired tax relief provisions, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(c) Tax Reform: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would reform the Internal Revenue Code to ensure a sustainable revenue base that would lead to a fairer and more efficient tax system and to a more competitive business environment for United States enterprises, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(d) Flood Insurance Reform: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would provide for flood insurance reform and modernization, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(e) Trade: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation related to trade, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(f) Housing Assistance: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation related to housing assistance, which may include low income rental assistance and assistance provided through the Housing Trust Fund created under section 1131 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, and legislation that allows for a temporary suspension of the 10 percent tax penalty on early withdrawal from qualified retirement accounts, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(g) Unemployment Mitigation: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would reduce the unemployment rate or provide assistance to the unemployed, particularly in the states and localities with the highest rates of unemployment, or improve the implementation of the unemployment compensation program, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 207. America's veterans and wounded servicemembers

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would expand the number of disabled military retirees who receive both disability compensation and retired pay, accelerate the phase-in of concurrent receipt, eliminate the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan annuities and Veterans' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, enhance servicemember education benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserve by ensuring those benefits keep pace with the national average cost of tuition, provide for the payment of retired pay for members of the Alaska Territorial Guard who served in the Alaska Territorial Guard during and after World War II, or expand veterans' benefits (including for veterans living in rural areas), provided such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2008–2013 and 2008–2018.

Sec. 208. Judicial pay and judgeships and postal retiree assistance

(a) Judicial Pay and Judgeships: The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that authorize salary adjustments for justices and judges of the United States or increases the number of federal judgeships, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(b) Postal Retirees: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation relating to funding adjustments for United States Postal Service retiree health coverage, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 209. Defense acquisition and contracting reform

The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would—

(1) enhance the capability of the Federal acquisition or contracting workforce to achieve better value for taxpayers;

(2) reduce the use of no-bid and cost-plus contracts;

(3) reform Department of Defense processes for acquiring weapons systems in order to reduce costs, improve cost and schedule estimation, enhance developmental testing of weapons, or increase the rigor of reviews of programs that experience critical cost growth;

(4) reduce the award of contracts to contractors with seriously delinquent tax debts;

(5) reduce the use of contracts, including the continuation of task orders, awarded under the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) III;

(6) reform Department of Defense processes for acquiring services in order to reduce

costs, improve costs and schedule estimation, enhance oversight, or increase the rigor of reviews of programs that experience critical cost growth;

(7) reduce the use of contracts for acquisition, oversight, and management support services; or

(8) enhance the capability of auditors and inspectors general to oversee Federal acquisition and procurement;

—provided the legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 210. Investments in our nation's counties and schools

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–393), make changes to the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–565), or both, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 211. The Food and Drug Administration

(a) Regulation: The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would authorize the Food and Drug Administration to regulate products and assess user fees on manufacturers and importers of those products to cover the cost of the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory activities, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(b) Drug Importation: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would permit the safe importation of prescription drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration from a specified list of countries, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

(c) Food Safety: The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would improve the safety of the food supply in the United States, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 212. Bipartisan Congressional Sunset Commission

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that—

(1) provide for a bipartisan congressional sunset commission that will review Federal programs, focusing on unauthorized and nonperforming programs;

(2) provide for a process that will help abolish obsolete and duplicative Federal programs;

(3) provide for improved government accountability and greater openness in government decision-making; and

(4) provide for a process that ensures that Congress will consider the commission's reports and recommendations

—provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 213. Improving domestic fuels security

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would achieve domestic fuels security by authorizing the Department of Defense to procure alternative fuels from domestic sources under contracts for up to 20 years, provided that procurement is consistent with section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–140), and provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 214. Comprehensive investigation into the current financial crisis

The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that provide resources for a comprehensive investigation to determine the cause of the current financial crisis, hold those responsible accountable, and provide recommendations to prevent another financial crisis of this magnitude from occurring again, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009-2019.

Sec. 215. Increased transparency at the federal reserve

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that increase transparency at the Federal Reserve System, including audits of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks, to include—

(1) an evaluation of the appropriate number and the associated costs of Federal reserve banks;

(2) publication on its website, with respect to all lending and financial assistance facilities created by the Board to address the financial crisis, of—

(a) the nature and amounts of the collateral that the central bank is accepting on behalf of American taxpayers in the various lending programs, on no less than a monthly basis;

(b) the extent to which changes in valuation of credit extensions to various special purpose vehicles, such as Maiden Lane I, Maiden Lane II, and Maiden Lane III, are a result of losses on collateral which will not be recovered;

(c) the number of borrowers that participate in each of the lending programs and details of the credit extended, including the extent to which the credit is concentrated in one or more institutions; and

(d) information on the extent to which the central bank is contracting for services of private sector firms for the design, pricing, management, and accounting for the various lending programs and the terms and nature of such contracts and bidding processes; and

(3) including the identity of each entity to which the Board has provided all loans and other financial assistance since March 24, 2008, the value or amount of that financial assistance, and what that entity is doing with such financial assistance

—provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 216. Improving child welfare

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would make improvements to child welfare programs, including strengthening the recruitment and retention of foster families, or make improvements to the child support enforcement program, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 217. Long-term stability/housing for victims

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would fully fund the Long-Term Stability/Housing for Victims Program under the Violence Against Women Act, by the amounts provided in that legislation for those purposes, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 218. Providing a tax credit for the purchase of a principal residence

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would provide a non-refundable tax credit in the amount of the lesser of $15,000 or 10 percent of the purchase price for the purchase of a principal residence for the period of one year, provided such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 219. Monitoring of FHA-insured lending

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would increase the capacity of the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to investigate cases of mortgage fraud of Federal Housing Administration loans, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 220. Address the systemic inequities of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement that lead to access problems in rural areas

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that address the systemic inequities of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement that lead to access problems in rural areas, including access to primary care and outpatient services, hospitals, and an adequate supply of providers in the workforce, provided that it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 221. Carbon capture and storage and advanced clean coal power generation research, development, demonstration, and deployment

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would accelerate the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of advanced technologies to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants and other industrial emission sources and to use coal in an environmentally acceptable manner, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 222. Expenditure of remaining TARP funds

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that reaffirm that the remaining Troubled Asset Relief Program funds shall be used to save homes, save small businesses, help the municipal bond market, make credit more widely available, and provide additional resources for the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the Congressional Oversight Panel, and the Government Accountability Office for vigorous audit and evaluation of all expenditures and commitments made under the Troubled Asset Relief Program, by the amounts provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 223. Prohibiting undeserved contracting performance bonuses

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise

the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would prohibit federally funded bonuses awarded to contractors and government executives responsible for over budget projects and programs that fail to meet basic performance requirements, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 224. Eliminating wasteful programs

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would achieve savings by eliminating wasteful, inefficient, and duplicative programs, provided that such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 225. Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Service Act

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would provide resources for programs administered through the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, and other related programs, provided that such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 226. Ending abusive no-bid contracts

The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would end abusive no-bid contracts by requiring all Federal contracts over $25,000 to be competitively bid provided the legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 227. Home visitation programs

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would provide funds to States to establish or expand quality programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 228. 21st Century learning centers

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, provided that such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 229. Extending top tax brackets for individuals with majority small business income

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would extend the top tax brackets of 33 percent and 35 percent for individuals receiving more than 50 percent of income from small business, provided such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 230. Pension coverage for employees of Department of Energy laboratories and environmental cleanup sites

The Senate-passed resolution includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would authorize funding to cover the full cost of pension obligations for current and past employees of laboratories and environmental cleanup sites under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy (including benefits paid to security personnel) in a manner that does not impact the missions of those laboratories and environmental cleanup sites.

Sec. 231. Resources for firefighters and fire departments

The Senate resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that provide firefighters and fire departments with critical resources under FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters Grant programs, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 232. Increased use of recovery audits

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would achieve savings by requiring agencies to increase their use of recovery audits and use those savings to reduce the deficit.

Sec. 233. Repealing 1993 income tax on Social Security benefits

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would repeal the 1993 increase in the income tax on social security benefits, provided such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 234. Increasing the amount of capital losses allowed to individuals

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would increase the amount of capital losses allowed to individuals, provided such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 235. Foster care financing reform

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would—

(1) change the Federal foster care payment system;

(2) promote and improve family support, family preservation and time-limited family unification services;

(3) provide for subsidies and support programs that are available to support the needs of the children prior to removal, during removal, and post placement;

(4) promote innovation and best practice at the State level; and

(5) guarantee that public funds are used to effectively meet the needs of children who have been abused or neglected

—provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 236. Healthcare professionals for the Veterans Health Administration

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels and limits in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would—

(1) increase the number of healthcare professionals in the Veterans Health Administration to meet the needs of the expanding number of veterans and to fill healthcare professional positions in the Veterans Health Administration that are currently vacant; and

(2) provide enhanced incentives for healthcare professionals of the Veterans Health Administration who serve in rural areas

—provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 237. Repealing deductions from mineral revenue payments to states

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would repeal the requirement to deduct certain amounts from mineral revenues payable to States, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 238. Promoting tax equity for states without personal income taxes

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would provide for the permanent extension of the deduction for state and local sales taxes in order to promote tax equity for states without personal income taxes, provided such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 239. Setting performance standards to identify failing government programs

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would set performance standards to identify failing government programs, provided that such legislation is deficit neutral over the total 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 240. Expediting research on viability of using higher ethanol blends at service stations

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would expedite research at the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency on the viability of the use of higher ethanol blends at the service station pump, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 241. Enhanced drug-control efforts

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would increase the number of counties designated as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas to provide coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking or legislation that increases drug interdiction funding at the Department of Homeland Security, provided that such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 242. Promoting individual savings and financial security

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would promote financial security through financial literacy, retirement planning, and savings incentives, provided such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 243. National Health Services Corps

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would provide the National Health Service Corps with $235 million for 2010, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 244. Improving the animal health and disease program

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the

Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would fully fund the animal health and disease program, provided that such legislation is deficit neutral over the total 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 245. Increase in the end strength for active duty personnel of the Army

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would reduce the strain on the United States Armed Forces by authorizing an increase in the end strength for active duty personnel of the Army to a level not less than 577,400 persons provided the legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 246. Wildland fire management activities

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would—

(1) allow wildland fire management funds for hazardous fuels reduction and hazard mitigation activities in areas at high risk of catastrophic wildfire to be distributed to areas demonstrating highest priority needs, as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service, and

(2) provide that no State matching funds are required for the activities described in paragraph (1)

—provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 247. Increasing the estate tax exemption and lowering the maximum estate tax rate

The Senate-passed resolution includes a reserve fund allowing the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would establish the estate tax exemption at $5 million, indexed for inflation, set the maximum estate tax rate at 35 percent, and provide for reunification of the estate and gift credits and the portability of exemption between spouses, provided such legislation is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2014 and 2009–2019.

Sec. 248. Point of order against legislation that provides additional relief for the estate tax beyond the levels assumed in the budget resolution unless an equal amount of additional tax relief is provided to middle class taxpayers.

The Senate-passed resolution included a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would provide additional relief for the estate tax beyond the levels assumed in the budget resolution of $7 million per married couple and a graduated rate ending at a rate less than 45 percent unless an equal amount of tax relief is provided to taxpayers earning less than $100,000 per year and such relief is in addition to the amounts assumed in the budget resolution. The point of order could be waived with 60 votes.

Sec. 249. Increase FDIC and NCUA borrowing authority

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009–2019.

Sec. 250. Innovative Loan Guarantee Program at the Department of Energy

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would authorize an additional $50,000,000,000 for use to provide loan guarantees for eligible projects under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16511 et seq.), provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 251. Nuclear research and development

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would authorize nuclear research and development activities, including the Generation IV program, the Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative, and the Light Water Reactor Sustainability program, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Sec. 252. 2012 completion of Food and Drug Administration facilities

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for one or more pieces of legislation that would provide sufficient funding for the General services Administration to complete construction of the Food and Drug administration White Oak Campus in Silver Spring, Maryland by 2012, provided it is deficit-neutral over the total of 2009-2014 and 2009-2019.

Sec. 253. Energy Star for Small Business Program

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to revise the levels in the resolution for legislation that would set aside, from amounts made available for the Energy Star Program of the Environmental Protection Agency, at least 2 percent for the Energy Star for Small Business Program, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit over either the period of the total of 2009 through 2014 or the period of the total of 2009 through 2019.

Throughout this subtitle, the use of the word ''limits'' refers to the discretionary spending limits in the Senate.

House-passed Resolution

Sec. 301. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for health care reform

The reserve fund supports the President's goal of fiscally responsible health reform legislation. The reserve fund accommodates legislation that addresses the common goals of making affordable health coverage available to all, improving the quality of health care, and reducing rising health care costs, while building on and strengthening existing public and private insurance coverage and preserving choice of provider and plan, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle.

As part of health care reform, the House supports measures to ensure that payments to providers are appropriate and equitable and are designed to encourage efficiency, higher quality care, coordination of care, and accountability.

Sec. 302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for college access, affordability, and completion

The reserve fund accommodates changes in laws that will increase assistance or benefits to college students, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle. This reserve fund will provide committees maximum flexibility in finding offsets for legislation to help more students afford and complete college.

Sec. 303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for increasing energy independence

The reserve fund accommodates legislation to increase U.S. energy independence, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle. This reserve fund covers legislation that provides tax incentives for or otherwise encourages the production of renewable energy or increased energy efficiency; encourages investment in emerging energy or vehicle technologies or carbon capture and sequestration; limits and provides for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions; assists businesses, industries, states, communities, the environment, workers, or households as the United States moves toward reducing and offsetting the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions; or facilitates the training of workers for these industries (''green collar jobs'').

Sec. 304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for America's veterans and servicemembers

The reserve fund accommodates legislation to change health care and benefits for veterans, servicemembers, or their families, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle. This reserve fund covers legislation that enhances health care for military personnel or veterans; maintains the affordability of health care for military retirees or veterans; improves disability benefits or evaluations for wounded or disabled military personnel or veterans (including measures to expedite the claims process); expands eligibility to permit additional disabled military retirees to receive both disability compensation and retired pay (concurrent receipt); or eliminates the offset between Survivor Benefit Plan annuities and veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation. The reserve fund shall not accommodate legislation authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to bill private insurance companies for treatment of health conditions that are related to veterans' military service. VA already is authorized to bill such companies for treatment of conditions that are not service-connected.

Sec. 305. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for certain tax relief

The reserve fund for tax relief accommodates legislation to reduce tax burdens on working families, businesses, States, or communities if it complies with the pay-as-you-go principle. This reserve fund could therefore accommodate individual tax relief supporting working families, higher education, and raising participation in retirement saving vehicles, among other purposes. It could also accommodate tax relief and investment incentives for businesses, States, or communities.

Sec. 306. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for a 9/11 health program

The reserve fund accommodates legislation that would establish a program, including medical monitoring and treatment, addressing the adverse health impacts linked to the attacks of September 11, 2001, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle. Last year, the House and Senate included this deficit neutral reserve fund as part of the Conference Agreement.

Sec. 307. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for child nutrition

This reserve fund accommodates legislation to reauthorize, expand, or improve the child nutrition programs, including, but not limited to, the school lunch and school breakfast programs, after-school and summer food programs, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the child and adult care food program, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle.

Sec. 308. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for structural unemployment insurance reforms

This reserve fund accommodates legislation consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle that builds on the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and continues modernizing the unemployment system to better meet the challenges

of the 21st century workforce, in particular by improving its response to economic downturns.

Sec. 309. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for child support

This reserve fund accommodates legislation to increase parental support for children, including efforts to ensure that children receive 100 percent of the child support that they are owed and that is paid by noncustodial parents, as well as other efforts to provide more parental support for children, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle.

Sec. 310. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

The reserve fund accommodates funding for the existing Affordable Housing Trust Fund that provides grants to states, communities, and other entities to provide or rehabilitate housing for low-income families, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle. The reserve fund provides committees with flexibility to find offsets for legislation that capitalizes the trust fund, which is already authorized.

Sec. 311. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for home visiting

This reserve fund accommodates legislation to provide mandatory funding for a home visiting program or programs serving low-income mothers-to-be and low-income families, consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle. The House anticipates that the legislation will fund evidence-based programs that have been tested in well-designed randomized controlled trials and are likely to produce future budget savings by improving child and family health and well-being. Research studies on providing nurse home visiting services to low-income families, for example, have documented between three and six dollars in savings for every dollar invested in the home visits.

Sec. 312. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program trigger

This reserve fund accommodates legislation to ensure that the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) responds more quickly and efficiently to energy price increases, so long as the legislation is consistent with the pay-as-you-go principle.

Sec. 313. Reserve fund for the surface transportation reauthorization

The reserve fund accommodates additional contract authority for the reauthorization of highway construction, highway safety and mass transit programs or other transportation-related legislation on the condition that the Highway Trust Fund continues to fully meet its obligations. While the eventual funding needs for the upcoming highway and transit bill are not yet known, the reserve fund will provide flexibility to adjust the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's allocation provided that the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund is maintained.

Sec. 314. Current policy reserve fund for Medicare improvements

The reserve fund accommodates additional mandatory spending to reform the Medicare physician payment system. The reserve fund supports legislation to change incentives to encourage efficiency and higher quality care in a way that supports fiscal sustainability, to improve payment accuracy to encourage efficient use of resources and ensure that primary care receives appropriate compensation, to improve coordination of care among all providers serving a patient in all appropriate settings, or to hold providers accountable for their utilization patterns and quality of care.

The reserve fund allows Medicare physician payment reform legislation's costs to be measured against current policy, that is assuming the payment rates in effect for physicians for 2009 will stay in effect through 2019. This assumption is consistent with the President's budget and is based on Congressional actions in recent years to prevent cuts in physician payments that would otherwise be required by the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. However, like the President's budget, the budget resolution does not intend this assumption as a reflection of future policy. Instead, the assumption represents a realistic and meaningful benchmark against which to measure the fiscal effects of legislation reforming the Medicare physician payment system.

After the House has adopted a measure to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, or when a bill utilizing this reserve fund includes provisions to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, Section 401(a) of the House resolution directs the chairman of the Budget Committee to make current policy adjustments before evaluating the costs of the Medicare bill for compliance with House budget rules and procedures. The adjustments may be made only for the purposes and in the amounts provided in this reserve fund.

The SGR formula limits how much total physician compensation can grow every year. The SGR formula has required payment rate cuts every year since 2002. Since 2003, Congress has enacted legislation to prevent these rate cuts from taking effect, one or two years at a time. Consequently, history has shown that the current statutory baseline as it relates to Medicare physician payments is unrealistic. Under current law, physicians face a 21 percent cut in their Medicare payment rate in 2010, and further cuts for several years after that. Cuts of this magnitude could destabilize the Medicare program and present serious access problems for Medicare beneficiaries.

Sec. 315. Current policy reserve fund for middle class tax relief

The reserve fund allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to adjust the House resolution aggregates and allocations to reflect current policy for certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for middle class tax relief. The reserve fund supports the extension of middle class tax relief such as the 10 percent individual income tax bracket, marriage penalty relief, the child credit at $1,000 and partial refundability of the credit, education incentives, other incentives for middle class families and children, and other reductions or adjustments to individual income tax brackets, as well as small business tax relief.

After the House has adopted a measure to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, or when a bill utilizing this reserve fund includes provisions to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, Section 401(a) of the House resolution directs the chairman of the Budget Committee to make current policy adjustments to the baseline before evaluating the costs of the tax bill for compliance with House budget rules and procedures. The adjustments may be made only for the purposes and in the amounts provided in this reserve fund.

Sec. 316. Current policy reserve fund for reform of the alternative minimum tax (AMT)

The reserve fund allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to adjust the resolution aggregates and allocations to reflect current policy for the alternative minimum tax (AMT) for one additional year. The reserve fund would support immediate AMT relief so that tens of millions of working families will not become subject to it in tax year 2010. Without reform, the number of taxpayers subject to the AMT will rise from 4 million in 2010 to 28 million in 2010, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The House resolution would accommodate further, deficit-neutral relief from the AMT.

After the House has adopted a measure to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, or when a bill utilizing this reserve fund includes provisions to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, Section 401(a) of the House resolution directs the chairman of the Budget Committee to make current policy adjustments to the baseline before evaluating the costs of the tax bill for compliance with House budget rules and procedures. The adjustments may be made only for the purposes and in the amounts provided in this reserve fund.

Sec. 317. Current policy reserve fund for reform of the Estate and Gift Tax

The reserve fund allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to adjust the resolution aggregates and allocations to reflect current policy by extending the law as in effect for 2009 for the Estate and Gift Tax. The reserve fund supports continuation of 2009 policy so that only a minute fraction of estates will owe tax.

After the House has adopted a measure to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, or when a bill utilizing this reserve fund includes provisions to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, Section 401(a) of the House resolution directs the chairman of the Budget Committee to make current policy adjustments to the baseline before evaluating the costs of the tax bill for compliance with House budget rules and procedures. The adjustments may be made only for the purposes and in the amounts provided in this reserve fund.

Conference Agreement

Title III of the conference agreement contains reserve funds.

Subtitle A: Senate reserve funds

Subtitle A of the conference agreement contains the following reserve funds that apply only in the Senate:

Sec. 301. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to transform and modernize America's health care system (Secs. 201 and 220 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 302. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to invest in clean energy and preserve the environment (Secs. 202, 213, 221, 240 and 246 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 303. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for higher education (Sec. 203 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 304. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for child nutrition and WIC (Sec. 204 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 305. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for investments in America's infrastructure (Secs. 205 and 206(d) of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 306. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote economic stabilization and growth (Sec. 206 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 307. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for America's veterans and wounded servicemembers (Sec. 207 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 308. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for judicial pay and judgeships, postal retiree assistance, and certain pension obligations (Secs. 208 and 230 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 309. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for defense acquisition and Federal contracting reform (Secs. 209, 223, 232 and 301(c)(2)(E) of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 310. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for investments in our Nation's counties and

schools (Sec. 210 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 311. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the Food and Drug Administration (Sec. 211 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 312. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for a comprehensive investigation into the current financial crisis (Sec. 214 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 313. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for increased transparency at the Federal Reserve (Sec. 215 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 314. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for 21st Century community learning centers (Sec. 228 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 315. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for provision of critical resources to firefighters and fire departments (Sec. 231 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 316. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote tax equity for States without personal income taxes, and other selected tax relief policies (combines Sec. 238 and provisions from Sec. 206 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 317. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to promote individual savings and financial security (Sec. 242 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 318. Deficit-neutral reserve fund to increase FDIC and NCUA borrowing authority (Sec. 249 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 319. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for improving the well-being of children (Secs. 216, 227 and 235 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified, and Sec. 311 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 320. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for a 9/11 health program (Sec. 306 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Subtitle B: House reserve funds

Subtitle B of the conference agreement contains the following reserve funds that apply only in the House:

Sec. 321. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for health care reform (Sec. 301 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 322. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for college access, affordability, and completion (Sec. 302 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 323. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for increasing energy independence (Sec. 303 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 324. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for America's veterans and wounded servicemembers (Sec. 304 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 325. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for certain tax relief (Sec. 305 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 326. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for a 9/11 health program (Sec. 306 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 327. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for child nutrition (Sec. 307 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 328. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for structural unemployment insurance reforms (Sec. 308 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 329. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for child support (Sec. 309 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 330. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (Sec. 310 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 331. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for home visiting (Sec. 311 of the House-passed resolution, as modified, and Sec. 227 of the Senate resolution, as modified)

Sec. 332. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for low-income home energy assistance program trigger (Sec. 312 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 333. Deficit-neutral reserve fund for county payments legislation (Sec. 210 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 334. Reserve fund for the surface transportation reauthorization (Sec. 313 of the House-passed resolution)

Each House reserve fund references the time periods in clause 10 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. This citation references the House pay-as-you-go rule, as opposed to specific years. As long as the legislation described in the reserve fund complies with the House pay-as-you-go rule, the chairman may make the applicable adjustment.

The House-passed budget resolution included current policy adjustments in Sections 314, 315, 316, and 317. The adjustments provided for in those reserve funds are addressed in the conference agreement in the budget process title under Section 421 (Adjustments for Direct Spending and Revenues).

BUDGET PROCESS

The Senate and the House use enforcement provisions to ensure that legislation is consistent with the budget plan set forth in the budget resolution. The conference agreement contains enforcement provisions for the Senate and House to accommodate the procedures that apply to consideration of legislation in each chamber.

Senate-passed Resolution

The FY2008 and FY2009 budget resolutions included many important enforcement provisions which remain in effect in the Senate. These include:

2008 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 21)

The Senate pay-as-you-go point of order (Sec. 201);

The 60-vote point of order against reconciliation increasing the deficit (Sec 202); and

Continued 60-vote enforcement of budgetary points of order in the Senate (Sec. 205).

2009 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 70)

The 60-vote point of order against legislation increasing long-term deficits (Sec. 311); and

The 60-vote point of order against provisions of appropriations legislation that constitute changes in mandatory programs (Sec. 314).

The Senate-passed resolution for 2010, S. Con. Res. 13, continues the strong budget enforcement practices of the last two budget resolutions with the following modifications.

Subtitle A—Budget Enforcement

Sec. 301. Discretionary spending caps

The Senate-passed resolution would strengthen fiscal responsibility by establishing discretionary spending limits for 2009 and 2010, and enforcing them with a point of order in the Senate that could only be waived with 60 votes. For 2009, it provides a cap of $1,391.5 billion in budget authority and $1,220.8 billion in outlays. For 2010, it sets a cap of $1,079.1 billion in budget authority and $1,268.1 billion in outlays. As in past years, the Senate-passed resolution permits adjustments to the discretionary spending limits in 2010 for program integrity initiatives, such as Social Security Administration continuing disability reviews (CDRs) and Supplemental Security Income redeterminations, enhanced Internal Revenue Service tax enforcement to address the tax gap, appropriations for Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC) program at the Department of Health and Human Services, and unemployment insurance improper payments reviews at the Department of Labor. It also provides for adjustments in 2010 for expenses related to overseas contingency operations.

The Senate-passed resolution also includes a program integrity cap adjustment dedicated to reducing waste in defense contracting by recovering overpayments to defense contractors, reducing wasteful spending that undermines our ability to purchase equipment needed for U.S. troops and combating fraud. It allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to increase the discretionary spending cap by up to $100 million to accommodate legislation appropriating funding for the Department of Defense for additional activities to reduce waste, fraud, abuse and overpayments in defense contracting or to enhance the capability of the defense acquisition or contracting workforce to save taxpayer resources.

The Senate-passed resolution permits the Chairman to adjust the discretionary spending limits, budget aggregates, and allocations, if the CBO re-estimates the President's 2010 request for discretionary spending at an aggregate level different from the CBO preliminary estimate dated March 20, 2009.

Sec. 302. Advance appropriations

As in past years, the Senate-passed resolution provides a supermajority point of order in the Senate against appropriations in 2010 bills that would first become effective in any year after 2010, and against appropriations in 2011 bills that would first become effective in any year after 2011. It does not apply against appropriations for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting or Department of Veterans Affairs for the Medical Services, Medical Administration, Medical Facilities, and Medical and Prosthetic Research accounts of the Veterans Health Administration, nor does it apply against changes in mandatory programs or deferrals of mandatory budget authority from one year to the next. There is an exemption for each of 2010 and 2011 of up to $28.852 billion (the same level as provided for in the 2009 Budget Resolution) for the following:

ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SENATE

Labor, HHS:

Employment and Training Administration

Job Corps

Education for the Disadvantaged

School Improvement

Children and Family Services (Head Start)

Special Education

Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Financial Services and General Government: Payment to Postal Service

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development: Tenant-based Rental Assistance Project-based Rental Assistance

Sec. 303. Emergency legislation

The Senate-passed resolution makes technical changes in the emergency legislation designation to provide consistent treatment for emergency legislation with respect to enforcement of various points of order and revisions pursuant to deficit-neutral reserve funds.

Sec. 304. Point of order against legislation increasing short-term deficit

The Senate-passed resolution updates the expiration date in the point of order against legislation that increases the short-term deficit.

Sec. 305 Point of order against appropriations legislation that includes provisions affecting the crime victims fund

The Senate-passed resolution includes a new 60-vote point of order that applies to appropriations legislation containing one or more provisions that constitute a change in a mandatory program that affects the Crime Victims Fund, section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

Sec. 306. Point of order against increasing revenues beyond the levels set in the budget resolution through a widespread tax increase on taxpayers with incomes below $200,000 or married couples with incomes below $250,000

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would cause revenues to exceed the levels set in the budget resolution and include a tax increase that would have widespread applicability on taxpayers with incomes below $200,000 or married couples with incomes below $250,000. The point of order could be waived with 60 votes.

Sec. 307. Point of order against increasing certain federal income tax rates

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would increase certain federal tax rates. The point of order could be waived with 60 votes.

Sec. 308. Point of order against legislation increasing energy taxes on middle-income taxpayers

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would increase energy taxes on middle-income taxpayers. The point of order could be waived with 60 votes.

Sec. 309. Point of order against legislation imposing a marriage tax penalty

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would result in a greater Federal income tax liability for taxpayers filing a joint return than if such taxpayers were unmarried and had filed individual tax returns. The point of order could be waived with 60 votes.

Sec. 310. Point of order against legislation causing revenues to increase above the levels set in the budget resolution

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would cause revenues to be more than the level of revenues established in the budget resolution. The point of order could be waived with 60 votes.

Sec. 311. Point of order against increasing taxes while unemployment rate is above 5.8 percent

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against considering legislation that would increase taxes if the unemployment rate exceeds 5.8 percent. The point of order could be waived with 60 votes.

Sec. 312. Point of order against legislation that causes significant job loss

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would cause revenues to be more than the level of revenues set forth for the applicable years in the resolution or would cause significant job loss in manufacturing or coal dependent regions of the United States.

Sec. 313. Point of order against legislation that would permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover from a private health insurer of a disabled veteran amounts paid for treatment of such disability

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover from a private health insurer of a disabled veteran amounts paid for treatment of such disability.

Sec. 314. Point of order against legislation weakening terrorism laws

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that would weaken or eliminate anti-terrorism tools or investigative methods.

Sec. 315. Restrictions on unfunded mandates on state and local governments

This section of the Senate-passed resolution increases from a simple majority to three-fifths of all members duly sworn and chosen the number of Senators necessary to waive a point of order under section 424(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act.

Sec. 316. Point of order on legislation that eliminates the ability of Americans to keep their health plan or their choice of doctor

The Senate-passed resolution includes a point of order in the Senate against legislation that eliminates the ability of Americans to keep their health plan or their choice of doctor as determined by the Congressional Budget Office. The point of order could be waived with 60 votes.

Subtitle B—Other Provisions

Sec. 321. Oversight of government performance

The Senate-passed resolution continues the provision instructing Committees of the Senate to review programs within their jurisdiction to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in program spending, giving particular scrutiny to issues raised by Government Accountability Office reports, and include recommendations for improved governmental performance in their annual views and estimates reports required under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to the Senate Committee on the Budget.

Sec. 322. Budgetary treatment of certain discretionary administrative expenses

The Senate-passed resolution continues the provision requiring that all budget resolutions include the Administrative Expenses of the Social Security Administration and of the Postal Service in the 302(a) allocations of the Appropriations Committee.

Sec. 323. Application and effect of changes in allocations and aggregates

The Senate-passed resolution details the adjustment procedures required to accommodate legislation provided for in this resolution, and requires adjustments made to be printed in the Congressional Record. For purposes of enforcement, the levels resulting from adjustments made pursuant to this resolution will have the same effect as if adopted in the levels of Title I of this resolution. The Committee on the Budget determines the budgetary levels and estimates required to enforce budgetary points of order, including those pursuant to this resolution and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Sec. 324. Adjustments to reflect changes in concepts and definitions

The Senate-passed resolution allows the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust levels in this resolution upon the enactment of legislation that changes concepts or definitions.

Secs. 325 and 326. Debt disclosure

These sections reflect an amendment adopted in the Committee on the Budget regarding the levels of debt assumed in the budget resolution and to require budget resolutions to contain a debt disclosure section.

Sec. 327. Exercise of rulemaking powers

This section of the Senate-passed resolution recognizes that the provisions of this resolution are adopted pursuant to the rulemaking power of the Senate, and also recognizes the Constitutional right of the Senate to change those rules as they apply to the Senate.

House-passed Resolution

Sec. 401. Adjustments for Direct Spending and Revenues

After the House has acted upon a measure to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, or when a bill listed in a current policy reserve fund includes provisions to impose statutory pay-as-you-go requirements, subsection (a) of this section of the House resolution directs the chairman of the Budget Committee to make current policy adjustments to the baseline before evaluating the costs of certain measures for compliance with House budget rules and procedures. The adjustments may be made only for the purposes and in the amounts provided in a current policy reserve fund. Four current policy reserve funds appear in title III of the House resolution as sections 314, 315, 316, and 317.

Subsection (b) allows the chairman of the House Budget Committee to adjust the 302(a) allocation to the Appropriations Committee if changes to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (reflected in the House resolution's mandatory spending totals) are not funded in an authorization bill and are included instead in an appropriations measure.

Subsection (c) updates and reinstates a provision of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990. The chairman of the House Budget Committee is directed to exempt from the calculation of the cost of any measure any budgetary effects of legislative provisions that affect the full funding of the federal deposit insurance guarantee.

Sec. 402. Adjustments to Discretionary Spending Limits

Section 402 of the House resolution provides for specific allocation adjustments for the Committee on Appropriations when the Committee reports legislation that includes increased appropriations for the following program integrity initiatives: (1) program integrity initiatives at the Social Security Administration; (2) Internal Revenue Service tax compliance; (3) the health care fraud and abuse control program at the Department of Health and Human Services; and (4) unemployment insurance in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments and improper payment reviews. In addition, a new program integrity adjustment has been added this year to create the Partnership Fund for Program Integrity at the Office of Management and Budget for program integrity pilot initiatives across federal agencies. This adjustment is intended to develop new ideas to promote administrative efficiency gains and reductions in erroneous payments.

The adjustments under this section are primarily intended to provide additional administrative funding for current program integrity activities to eliminate errors or fraud in the operation of a number of federal programs and to promote compliance with federal tax laws. For example, the adjustment for unemployment compensation programs is provided to increase limited administrative funding for current program integrity activities, and not to finance other proposals that would adversely affect workers who have received unemployment benefits. The section outlines procedures for these allocation adjustments.

This section also incorporates a procedure whereby provisions or measures reported by the Committee on Appropriations will be exempt in certain circumstances from compliance with titles III and IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and the budget resolution. Such an exemption applies if: (1) the Committee on Appropriations determines and designates that amounts appropriated are necessary for overseas deployments and related activities; or (2) the Committee on Appropriations provides discretionary appropriations and designates those amounts as necessary to meet emergency needs.

Sec. 403. Advance Appropriations

Section 403 of the House resolution limits the amount and type of advance appropriations for fiscal years 2011 and 2012. Under this

section, advance appropriations for fiscal year 2011 are restricted to $28.852 billion for the programs, projects, activities, or accounts listed below. Advances for 2012 are listed separately. The section defines advance appropriations as any new discretionary budget authority provided in a bill or joint resolution making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2010 that first becomes available for any fiscal year after 2010.

Advance Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011:

Employment and Training Administration
Office of Job Corps
Education for the Disadvantaged
School Improvement Programs
Special Education
Career, Technical and Adult Education
Payment to Postal Service
Tenant-based Rental Assistance
Project-based Rental Assistance

Advance Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012:

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Sec. 404. Oversight of Government Performance

Section 404 of the House resolution encourages all committees of the House to conduct rigorous oversight hearings to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in federal programs, with particular attention to issues raised by the Office of the Inspector General or the Government Accountability Office. Based on these oversight efforts, such recommendations should be included in the views and estimates reports submitted to the Budget Committee under section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act on 1974.

Sec. 405. Budgetary Treatment of Certain Discretionary Administrative Expenses

Section 405 of the House resolution provides that administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration and of the Postal Service shall be part of the annual appropriations process by including those expenses in the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act.

Sec. 406. Application and Effect of Changes in Allocations and Aggregates

Section 406 of the House resolution details the allocation and aggregate adjustment procedures that are required to accommodate legislation for the reserve funds and program integrity initiatives in the House resolution. This section provides that the adjustments shall apply while the legislation is under consideration and take effect upon enactment of the legislation. In addition, the section requires the adjustments to be printed in the Congressional Record.

The section also notes that, for purposes of enforcement, aggregate and allocation levels resulting from adjustments made pursuant to the House resolution will have the same effect as if adopted in the original levels of Title I of this budget resolution. This section also provides that the Committee on the Budget shall determine the budgetary levels and estimates which are required to enforce points of order under the Congressional Budget Act.

Sec. 407. Adjustments to Reflect Changes in Concepts and Definitions

Section 407 of the House resolution requires the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust levels and allocations in the budget resolution upon enactment of legislation that changes concepts or definitions.

Sec. 408. Exercise of Rulemaking Powers

Section 408 of the House resolution provides that, once adopted, the provisions of the budget resolution are incorporated into the rules of the House of Representatives and shall supersede inconsistent rules. The section recognizes the constitutional right of the House of Representatives to change those rules at any time.

Conference Agreement

Title IV contains the following budget process and enforcement provisions:

Subtitle A—Senate Provisions

The FY2008 and FY2009 budget resolutions included many important enforcement provisions which remain in effect in the Senate. These include:

2008 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 21)

The Senate pay-as-you-go point of order (Sec. 201);

The 60-vote point of order against reconciliation increasing the deficit (Sec 202); and

Continued 60-vote enforcement of budgetary points of order in the Senate (Sec. 205).

2009 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 70)

The 60-vote point of order against legislation increasing long-term deficits (Sec. 311); and

The 60-vote point of order against provisions of appropriations legislation that constitute changes in mandatory programs (Sec. 314).

Part I—Budget Enforcement

Sec. 401. Discretionary spending limits, program integrity initiatives, and other adjustments (Sec. 301 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 402. Point of order against advance appropriations (Sec. 302 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

ACCOUNTS IDENTIFIED FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SENATE

Labor, HHS:

Employment and Training Administration

Job Corps

Education for the Disadvantaged

School Improvement

Children and Family Services (Head Start)

Special Education

Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Financial Services and General Government: Payment to Postal Service

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development: Tenant-based Rental Assistance, Project-based Rental Assistance

Sec. 403. Emergency legislation (Sec. 303 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 404. Point of order against legislation increasing short-term deficit (Sec. 304 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 405. Point of order against certain legislation related to surface transportation funding

Part II—Other Provisions

Sec. 411. Oversight of Government performance (Sec. 321 of the Senate-passed resolution)

To support the President's commitment to eliminate ineffective or duplicative federal programs, the Senate adopted amendments to set standards to identify failing federal programs and to review inefficient programs. This section retains the requirement of the Senate-passed resolution requiring that committees of the Senate review programs to root out waste, fraud, and abuse, giving particular scrutiny to issues raised by Government Accountability Office reports.

Sec. 412. Budgetary treatment of certain discretionary administrative expenses (Sec. 322 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 413. Application and effect of changes in allocations and aggregates (Sec. 323 of the Senate-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 414. Adjustments to reflect changes in concepts and definitions (Sec. 324 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Sec. 415. Exercise of rulemaking powers (Sec. 302 of the Senate-passed resolution)

Subtitle B—House Enforcement Provisions

Sec. 421. Adjustments for direct spending and revenues—

Sec. 421(a).—Adjustments for current policy

This subsection provides that after the House has adopted a measure to impose statutory paygo requirements (or if such measure is included as part of the legislation under consideration), the Chairman of the House Budget Committee may make current policy adjustments to the baseline before evaluating the costs of certain measures for compliance with House budget rules and procedures. The adjustments may only be made for the purposes and in the amounts provided in paragraph (a)(2). This subsection, as revised, replaces sections 314, 315, 316 and 317 of the House-passed resolution. Subsection (a)(4) allows the chairman of the House Budget Committee to adjust the 302(a) allocations and aggregates as may be necessary to reflect the current policy adjustments.

Sec. 421(b).—Deposit insurance (Sec. 401(c) of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 422. Adjustments to discretionary spending (Sec. 402 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 423. Costs of overseas deployments and emergency needs (Sec. 402(b) of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 424. Point of order against advance appropriations (Sec. 403 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Accounts identified for advance appropriations in the House:

Sec. 424(b)(1) Advance Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011:

Employment and Training Administration
Office of Job Corps
Education for the Disadvantaged
School Improvement Programs
Special Education
Career, Technical and Adult Education
Payment to Postal Service
Tenant-based Rental Assistance
Project-based Rental Assistance

Sec. 424(b)(1) Advance Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012:

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Sec. 424(b)(2) Advance Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011:

VA—Medical Services
VA—Medical Support and Compliance
VA—Medical Facilities

Sec. 425. Oversight of Government Performance (Sec. 404 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 426. Budgetary Treatment of Certain Discretionary Administrative Expenses (Sec. 405 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 427. Application and Effects of Changes in Allocations and Aggregates (Sec. 406 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 428. Adjustments to Reflect Changes In Concepts and Definitions (Sec. 407 of the House-passed resolution)

Sec. 429. Exercise of Rulemaking Powers (Sec. 408 of the House-passed resolution)

POLICY

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate-passed resolution did not contain a policy statement title.

House-passed Resolution

Title V of the House-passed resolution contains the following policy sections:

Sec. 501. Policy on middle-class tax relief and revenues

Sec. 502. Policy on defense priorities

Conference Agreement

Title V of the conference agreement contains the following policy sections, which apply to both Houses:

Sec. 501. Policy on middle-class tax relief and revenues (Sec. 501 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 502. Policy on defense priorities (Sec. 502 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

SENSE OF THE SENATE, HOUSE AND CONGRESS

Senate-passed Resolution

The Senate resolution did not contain a sense of the Senate title.

House-passed Resolution

Title VI of the House-passed resolution contains the following Sense of the House sections:

Sec. 601. Sense of the House on veterans' and servicemembers' health care

Sec. 602. Sense of the House on homeland security

Sec. 603. Sense of the House on promoting American innovation and economic competitiveness

Sec. 604. Sense of the House regarding pay parity

Sec. 605. Sense of the House on college affordability

Sec. 606. Sense of the House on Great Lakes restoration

Sec. 607. Sense of the House regarding the importance of child support enforcement

Conference Agreement

Title VI of the conference agreement contains the following Sense of Congress provisions:

Sec. 601. Sense of the Congress on veterans' and servicemembers' health care (Sec. 601 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 602. Sense of the Congress on homeland security (Sec. 602 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 603. Sense of the Congress on promoting American innovation and economic competitiveness (Sec. 603 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 604. Sense of the Congress regarding pay parity (Sec. 604 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 605. Sense of the Congress on college affordability and student loan reform (Sec. 605 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 606. Sense of the Congress on Great Lakes restoration (Sec. 606 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

Sec. 607. Sense of the Congress regarding the importance of child support enforcement (Sec. 607 of the House-passed resolution, as modified)

ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

Section 301(g)(2) of the Congressional Budget Act requires that the joint explanatory statement accompanying a conference report on a budget resolution set forth the common economic assumptions upon which the joint statement and conference report are based. The conference agreement is built upon the economic forecasts developed by the Congressional Budget Office, as updated in March 2009 to include the forecasted economic effects of the fiscal stimulus package.

Senate-passed Resolution

CBO's economic assumptions were used.

House-passed Resolution

CBO's economic assumptions were used.

Conference Agreement

CBO's economic assumptions were used.

ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS OF THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

[Calendar Years]

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Real GDP, Percent Change, Year Over Year	−3.0	2.9	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.5
GDP Price Index, Percent Change, Year Over Year	1.5	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9
Consumer Prices, Percent Change, Year Over Year	−0.7	1.4	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.2
Unemployment Rate, Percent, Yearly Average	8.8	9.0	7.7	6.6	5.7	5.1
3-Month Treasury Bill Rate, Percent, Yearly Average	0.3	0.9	1.8	3.0	3.9	4.4
10-Year Treasury Bond Rate, Percent, Yearly Average	2.9	3.4	4.0	4.6	5.0	5.3

ALLOCATIONS

As required in section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act, the joint statement of managers includes an allocation, based on the conference agreement, of total budget authority and total budget outlays among each of the appropriate committees. The allocations are as follows:

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT
TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT
BUDGET YEAR 2009
(in millions of dollars)

	Direct Spending Legislation		Entitlements Funded In Annual Appropriations Acts	
Committee	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Appropriations				
General Purpose Discretionary	1,391,471	1,220,843		
Memo: on-budget	1,385,922	1,215,645		
off-budget	5,549	5,198		
Mandatory	670,696	658,189		
Total	2,062,167	1,879,032		
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	16,564	14,660	90,027	77,833
Armed Services	125,643	126,493	105	121
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	688,581	660,785	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	13,990	10,450	1,235	1,236
Energy and Natural Resources	4,618	4,817	576	577
Environment and Public Works	29,400	2,017	0	0
Finance	1,178,757	1,166,970	506,309	506,332
Foreign Relations	23,477	22,222	149	149
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	91,166	89,297	10,425	10,425
Judiciary	7,986	8,076	639	664
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	-22,436	-19,058	13,014	12,961
Rules and Administration	69	21	126	126
Intelligence	0	0	279	279
Veterans' Affairs	952	1,041	47,812	47,486
Indian Affairs	528	532	0	0
Small Business	1,211	1,211	0	0
Unassigned to Committee	-639,092	-633,033	0	0
TOTAL	3,583,581	3,335,533	670,696	658,189

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT
TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT
BUDGET YEAR 2010
(in millions of dollars)

	Direct Spending Legislation		Entitlements Funded In Annual Appropriations Acts	
Committee	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Appropriations				
General Purpose Discretionary	1,082,250	1,269,471		
Memo: on-budget	1,075,916	1,263,275		
off-budget	6,334	6,196		
Mandatory	730,253	719,740		
Total	1,812,503	1,989,211		
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	16,023	15,281	100,179	89,627
Armed Services	135,650	135,706	107	108
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	56,363	74,321	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	14,554	10,024	1,262	1,259
Energy and Natural Resources	5,026	4,887	442	443
Environment and Public Works	42,543	2,381	0	0
Finance	1,231,628	1,232,134	550,657	550,930
Foreign Relations	21,299	22,956	142	142
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	93,837	91,927	10,327	10,327
Judiciary	10,472	8,504	653	688
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	4,487	1,526	13,779	13,719
Rules and Administration	68	18	130	130
Intelligence	0	0	291	291
Veterans' Affairs	1,184	1,284	52,284	52,076
Indian Affairs	572	549	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0
Unassigned to Committee	-695,170	-690,103	0	0
TOTAL	2,751,039	2,900,606	730,253	719,740

SENATE COMMITTEE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS PURSUANT
TO SECTION 302 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT
5-YEAR: 2010-2014
(in millions of dollars)

	Direct Spending Legislation		Entitlements Funded In Annual	
Committee	Budget Authority	Outlays	Budget Authority	Outlays
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry	77,179	75,315	508,359	452,415
Armed Services	710,328	710,249	460	461
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs	135,688	99,696	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation	75,279	49,626	6,704	6,678
Energy and Natural Resources	27,251	27,457	1,470	1,471
Environment and Public Works	215,367	13,714	0	0
Finance	6,851,258	6,850,666	2,930,150	2,930,537
Foreign Relations	94,573	105,029	632	632
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs	491,185	478,570	50,451	50,451
Judiciary	42,641	42,826	3,381	3,482
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	50,349	44,474	76,790	76,621
Rules and Administration	340	344	681	681
Intelligence	0	0	1,498	1,498
Veterans' Affairs	5,433	6,176	273,064	271,690
Indian Affairs	2,469	2,441	0	0
Small Business	0	0	0	0

Allocation of Spending Authority to House Committee on Appropriations
(In millions of dollars)

		2009 1/	2010
Discretionary Action	BA	1,391,471	1,082,540
	OT	1,220,843	1,269,745
Current Law Mandatory	BA	670,595	725,056
	OT	658,123	715,684

1/ Revision to amounts included in S. Con. Res. 70. Includes emergencies incorporated in the Congressional Budget Office March baseline.

ALLOCATIONS OF SPENDING AUTHORITY
TO HOUSE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS
(In millions of dollars)

	2009 1/	2010	Total 2010-2014
Committee on Agriculture			
Current Law			
BA	16,709	16,183	63,406
OT	14,831	15,455	64,273
Reauthorizations			
BA	1	1	138,284
OT	1	1	135,903
Total			
BA	16,710	16,184	201,690
OT	14,832	15,456	200,176
Committee on Armed Services			
Current Law			
BA	125,663	135,653	710,343
OT	126,514	135,710	710,265
Resolution Change			
BA	0	0	0
OT	0	0	0
Total			
BA	125,663	135,653	710,343
OT	126,514	135,710	710,265
Committee on Education and Labor			
Current Law			
BA	-20,683	-454	25,648
OT	-17,727	-3,516	19,608
Reauthorizations			
BA	101	3,648	18,664
OT	66	2,513	17,190
Resolution Change			
BA	0	0	-1,000
OT	0	0	-1,000
Total			
BA	-20,582	3,194	43,312
OT	-17,661	-1,003	35,798
Committee on Energy and Commerce			
Current Law			
BA	279,426	286,402	1,643,660
OT	273,475	285,467	1,637,420
Reauthorizations			
BA	0	0	5,720
OT	0	0	8,566
Total			
BA	279,426	286,402	1,649,380
OT	273,475	285,467	1,645,986

ALLOCATIONS OF SPENDING AUTHORITY
TO HOUSE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS
(In millions of dollars)

	2009 1/	2010	Total 2010-2014
Committee on Financial Services			
Current Law			
BA	684,785	47,983	93,841
OT	666,250	75,202	104,154
Committee on Foreign Affairs			
Current Law			
BA	23,477	21,299	94,573
OT	22,222	22,956	105,029
Committee on Homeland Security			
Current Law			
BA	1,535	1,585	8,465
OT	1,582	1,591	8,548
Committee on House Administration			
Current Law			
BA	69	68	340
OT	21	18	344
Committee on the Judiciary			
Current Law			
BA	6,929	9,375	36,556
OT	7,021	7,412	36,768
Committee on Natural Resources			
Current Law			
BA	5,362	5,899	31,419
OT	4,879	5,700	31,479
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform			
Current Law			
BA	90,002	92,711	485,602
OT	88,170	90,771	472,924
Committee on Science and Technology			
Current Law			
BA	126	126	630
OT	119	139	658
Committee on Small Business			
Current Law			
BA	1,211	0	0
OT	1,211	0	0

ALLOCATIONS OF SPENDING AUTHORITY
TO HOUSE COMMITTEES OTHER THAN APPROPRIATIONS
(In millions of dollars)

	2009 1/	2010	Total 2010-2014
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure			
Current Law			
BA	53,534	14,192	74,384
OT	14,057	14,649	76,644
Reauthorizations			
BA	1,950	42,083	210,415
OT	0	173	2,365
Resolution Change			
BA	0	13,085	68,669
OT	0	0	0
Total			
BA	55,484	69,360	353,468
OT	14,057	14,822	79,009
Committee on Veterans Affairs			
Current Law			
BA	952	1,184	5,433
OT	1,041	1,284	6,176
Reauthorizations			
BA	0	1,549	11,092
OT	0	1,543	10,908
Total			
BA	952	2,733	16,525
OT	1,041	2,827	17,084
Committee on Ways and Means			
Current Law			
BA	900,451	938,463	4,999,413
OT	896,860	940,618	5,008,958
Reauthorizations			
BA	0	25	83,520
OT	0	25	76,818
Resolution Change			
BA	0	6,840	37,000
OT	0	6,840	37,000
Total			
BA	900,451	945,328	5,119,933
OT	896,860	947,483	5,122,776

1/ Revision to amounts for 2009 included in S.Con.Res. 70.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE REFLECTING LEVELS FOR THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

Period of the current fiscal year, the budget year, and the four fiscal years following the budget year: $0.

Period of the current fiscal year, the budget year, and the nine fiscal years following the budget year: $0.

RULE XXVIII OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The adoption of this conference agreement by the two houses would result in the engrossment of a House joint resolution changing the statutory limit on the public debt pursuant to clause 3 of rule XXVIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The rule requires a joint resolution in the following form:

''*Resolved,* by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, that subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking out the dollar limitation contained in such subsection and inserting in lieu thereof $13,029,000,000,000.''

Legislative jurisdiction over the public debt remains with the Finance Committee in the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means in the House.

JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,
ROSA L. DELAURO,
ALLEN BOYD,
Managers on the Part of the House.

KENT CONRAD,
PATTY MURRAY,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and April 28.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of weather-related travel problems.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. BURGESS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending the Energy Efficiency Global Forum and Exposition.

Mr. DREIER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of meetings in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. KAPTUR) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, May 4.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, April 28, 29 and 30.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today and April 28.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, May 4.

Mr. GOODLATTE, for 5 minutes, April 28 and 29.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today and May 4.

Ms. JENKINS, for 5 minutes, April 28.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill and a joint resolution of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 39. An act to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531, commonly known as the ''Bennett Freeze''.

S.J. Res. 8. Providing for the appointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1376. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2166(i); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1377. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's 2009 compensation plan, as required by section 1206 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1378. A letter from the Chairperson, National Council on Disability, transmitting the Council's annual report assessing the status of the nation in achieving policies that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities and that empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society, pursuant to Section 401(b) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

1379. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Certain Consumer Products (Dishwashers, Dehumidifiers, Microwave Ovens, and Electric and Gas Kitchen Ranges and Ovens) and for Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment (Commercial Clothes Washers) [Docket Number: EERE-2006-STD-0127] (RIN: 1904-AB49) received April 8, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1380. A letter from the Regulation Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicaid Program; Premiums and Cost Sharing [CMS-2244-F3] (RIN: 0938-A047) received March 31, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1381. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Average Fuel Economy Standards Passenger Cars and Light Trucks Model Year 2011 [Docket No.: NHTSA-2009-0062] (RIN: 2127-AK29) received April 3, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1382. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [PA200-4202; FRL-8774-8] received March 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1383. A letter from the General Counsel, FERC, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Standards for Business Practices for Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines [Docket No.: RM96-1-029; Order No. 587-T] received March 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1384. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commision, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules and Regulations Under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act — received March 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1385. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to Canada (Transmittal No. DDTC 025-09), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1386. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles to Malaysia (Transmittal No. DDTC 130-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1387. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense articles or defense services to Greece (Transmittal No. DDTC 153-08), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 39, 36(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1388. A letter from the Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report for fiscal year 2008 on foreign military sales and direct sales to foreign entities of signigicant military equipment manufactured in the United States during the preceding calendar year, pursuant to Public Law 109-364, section 1231; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1389. A letter from the Deputy U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (Acting) & Chief of Staff, Department of State, transmitting a certification related to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, pursuant to Section 625 of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1390. A letter from the Acting President & CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2008 Annual Report; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1391. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's statement regarding the Office of Personnel Management regarding the Office of Personnel Management ''Disciplinary Best Practices and Advisory Guidelines'' in accordance with the requirements of Pub. L. 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1392. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's report for fiscal year 2008 on the amount of acquisitions made from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States, pursuant to Section 641 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1393. A letter from the Director EEO and Diversity Programs, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's Annual Report on the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 for Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1394. A letter from the Acting Director Equal Employment Opportunity, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting notification the the National Endowment for the Humanities is in compliance with the No FEAR Act for fiscal year 2008 and that there were no incidents of discrimination reported; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1395. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's report on the amount of acquisitions made annually from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States for fiscal year 2008, pursuant to Public Law 108-447, section 641; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1396. A letter from the Executive Director, United States Access Board, transmitting notification that the Board is in compliance with the requirements of section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1397. A letter from the Project Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Salvage and Marine Firefighting Requirements; Vessel Response Plans for Oil [Docket No.: USCG-1998-3417] (RIN: 1625-AA19 (Formerly RIN: 2115-AF60)) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1398. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30647 Amdt. No 3304] received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1399. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, and -900 series airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1199; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-207-AD; Amendment 39-15781; AD 2008-24-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1400. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gippsland Aeronautics Pty. Ltd. Model GA8 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0155; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-007-AD; Amendment 39-15825; AD 2009-05-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1401. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-500 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0150; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-010-AD; Amendment 39-15830; AD 2009-05-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1402. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30651 Amdt. No 3308] received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1403. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30652 Amdt. No 3309] received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1404. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Roanoke Rapids, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1334; Airspace Docket No. 08-ASO-21] received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1405. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30650; Amdt. No. 3307] received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1406. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30649 Amdt. No 3306] received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1407. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30648; Amdt. No. 3305] received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1408. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0671; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-017-AD; Amendment 39-15796; AD 2009-02-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1409. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1318; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-155-AD; Amendment 39-15848; AD 2009-06-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1410. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Models 208 and 208B Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1319; Directorate Identifier 2008-CE-071-AD; Amendment 39-15836; AD 2009-05-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1411. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 Airplanes, and Model A340-200 and A340-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0980; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-008-AD; Amendment 39-15834; AD 2009-05-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1412. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Models PC-12, PC-12/45, PC-12/47, and PC-12/47E Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0189; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-011-AD; Amendment 39-15831; AD 2009-05-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1413. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Trimble or FreeFlight System 2101 I/O Approach Plus Global Positioning System (GPS) Navigation Systems [Docket No.: FAA-2007-28689; Directorate Identifier 2006-SW-17-AD; Amendment 39-15832; AD 2009-05-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1414. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model EC 155B and EC155B1 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0195; Directorate Identifier 2007-SW-34-AD; Amendment 39-15837; AD 2009-06-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1415. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. Model 412, 412CF, and 412EP Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0169; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-42-AD; Amendment 39-15833; AD 2009-05-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1416. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Model AB139 and AW139 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0170; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-45-AD; Amendment 39-15843; AD 2009-06-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1417. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Model DHC-7

Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1330; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-138-AD; Amendment 39-15839; AD 2009-06-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1418. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.27 Mark 050 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0214; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-343-AD; Amendment 39-15851; AD 2009-06-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1419. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A321-131 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0215; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-278-AD; Amendment 39-15850; AD 2009-06-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1420. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Model PC-12/47E Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0146; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-009-AD; Amendment 39-15820; AD 2009-04-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1421. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 47th annual report of activities for fiscal year 2008, which ended September 30, 2008, pursuant to Section 103(e) of the Reorganization Plan No. 7 of 1961 and Section 208 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, as amended; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under the clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of Committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of April 22, 2009]

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 1679. A bill to provide for the replacement of lost income for employees of the House of Representatives who are members of a reserve component of the armed forces who are on active duty for a period of more than 30 days, and for other purposes (Rept. 111–85 Pt. 1).

[Submitted April 27, 2009]

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1913. A bill to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 111–86). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. McGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 365. Resolution Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 111–87). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 627. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–88). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SPRATT: Committee on Conference. Conference report on Senate Concurrent Resolution 13. Resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014 (Rept. 111–89). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[Omitted from the Record of April 22, 2009]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1679 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

[The following action occurred on April 24, 2009] Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on House Administration discharged from further consideration. H.R. 608 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H.R. 2100. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Mohave Valley, Mohave County, Arizona, administered by the Bureau of Land Management to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, for use as a public shooting range; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SKELTON (for himself, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORBES, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. MASSA):

H.R. 2101. A bill to promote reform and independence in the oversight of weapons system acquisition by the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MORAN of Virginia (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. PERRIELLO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. McCOLLUM, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HONDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MASSA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. DeGETTE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 2102. A bill to establish the United States Public Service Academy; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. McCOLLUM (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. FILNER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. FARR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. McNERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 2103. A bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 2104. A bill to require public employees to perform the inspection of State and local surface transportation projects, and related essential public functions, to ensure public safety, the cost-effective use of transportation funding, and timely project delivery; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. WAMP):

H.R. 2105. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. WAMP):

H.R. 2106. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand workplace health incentives by equalizing the tax consequences of employee athletic facility use; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 2107. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a public education campaign on umbilical cord blood stem cells, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2108. A bill to protect home buyers from predatory lending practices; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. KILROY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SESTAK):

H.R. 2109. A bill to improve and enhance research and programs on childhood cancer survivorship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Ms. FOXX):

H.R. 2110. A bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. BRADY of Texas):

H.R. 2111. A bill to establish the Congressional Commission on Financial Accountability and Preparedness to examine and report upon the facts and causes relating to the breakdown in the financial and credit markets in 2008, and investigate and report to the Congress on its findings, conclusions, and recommendations for prosecution of criminal behavior; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Mr. LoBIONDO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, and Mr. LANCE):

H.R. 2112. A bill to establish a comprehensive interagency response to reduce lung cancer mortality in a timely manner; to the

Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, 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.

By Mr. HARE (for himself, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 2113. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to prescribe regulations requiring employers with more than one establishment and not fewer than 500 employees to report work-related deaths, injuries, and illnesses; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LEE of New York, and Mr. MASSA):

H.R. 2114. A bill to amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to include certain former nuclear weapons program workers in the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2115. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Men's Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. TANNER, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. BOYD, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SHULER, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BERRY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. BARROW, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. SPACE, Mr. NYE, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. BACA, Ms. HARMAN, and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 2116. A bill to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to extend the discretionary spending caps and the pay-as-you-go requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 2117. A bill to amend title II of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to establish financial literacy education programs for newly naturalized citizens of the United States; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MCCARTHY of California (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. JONES, Mr. LANCE, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey):

H.R. 2118. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to provide for more detailed repayment procedures for assistance received under the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCCARTHY of California (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. JONES, Mr. LANCE, Ms. JENKINS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. CASTLE):

H.R. 2119. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to require that repayments of assistance from the Troubled Asset Relief Program funds go to paying down the public debt; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MYRICK:

H.R. 2120. A bill to provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Science and Technology, and the Judiciary, 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.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 2121. A bill to provide for the transfer of certain Federal Property to the Galveston Historical Foundation; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PIERLUISI (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 2122. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for allocating the cover over of distilled spirits taxes between Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PLATTS (for himself and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 2123. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of and to commemorate the 1863 invasion of Pennsylvania, the Battle of Gettysburg and President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. POMEROY (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 2124. A bill to extend subsections (c) and (d) of section 114 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-173) to provide for regulatory stability during the development of facility and patient criteria for long-term care hospitals under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RAHALL (for himself, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. GERLACH):

H.R. 2125. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out programs and activities to improve highway safety; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. REHBERG:

H.R. 2126. A bill to provide for free mailing privileges for personal correspondence and parcels sent to members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SOUDER:

H.R. 2127. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the income eligibility and service-connected disability rating requirements for the veterans beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SOUDER (for himself and Mr. ELLSWORTH):

H.R. 2128. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require information on the value of any personal residence and on the balance, interest rate, and remaining number of years of any mortgage secured by real property to be included in the annual financial disclosure reports required to be filed under such Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Judiciary, 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.

By Mr. STUPAK (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HARE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HILL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SPACE, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. VISCLOSKY):

H.R. 2129. A bill to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 2130. A bill to establish programs to provide counseling to homebuyers regarding voluntary home inspections and to train counselors to provide such counseling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. WATSON (for herself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. HARE, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. BERKLEY, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan):

H.R. 2131. A bill to amend the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 to reauthorize the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. SABLAN):

H. Con. Res. 109. Concurrent resolution honoring the 20th anniversary of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in the Nation's Capital and its transition to the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure on June 6, 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H. Con. Res. 110. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Celiac Awareness Month, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KLEIN of Florida (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCMAHON, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. POE of Texas,

Mr. LANCE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. ROHRABACHER):

H. Res. 364. A resolution condemning all forms of anti-Semitism and reaffirming the support of Congress for the mandate of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. KIND, Mr. COBLE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. PETRI, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. SERRANO):

H. Res. 366. A resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the National Eye Institute (NEI) and expressing support for designation of 2010 through 2020 as the ''Decade of Vision''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (for herself, Mr. CASTLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H. Res. 367. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H. Res. 368. A resolution congratulating the University of Iowa Hawkeyes wrestling team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I National Wrestling Championships; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Ms. KILROY):

H. Res. 369. A resolution congratulating the Columbus Crew on winning the 2008 Major League Soccer Cup; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. KIRK, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HARE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MCMAHON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. KOSMAS, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia):

H. Res. 370. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 27, 2009, as ''National Healthy Schools Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 22: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MICA, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 23: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DREIER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SHULER, and Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 49: Mr. ROONEY.

H.R. 147: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 175: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 181: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 186: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 205: Ms. JENKINS.

H.R. 233: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 235: Mr. ARCURI, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. KILROY.

H.R. 270: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 303: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 347: Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. CAO.

H.R. 442: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 450: Mr. HERGER.

H.R. 481: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 560: Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 574: Mr. BERRY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 610: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 616: Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. WAMP, Mr. TANNER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 621: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. ORTIZ.

H.R. 622: Mr. PUTNAM.

H.R. 627: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. SIRES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. BOCCIERI.

H.R. 653: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 669: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 678: Mr. FARR, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H.R. 716: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 745: Mr. JONES, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 775: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 811: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 828: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 864: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.

H.R. 878: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 903: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 904: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 914: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 930: Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. KAGEN.

H.R. 935: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 943: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 949: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 950: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 958: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 988: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 997: Mr. CHILDERS.

H.R. 1016: Mr. KING of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 1017: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.

H.R. 1028: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1030: Mr. COBLE.

H.R. 1032: Ms. RICHARDSON and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 1053: Mr. MASSA.

H.R. 1054: Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 1067: Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1074: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 1079: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1091: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 1118: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1126: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 1142: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1147: Mr. COHEN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 1149: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1179: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1189: Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 1203: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1204: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1205: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1209: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WATT, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STARK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 1210: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 1240: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1283: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1285: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 1298: Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.

H.R. 1313: Mr. FORBES, Mr. WOLF, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 1326: Mr. BERMAN and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 1327: Mr. HARE, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. PUTNAM, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 1346: Mr. BARROW and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 1362: Mr. MCCARTHY of California and Mr. MITCHELL.

H.R. 1384: Mr. FLEMING and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1392: Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 1396: Mr. BURGESS and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1410: Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1422: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1427: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 1428: Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

H.R. 1433: Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 1434: Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 1454: Mr. HOLT, Mr. CLEAVER, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1457: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1460: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1479: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. LEE of New York.

H.R. 1483: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1519: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1521: Mr. CLAY, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 1523: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1547: Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. WAMP, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. CAO, Mr. HERGER, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 1548: Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 1551: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1552: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 1558: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1564: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 1570: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia and Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 1571: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 1585: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 1616: Mr. SIRES and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1619: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1622: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1633: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1642: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1646: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1668: Mr. BILBRAY.
H.R. 1670: Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 1671: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 1677: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 1678: Mr. FLEMING.
H.R. 1681: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 1691: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1704: Mr. KIRK, Mr. SESTAK, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1708: Mr. BOOZMAN and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1718: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.R. 1724: Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 1728: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 1741: Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 1742: Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 1751: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 1761: Mr. SCHAUER.
H.R. 1775: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1776: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1799: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 1835: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 1841: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 1844: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1845: Mr. NYE.
H.R. 1869: Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. WEINER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. PUTNAM.
H.R. 1903: Mr. AUSTRIA and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 1913: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. FARR, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. BACA, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1915: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1924: Mr. COLE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. POMEROY.
H.R. 1926: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1930: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1932: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1941: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 1956: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 1993: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2000: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2009: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. AKIN, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BONNER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
H.R. 2014: Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. MICA, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 2026: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 2036: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 2053: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 2060: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 2065: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 2067: Mr. SERRANO, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2076: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 2080: Mr. WELCH, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2083: Mr. SIMPSON and Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 2090: Mr. TONKO and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2094: Mr. FARR.
H.J. Res. 41: Mr. PLATTS.
H. Con. Res. 20: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H. Con. Res. 48: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H. Con. Res. 49: Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. DUNCAN.
H. Con. Res. 89: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H. Con. Res. 96: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. SESSIONS.
H. Con. Res. 99: Mr. SESTAK, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. GRAYSON.
H. Con. Res. 102: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Con. Res. 103: Mr. SNYDER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MASSA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Con. Res. 107: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 81: Mr. KIND.
H. Res. 174: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 185: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. INGLIS, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H. Res. 192: Mr. OLVER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. ORTIZ.
H. Res. 193: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H. Res. 204: Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. CASSIDY.
H. Res. 244: Mr. FORBES.
H. Res. 252: Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. MINNICK.
H. Res. 259: Mr. AKIN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SHUSTER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. JONES, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. BOYD, and Mr. FORBES.
H. Res. 260: Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. RUSH.
H. Res. 300: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HALL of New York, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. TONKO.
H. Res. 311: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. BEAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. HARE, Mr. DREIER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H. Res. 327: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. TONKO.
H. Res. 329: Ms. PINGREE of Maine and Mr. YARMUTH.
H. Res. 331: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H. Res. 337: Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 340: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H. Res. 344: Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 348: Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SKELTON, Mrs. EMERSON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BERRY, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, and Mr. SNYDER.
H. Res. 349: Mr. UPTON, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. LANCE, Mr. CASTLE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. COBLE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KING of New York.
H. Res. 350: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BACA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. ROONEY, and Mr. PALLONE.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H. Con. Res. 49: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009 No. 62

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Holy God who inhabits eternity, lead our lawmakers with Your might. Help them to not run ahead of You or ignore Your wisdom. Lord, restore their spirits with trust and hope and order their steps toward Your desired destination. Keep them calm in the quiet center of their lives so that they may be serene in life's swirling stresses. Fill them with the peace that comes from keeping their focus on You. Help them to listen to others as attentively as they want others to listen to them.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 27, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 4:20 today, with Senators to be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

We moved the vote to 5:20 for a couple of Senators. No one will miss the vote. We will act as if the vote started at 5:30 rather than 5:20.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act. At 5:20, there will be a vote on cloture in relation to that legislation. Under an agreement we reached on Thursday, if cloture is invoked all pending amendments will be disposed of and the vote on passage of the bill will occur at noon tomorrow. All pending amendments are not germane to the bill and therefore all fall under rule XXII, if cloture is invoked.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 895, S. 896

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading, I am told.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 895) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

A bill (S. 896) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings with respect to these bills, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

FRAUD ENFORCEMENT AND RECOVERY ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, every day brings more bad news for American homeowners. In Las Vegas alone, 1 in every 22 families received a foreclosure notice between January and March. That is seven times the national average. All across the country, the numbers have skyrocketed since the beginning of the year. As foreclosures menace more and more hard-working homeowners, they become more desperate for help. Unfortunately, schemers, swindlers, and scam artists are all too happy to pounce. Just today it was announced that the Justice Department charged five people in Maryland with orchestrating a massive and complex mortgage fraud scheme. The company cheated more than 1,000 people out of more than $70 million. There would be more of these cases filed if the authorities had more resources to do so.

This week, we are going to vote on the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act. This bill provides critical funding and new tools to let law enforcement prosecute and punish those responsible for the mortgage and corporate frauds that have hurt countless hard-working Americans and led to the worst financial crisis in decades. Passing this bill

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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will be a crucial step toward deterring the types of financial fraud and illegal manipulation of markets that are the root cause of the current economic crisis.

Law enforcement agencies charged with protecting the American people from financial fraud are chronically understaffed. These agencies are in desperate need of personnel to help them because these schemes, such as the one I mentioned in Maryland, are ones where people have to be involved. You just can't do this working out of some office. We need investigators, we need prosecutors, we need personnel with specialized knowledge who can investigate and prosecute complicated money-laundering schemes, mortgage fraud, and conspiracies to manipulate derivatives. The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act will give the FBI, the Department of Justice, and other Federal agencies the resources to hire the help they need to protect American investments. It will also close several legal loopholes that otherwise may allow individuals guilty of criminal conduct to evade prosecution. Individuals who have engaged in corruption or deliberate criminal behavior should not be able to escape punishment on a technicality.

This bill would update Federal fraud statutes to include mortgage lending businesses that are not directly regulated or insured by the Federal Government. Although these companies were responsible for nearly half of the residential mortgage market before the economic collapse, they have remained largely unregulated. It would also protect the funds provided under the economic recovery plan and the Troubled Asset Relief Program and swiftly punish anyone who would attempt to misuse this money.

Finally, this bill will strengthen the False Claims Act, one of the most important civil tools we have for rooting out fraud in Government. In the last few months, we have taken strong steps to steer the American economy toward recovery, but we must do more. We must ensure that the money we are spending to get our economy back on track is used in the manner in which we intended it.

The American people are depending on us to act quickly to ensure that those whose criminal behavior caused the current financial crisis are brought to justice and to ensure law enforcement has the tools and resources to deter such conduct in the future. We cannot allow con artists to cheat working families who play by the rules. We cannot allow them to deceive those who make an honest living. We cannot let them steal from people who seek nothing more than their fair share of the American dream.

I would like to spread across the record here what terrific work Senator LEAHY, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, has done—and members on his committee. This is important legislation. The wise nature of Senator LEAHY and his experience have allowed this bill to be reported out of that big committee, and it is going to pass tomorrow. I commend and applaud Senator LEAHY for his good work. It is something the country has badly needed. It is long overdue, but it is certainly ripe for passage now.

I urge my colleagues to support the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act and protect struggling homeowners at the time they need it the most.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, America faces many serious challenges, not only at home but abroad. I was reminded of that fact in a vivid way during my own recent trip to Iraq and to the broader Middle East. I was reminded of it as I followed, with great interest, the President's recent trips to Europe and South America as well as some of his recent decisions relating to the shape and spirit of U.S. foreign policy.

What these trips and decisions have shown many of us is that looking forward we would do well to reaffirm some basic foreign policy principles that have served America well in the past; namely, that our security and our prosperity rely on a strong national defense, both militarily and with regard to the gathering of intelligence, and that America must honor its commitments to allies and alliances. This afternoon, I would like to take a few moments to explain why these principles are so important. I would also like to outline a few of the areas where I agree and where I respectfully disagree with the foreign policy decisions the new administration has made.

I will begin with the praise. In my view, the President admirably followed the principle of maintaining and employing a strong defense when he accepted the advice of his military commanders to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq based on conditions on the ground, not political calculations. He followed this principle again by pursuing in Afghanistan the same counterinsurgency strategy that has worked in Iraq. The administration deserves credit for both decisions. I have not been hesitant in giving it that credit.

The next step, of course, is to keep our forces ready. In order to do so, the Senate must pass the administration's supplemental spending request to train and equip the armed services. This is a spending request I will support.

Unfortunately, the administration erred when it selectively declassified a number of so-called CIA interrogation memos almost in their entirety. The choice on this issue was clear: Defend career intelligence professionals or reveal to al-Qaida terrorists the interrogation methods they can expect to face if captured.

The administration chose the latter. That was a mistake. It would also be a mistake for the administration to pursue or condone the kind of protracted investigation that some have proposed into intelligence-gathering efforts after the 9/11 attacks.

Some of the President's own advisers have warned that such an investigation would only serve to demoralize the intelligence community and, therefore, weaken its ability to protect the American people. Moreover, the President himself has repeatedly said America must use all the tools in its arsenal addressing problems we face, including, presumably, the ongoing threat of Islamic terrorists.

Weakening our tools of intelligence through an investigation of the intelligence community and other key decisionmakers would, by definition, make that pledge impossible to fulfill. It would also serve to divide us, I fear, at a time when we must continue to present a united and determined front to our known enemies.

In my view, the Commander in Chief has an obligation to unify the country while we are at war and at risk. Looked at in this context, attacking each other on these issues is not only counterproductive, it is actually dangerous. It is important to remember we are still very much engaged in a global fight against terror, and as long as that fight continues, a strong, ready defense will require strong support for an intelligence community that is uniquely equipped to deal with many of the problems that arise in this fight.

At a time such as this, hampering the vital work of our Nation's intelligence professionals is exactly the wrong thing to do. I have already openly and repeatedly expressed my disagreement with the administration's approach on Guantanamo. Americans would like to know why they are preparing to transfer prisoners involved in the 9/11 attacks either to facilities that are outside our control entirely or here in the United States. They want assurances the next detention facility, or the country to which they are transferred, keeps them as safe as Guantanamo has.

So far, the administration has not been able to provide those assurances. Its only assurance is that Guantanamo will close sometime within the next 9 months. To achieve that goal, the administration has asked Congress for $80 million in the upcoming supplemental war funding bill. In my view, Congress would be shirking its duties if it were to approve these funds one second—one second—before we know exactly what the administration plans to do with these terrorists.

News reports over the weekend suggest the administration is very close to announcing the release of a number of detainees into the United States, not to detention facilities but into the

United States, directly into our communities and neighborhoods right here on U.S. soil.

Virtually every Member of the Senate is on record opposing the transfer of detainees to U.S. soil, even if it only meant incarcerating them in some of our Nation's most secure prisons. We had that vote a couple years ago, 94 to 3. The presumption was that they would be coming to the United States and incarcerated, not free. The Senate expressed itself 94 to 3 against such a release.

Until these new reports emerged, no one had even ever contemplated the possibility of releasing trained terrorists into American communities. It never occurred to anyone. If the administration actually follows through on this shocking proposal, it will have clearly answered the question of whether its plan for the inmates at Guantanamo will keep America as safe as Guantanamo has.

By releasing trained terrorists into civilian communities in the United States, the administration will, by definition, endanger the American people. Moreover, by releasing trained terrorists into the United States, the administration may run afoul of U.S. law, something that was pointed out to us by the Senator from Alabama some weeks back. Many were unaware that such a release might actually violate U.S. law, and I believe the Senator from Alabama will have more to say about that shortly.

That law presumably would prohibit admission to the United States of anyone who has trained for, engaged in, or espoused terrorism. Before any decision is made that will affect the safety of American communities, the Attorney General needs to explain how his decision will make America safer and whether this decision complies with U.S. law.

I also disagree with the administration's recent pledge to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, a treaty that we have voluntarily abided by for years. Before the President rushes to fulfill this goal, America needs assurances that our nuclear stockpile is both reliable and safe. As our nuclear stockpile ages, the assurance becomes increasingly important. There are only two ways to ensure the safety of our nuclear stockpile: through actual tests or by investing in a new generation of warheads. At the moment, the administration is not willing to do either. When it comes to deterrence, this represents a serious dilemma.

As Defense Secretary Gates has said:

> There is absolutely no way that we can maintain a credible deterrent and reduce the number of warheads in our stockpile without resorting [either] to testing our stockpile or pursuing a modernization program.

As we seek to keep our defenses strong, we must also be careful to keep our commitments to our allies and friends, particularly in the Middle East and in NATO. After all, what good is an alliance if one of its members cannot be trusted to uphold its end of the bargain. If America cannot be expected to keep its word, we cannot expect others to keep theirs.

Now, our NATO allies need to know we will not walk away from missile defense or rush to reduce our own nuclear stockpile in the misguided hope of securing a promise of cooperation from Russia with respect to Iran. The notion that the key to containing Iran lies with Russian cooperation is not new. But it has repeatedly proven to be futile. The previous administration pursued the path of cooperation in the form of the Nuclear Cooperation 123 Agreement, and Russia did not end its arms sales to Iran as a result.

I might add, that treaty was subsequently withdrawn. We should learn from our mistakes, not repeat them. This means that as we engage the Russians, we must also do so as realists. The newer members of the NATO alliance must know the United States will not help Russia carve out a new sphere of influence in the 21st century to match the one it had in the second half of the 20th century.

The administration should be equally realistic in its dealings with Iran. It must make perfectly clear that pursuit of nuclear weapons is unacceptable. This means explaining to our friends and to our foes that the pursuit of such a program will have consequences. Israel and a number of moderate Arab regimes have all risked a great deal in confronting Islamic extremism. We need to assure every one of them that the administration's negotiations with Iran will lead to real results.

The challenges we face abroad will require much patience and endurance, as they always have. Efforts to improve our image abroad are a part of that. But we should not overvalue the power of personal diplomacy in overcoming problems that have been with us for years. We saw this recently with Iran. In response to the administration's offer of a new era of engagement that is honest and grounded in mutual respect, Iran convicted an American journalist to 8 years in jail after a secret trial and accused the United States in an international forum of conspiring to create Israel on the ''pretext of Jewish sufferings.''

The administration offered respect, and Iran responded with contempt. Iran continues to fund terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah and Hamas, and there is little evidence that any incentive can keep the Supreme Leader of Iran, Khamenei, from pursuing a nuclear weapon.

Iran must be deterred.

Then there is Cuba. In response to the administration's proposal for a ''fresh start'' in our relations with Communist Cuba, Fidel Castro said the new administration had confused his brother Raul's reaffirmation of the Cuban Revolution and its principles for an openness to discussing Democratic reform.

As far as fresh starts go, this was not particularly encouraging to me, nor was it likely to encourage the 11 million Cuban citizens who continue to be denied any basic human right, the thousands of Cubans who, according to the State Department, are forced to serve jail sentences without even having been charged of a specific crime or human rights advocates who face arbitrary arrest, detention, and the denial of a fair trial.

What about Venezuelans who face arbitrary arrest and detention and who cannot expect a fair trial? It is unlikely they would cheer by the new administration's warm embrace of a man who oppresses them. Imagine the signal this sends to those in Venezuela and throughout the world who are fighting for the freedom and Democratic reforms and who expect the United States to defend and to protect their efforts in our dealings with friends and foes alike.

Similarly concerning is the increasing reliance on special envoys. The administration has rushed several of those envoys, all fine public servants, to foreign capitals. Yet none of them were subject to Senate confirmation or are answerable in any way to Congress. I see by the morning paper they require considerable staff.

These envoys face significant challenges, from divides among the Palestinian people to the growth of the Taliban inside Pakistan. During their negotiations, these envoys are likely to make commitments that Congress will be expected to fulfill or fund, but Congress cannot be expected to simply hand out funds to support negotiations we know nothing about. These special envoys should be accountable to Congress.

Every American President from George Washington to the current day has struggled to balance America's interests with its ideals. This is something Americans have long accepted. But the rush to initiate fresh starts with old adversaries or to find quick solutions to the many complex problems we face is not always advisable when it comes to advancing our long-term interests or in preserving and strengthening alliances or our relationships with allies.

Republicans will have many reasons to stand with the President in the months and years ahead. But we will not be reluctant to remind them of some of the principles that have served us well in the past or to speak out against decisions with which we respectively disagree.

As we wage two wars overseas, we must be sure to maintain strong relations with our allies.

Some days they will need us. Some days we will need them. But in a dangerous world, these vital relationships must be preserved. We must also preserve the dominance of the U.S. military in the near term and in the long term. And any arms control agreement sent to the Senate must be verifiable and clearly in the national interest.

These are principles all of us should agree on and all of us should be eager

and able to defend. Our allies deserve to know that we will be guided by them, and so too, I believe, do the American people.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 4:20 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Alabama.

CONCERNS ABOUT RELEASE OF GITMO DETAINEES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank Senator MCCONNELL for his leadership on the issue of securing the peace and security of the United States of America and the challenges we face in this very difficult world. I am pleased it was he who offered a resolution not long ago that passed 94 to 3 to say that those terrorists we have in Guantanamo should not be released into the United States. It passed this Senate 94 to 3.

So I was alarmed on Friday to see a report in the Los Angeles Times by Julian Barnes, the first line of which said:

> The Obama administration is preparing to admit into the United States as many as seven Chinese Muslims who have been imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay in the first release of any of the detainees into this country, according to current and former U.S. officials.

The Times report was followed by an Associated Press story over the weekend entitled ''Holder Close to Making Decision on Gitmo Detainees''—Holder being Attorney General Eric Holder—which detailed an emerging plan to release a group of Uighurs held at Guantanamo into the United States, possibly northern Virginia.

Three weeks ago, on April 2, 2009, I wrote the Attorney General. I am a member of the Judiciary Committee, and I served in the Department of Justice for 15 years. I wrote Mr. Holder on exactly this issue, to explain my concerns about the serious national security and legal issues raised by any proposed release of Guantanamo detainees. In my letter I explained that the 17 Uighur detainees currently held at Guantanamo ''received military training, including firearms training, in terrorist camps in Afghanistan for potential terrorist actions against Chinese interests.''

I further explained that Federal law, specifically title 8 United States Code section 1182(a)(3)(B), clearly prohibits the admission of any alien—and they are all aliens—who has engaged in various forms of terrorist activity or training, including military type training ''from or on behalf of any organization that, at the time the training was received, was a terrorist organization.''

The Uighurs at Guantanamo received military training, including on AK–47s, at camps run by the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, which has been designated as a terrorist organization by both the United States and the United Nations since 2002. Accordingly, under the clear letter of Federal immigration law, these detainees are not eligible for admission into the United States. In my letter I called upon the Attorney General, whom I supported for that job and have respect for, to explain ''what legal authority, if any, you believe the administration has to admit into the United States Uighurs and/or any other detainee who participated in terrorist-related activities covered by Section 1182(a)(3)(B) [of the federal immigration law].'' He has not responded in any way. I am a member of the Judiciary Committee. That was a respectful and proper request I made. I have not heard from him at all. Yet we are reading in the paper that there is a plan afoot to allow this release.

The current stories in the Times and the Associated Press suggest that the administration is knowingly and willfully acting contrary to law and to the will of Congress and doing so on a matter that is directly at odds with our Government's obligation to keep America's communities safe from dangerous terrorists and militants.

Let me say, the Attorney General has a responsibility to uphold the law and protect civil rights. But I would say this, the primary responsibility of the Attorney General of the United States is to ensure that decent people who follow the law are protected from criminals and terrorists and those who would do them harm. If he is not the one who is going to lead the effort to protect us from those who would harm us, who is? Sometimes I wonder what they think their goal is.

So some will claim that the Uighurs held at Guantanamo are not dangerous because the courts and previous administrations agreed that these individuals are not enemy combatants against the United States. But this argument overlooks the fact that the Uighurs aren't deemed enemy combatants against the United States because the organization they were affiliated with, the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, is not closely associated enough with al-Qaida or the Taliban to justify that determination. But make no mistake about it, these detainees are trained militants with ties to a terrorist organization, albeit one targeting Chinese interests rather than American interests. They should not be ushered into American communities by this administration.

The Los Angeles Times story from last week illustrates the danger these detainees pose:

> Not long after being granted access to TV, some of the Uighurs were watching a soccer game. When a woman with bare arms was shown on the screen, one of the group grabbed the television and threw it to the ground, according to the officials.

According to the news story, the officials at Guantanamo had to censor the TV shows and showed only pretaped programs that wouldn't offend the Uighurs. If these detainees cannot handle mere televised depictions of Western culture without violent outbursts, why are we releasing them into our towns and communities? Even though this seems like an obvious question, this administration seems to have little concern over it. Rather than sounding alarm bells, the Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair proposed releasing the detainees with some form of welfare subsidy. In comments in March, Admiral Blair agreed that ''[y]ou can't just put them on the street.'' But his solution was not to continue detention or to release detainees to their home countries or to China, which wants them. Rather, he said, ''If we are to release them in the United States, we need some sort of assistance for them to start a new life.''

So this administration seems more concerned about the welfare of the dangerous militants, frankly, than it does about the real safety concerns of the American people and of the views of the citizens of our country who, by overwhelming polling data, oppose the release of these Guantanamo inmates into the country. According to an April 3, 2009 Rasmussen Reports survey, 75 percent of U.S. voters oppose the release of Guantanamo inmates into this country. A similar number—74 percent—oppose providing public assistance to any Guantanamo detainees who might be released.

So what is surprising about the recent news reports about the possible release of Guantanamo detainees is that they come on the heels of another announcement earlier last week which made me think the Obama administration was coming to understand the dangerous nature of the Eastern Turkish Islamic Movement. This past Monday, April 20, 2009, President Obama's Treasury Department issued a release listing Abdul Haq as a designated terrorist. This announcement, which follows on the heels of a similar announcement from the United Nations, is significant for three key reasons, as well as a fourth reason that relates directly to the Uighur detainees:

Abdul Haq is the leader of the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement.

Abdul Haq was listed as a ringleader in planned attacks on the Olympic games in China.

Abdul Haq is listed as a member of a council within al-Qaida. He is connected to al-Qaida.

Perhaps most importantly, Abdul Haq is directly tied to the Uighur detainees held at Guantanamo Bay. According to a recent article by Thomas Jocelyn, who published a series of excerpts from the Combatant Status Review Tribunal proceedings for the

Uighurs at Guantanamo, the detainees, one after another, testified that they were trained by none other than Abdul Haq who ''was the one responsible for the camp.'' So just as these detainees testified that Haq ran the camp and led their training, they, time and again, admitted to training on what they referred to as ''the AK–47'' or ''the Kalashnikov.''

It is unbelievable to me that we are talking about releasing these dangerous detainees into American communities, despite the fact that they received military-style training on AK–47s in a camp run by a known terrorist and terrorist organization, both of which are designated as such by the United States and the United Nations. And the administration is doing so just one week after it denounced the man who trained the Uighur detainees in the following clear words. This is what the Treasury Department said:

> Abdul Haq commands a terror group that sought to sow violence and fracture international unity at the 2008 Olympic Games in China. Today, we stand together with the world in condemning this brutal terrorist and isolating him from the international financial system.

So within a week of our Government seeking to condemn and isolate ''this brutal terrorist,'' the administration is planning to turn loose his pupils into the United States.

There was a time not long ago when no Senator would need to come to the floor to explain that it is dangerous and unlawful to release extremist militants trained by terrorists into the United States.

Why would we release them here? We captured them on the battlefield. We took them to Guantanamo. Now we are going to release them. China would like to have them back. They are rightly concerned about the people who attempted to bomb the Olympic games. We don't have to release them here. We don't have to release them.

Well, according to the press reports I have cited, the administration is planning to release the Uighur detainees to gain favor and ''generate good will'' with foreign governments. Now we understand, according to the Associated Press, Mr. Holder is in Europe where he is ''to reassure skeptical Europeans without generating too much opposition back home.''

That is an uneasy statement for me. That sounds a little duplicitous to me, for an Attorney General to be in Europe where he is ''to reassure skeptical Europeans without generating too much opposition back home.'' I suggest he needs to be focused on security in the United States. I think we need to consider why it is we feel that a nation we have favorable trade relations with, China, which successfully conducted Olympic games, isn't able to detain people who are committed to a group that was designed to attack those games.

If another country captured terrorists who were attacking the United States—and we would like to have them and hold them in custody—let me ask, what would we think if they released them into their communities and gave them subsistence and payments from the government? Wouldn't we think that government was aiding terrorism?

How did we get into this position? I do not think the administration has thought this through. There is no question China has certain well-known problems with human rights, and I have been one of their critics. But are those problems any worse than the problems in Yemen, Algeria, Libya, Sudan, and Saudi Arabia—all countries to which the United States has returned Guantanamo detainees? What message is our government sending here, and what will be the repercussions? Have any of these questions been seriously considered?

I call on Attorney General Holder to answer my letter of April 2 well before he plans to release any of these militants onto the streets of America. If he is able to travel halfway around the world ''to reassure skeptical Europeans,'' perhaps he can answer a simple, direct, two-page letter from this skeptical Senator.

We know as many as 60 former Guantanamo Bay detainees who were released overseas have returned to the battlefield, including some in senior roles with al-Qaida. That stark reality is why the Senate voted 94 to 3 to support Senator MCCONNELL's resolution that concluded with these words:

> It is the sense of the Senate that detainees housed at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, including senior members of al Qaeda, should not be released into American society, nor should they be transferred stateside into facilities in American communities and neighborhoods.

I note that now-Vice President BIDEN and now-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—Members of the Senate then—voted for the resolution. Then-Senator Obama did not. He was not voting. But he has made statements that indicate he understands the dangerousness of these individuals. I suggest that he give more thought to those words he has previously issued and that he follow the law, the plain law as I see it, and not release any of them into the United States.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, it is my intent to take a very few minutes. We are speaking in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Thank you, Mr. President.

CATASTROPHE INSURANCE

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, what do Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and California all have in common? Aside from all being Sunbelt States, each of these States is subject to a natural catastrophe event. We have certainly seen that in the case of hurricanes in Florida and Louisiana and Texas, and we know of it with the Northridge earthquake in the case of California.

Each of these States approaches their homeowners insurance in a different way. But, increasingly, States are moving to a position whereby a quasi-government reinsurance company is set up—in the case of Florida, it is the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund—that, in effect, reinsures private insurance companies in order to induce them to continue to sell insurance in the marketplace.

So the insurance companies, instead of going out onto the world markets to get reinsurance—that is, insurance against catastrophe—instead, or in addition to, go to a creature, in Florida's case called the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.

The problem is that each of our States—Florida and Texas and California and Louisiana—that are each facing this potential megacatastrophe event—hurricane or earthquake—find it increasingly difficult to buy reinsurance at an affordable rate. Indeed, some of the reinsurance cannot be provided for, even if you go out and try to prearrange a bond issue, given the fact of these markets that are very uncertain now about being able to obtain a bond issue, and that uncertainty is causing a great deal of turmoil for a State to know that it can cover the losses if a major catastrophe hits.

What I am introducing today—and I will be joined by Senators from Texas, California, and Louisiana, and will ultimately invite all of the Senators from the States on the Atlantic seaboard and the gulf coast, as well as other earthquake-prone areas, such as Memphis, TN, which has one of the major fault lines in the country running through it and would be a potential major catastrophe because of all the gas lines that run from the Texas and Oklahoma well fields all the way to New York and to New England—it would be a major catastrophe if an earthquake hits; and that is one of the fault lines—so what this legislation will do is provide a backup for the State catastrophe funds by allowing them to have the assurance that when they go into the private marketplace—to float bonds, to pay off claims after the disaster has hit—that they will be able, even in these uncertain times of the economic markets, to sell those bond issues because they will have a U.S. Government guarantee.

You might say: Well, why would we want the Federal Government to guarantee those? Well, clearly it is in the interests of the Federal Government because these are only going to be guaranteeing public organizations that are an arm of the Government and that are run by members of a board that indeed are public officials, and it will actually end up saving Federal tax dollars.

You might say: Why in the world? If the Federal Government is going to guarantee a bond issue, that has a certain cost to it. It does. But this is how it saves the Federal Government money: Because at the end of the day, when the natural disaster strikes, guess who is going to pay for it. It is going to be the Federal Government. So if a large part of those payments has already been provided by private insurance, because we have enabled that through this catastrophe reinsurance fund, then that means that is an additional cost the Federal Government will not have to bear.

I remind the Senate that after Katrina struck New Orleans, that total tab is somewhere in the neighborhood of $200 billion, and the Federal Government's share of that is well north of $100 billion, or over half of the total cost. When the category 4 or 5 hurricane hits an urbanized part of the coast—be it in any one of our States—it is clearly going to be a major economic loss, of which the Federal Government is going to come in. If a lot of those damages have already been paid by private insurance, enabled by these reinsurance funds set up by the State governments—enabled because they have a Federal guarantee on the loans—then it ends up being a win-win situation.

Because my colleague from Tennessee is in the Chamber, I hasten to add that, of course, catastrophes are not just hurricanes, but some of the worse catastrophes that could happen are, in fact, earthquakes. An 8-point plus on the Richter scale earthquake, centered on a major metropolitan area, such as San Francisco or Memphis, TN, would be a cost well in excess of insurance losses, well in excess of between $50 and $100 billion.

This is a rational way through the private sector marketplace to approach that problem, and I commend to the Senate this bill that I introduce today, the Catastrophe Obligation Guarantee Act. I ask the Senate to favorably consider it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have a Catastrophe Obligation Guarantee Act fact sheet printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COGA FACT SHEET: THE CATASTROPHE OBLIGATION GUARANTEE ACT

WHY IT IS NEEDED

Many states have catastrophic natural disaster risk so large that the private markets simply can't insure it.

Residential property insurance is vital to post-disaster recovery, because it protects people's most valuable asset—their homes. But in the private insurance market, catastrophe coverage is often very expensive or simply unavailable—this can rob community recovery of much-needed resources.

To bridge this affordability/availability gap, California, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas have created public insurance or reinsurance programs.

These programs need substantial post-catastrophe capital to pay their claims, but for public entities, the only available form of external capital is debt capital.

Sadly, in severely disrupted credit markets such as those that prevail today, even creditworthy public entities can't raise enough debt capital to fully meet program needs.

The new COGA approach—Established programs in California, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas have a continuing common need for reliable, adequate private financing. They have come together to advance an innovative approach: Federal guarantees of the State programs' post-event debt. COGA will provide these State programs, and any other qualifying State program, with dramatically enhanced debt-market access, across all market conditions, at much lower borrowing costs.

WHAT IT DOES

COGA would authorize (at pre-set levels) Federal guarantees of State-program debt incurred to pay insured losses from major natural catastrophes.

COGA does not furnish Federal funds to State programs and does not make the Federal government a reinsurer of catastrophe risk.

Upon application by a qualifying State program, the Treasury provides a 3-year COGA guarantee commitment—this gives the State program vital certainty in planning its claim-paying capacity. States reconfirm their qualifications each year.

The guarantee is not actually issued until after an event (when a State program would go into the debt markets), and then solely to obtain funds to pay and adjust losses it cannot otherwise cover with existing resources.

To be eligible, State catastrophe programs must meet stringent criteria, including:

Public purpose and organization, including tax-exempt status, and a board composed of or appointed by public officials.

Proven ability to repay, and an actuarially sound rate structure.

States must have robust building codes and recognize loss-mitigation measures.

WHAT IT WILL COST AND WHAT IT WILL SAVE

Guarantees are only for public organizations with proven ability to repay their obligations.

Under COGA, the Federal government would make payments only in rare circumstances—it is a debt guarantee, not a direct loan. Guarantee fees cover COGA's administrative costs.

States without effective programs will want to form them—COGA-supported post-event funding will provide broad, sensible incentives to qualified State programs.

The COGA guarantees will save Federal dollars: When more people are covered by State catastrophe insurance, the Federal Government's post-event burden is greatly reduced.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I congratulate the Senator from Florida on his comments. He is exactly right, there is a major fault along the Mississippi River near Memphis, TN. There was a massive earthquake in the early 1800s that created Reelfoot Lake. The earthquake was so profound that the Mississippi River actually ran upstream in order to do that. One eyewitness to that was Davy Crockett, who was on a bear hunt that winter up in northwest Tennessee. He wrote about it in his autobiography which was intended to be his Presidential campaign autobiography. It never quite worked out. But we take it very seriously.

The University of Memphis has a center dealing with earthquakes. We will be very interested in his proposal. I was glad to have a chance to hear about it.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, do you remember a few years ago when our Congress got mad at France and banned French fries in the House of Representatives cafeteria? We Americans have always had a love-hate relationship with the French, which is why it was so galling last month when the Democratic Congress passed a budget with such big deficits that it makes the United States literally ineligible to join France in the European Union.

Of course, we do not want to be in the European Union. We are the United States of America. But French deficits are lower than ours, and their President has been running around sounding like a Republican, lecturing our President about spending too much.

Now the debate in Congress is shifting to the size of your electric and gasoline bills and to climate change. So guess who has one of the lowest electric rates in Western Europe and the second lowest carbon emissions in the entire European Union. It is France again.

What is more, they are doing it with a technology we invented and have been reluctant to use: nuclear power.

Thirty years ago, the contrary French became reliant on nuclear power when others would not. Today, nuclear plants provide 80 percent of their electricity. They even sell electricity to Germany, whose politicians built windmills and solar panels and promised not to build nuclear plants, which was exactly the attitude in the United States between 1979 and 2008, when not one new nuclear plant was built. Still, nuclear, which provides only 20 percent of all U.S. electricity, provides 70 percent of our pollution-free electricity. So you would think that if Democrats want to talk about energy and climate change and clean air, they would put American-made nuclear power front and center. Instead, their answer is billions in subsidies for renewable energy from the Sun, the wind, and the Earth.

Well, we Republicans like renewable energy too. We proposed a new Manhattan Project, for example, like the one in World War II, to find ways to make solar power cost competitive and to improve advanced biofuels from crops that we do not eat. But today, renewable electricity from the Sun, the wind, and the Earth provides only about 1.5 percent of America's electricity. Double it and triple it, and we still do not have very much. So there is potentially a dangerous energy gap between the renewable energy we want and the reliable energy we need.

To close that gap, Republicans say start with conservation and efficiency. We have so much electricity at night, for example, we could electrify half our cars and trucks by plugging them in

while we sleep without building one new powerplant. On that Republicans and Democrats agree. But when it comes to producing more energy, we disagree.

When Republicans say build 100 new nuclear powerplants during the next 20 years, Democrats say, well, there is no place to put the used nuclear fuel.

We say, recycle the fuel—the way France does. They say, no, we cannot.

We say, how about another Manhattan Project to remove carbon from coal plant emissions? Imaginary, they say.

We say, for a bridge to a clean energy future, find more natural gas and oil offshore. Farmers, homeowners, and factories must have natural gas, and the oil we will still need should be ours instead of sending billions of dollars overseas.

They can't wait to put another ban on offshore drilling.

We say incentives.

They say mandates.

We say keep prices down.

Democrats say put a big, new national sales tax on electric bills and gasoline.

We both want a clean energy future, but here is the real difference: Republicans want to find more American energy and use less. Democrats want to use less, and they don't want to find much more.

They talk about President Kennedy sending a man to the Moon. Their energy proposals wouldn't get America halfway to the Moon.

We Republicans didn't like it when Democrats passed a budget that gave the French bragging rights on deficits, so we are not about to let the French also outdo us on electric and gasoline bills, clean air, and climate change.

We say find more American energy and use less—energy that is as clean as possible, as reliable as possible, and at as low a cost as possible, and one place to start is with 100 new nuclear powerplants.

Mr. President, I wish to ask unanimous consent that following my remarks an article from the Washington Post and an article from the Maryville ALCOA Daily Times be printed in the RECORD, which I will describe for a moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, the article from the Washington Post is written by James Schlesinger and Robert L. Hirsch. James Schlesinger was the first Secretary of Energy, and he established the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Robert Hirsch is a senior energy adviser today, and he managed the Federal renewable programs. Their article is entitled ''Getting Real on Wind and Solar.''

Here is the last paragraph of the article I am including:

> The United States will need an array of electric power production options to meet its needs in the years ahead. Solar and wind will have their place, as will other renewables. Realistically, however, solar and wind will probably only provide a modest percentage of future U.S. power. Some serious realism in energy planning is needed, preferably from analysts who are not backing one horse or another.

The other article from the Maryville ALCOA Daily Times on April 27—today—is from my hometown. This is my hometown newspaper, and it is about a plant that means a lot to me. It is an ALCOA plant—the Aluminum Company of America plant. My father worked at the south plant until he retired. I went to school on an ALCOA scholarship. During World Wars I and II, there were as many as 12,000 and 13,000 people in our east Tennessee area who worked at ALCOA with good wages. It changed the lives of three generations of families who lived there. It would have been impossible for us to have the good schools, the good jobs, the good communities we have had without the good wages paid by the Aluminum Company of America.

Here is the headline: ''ALCOA hopes new power contract will bring smelting restart.''

> Ninety-five years after ALCOA Tennessee Operations fired up its first potline—

That is to make aluminum—

> and seven weeks after the company shut down its last potline, the question remains: Will aluminum ingots ever roll out of the south plant again?

What will make the difference for these ALCOA plants that have provided good wages and good jobs to thousands of families in Tennessee? The price of electricity.

The newspaper says:

> The deal that ALCOA is looking for is a long-range power contract with the Tennessee Valley Authority that will allow the Tennessee smelting operations to be cost competitive when metal prices rebound.

When we talk about electricity, the only cost some people talk about is driving up the cost so we will use less of it. That is the idea of a carbon tax. That is the idea of driving up the price of gasoline so people will buy less of it. But if we drive up the price of electricity in Tennessee—if TVA raises its prices to ALCOA—that plant will never reopen again and those hundreds or even thousands of jobs will never come back again.

I was visited recently by a number of big companies in Tennessee that are concerned about the price of Tennessee Valley Authority electricity. They say they may not be able to stay there unless it gets more competitive. Residential rates are relatively low—average to low—but rates for companies are not low. Ironically, we are celebrating in Tennessee the arrival of two big new industries which make polysilicon, which is the material that goes into the solar panels that you put on the top of your house. Those two new plants, one of which will go in Clarksville, TN, and one of which will go in Cleveland, will each use about 120 megawatts of power when they open. From the beginning, they will be among the largest customers of the Tennessee Valley Authority for electricity. They will be using, as I said, 240 megawatts of low-cost, reliable electricity produced by coal, nuclear, and hydropower in our region. They could not rely on the one wind farm that exists in the Southeastern United States, which is in Tennessee and which only produces 5 megawatts of unreliable, expensive power—because the wind blows much of the time at night, when TVA already has 7,000 megawatts of extra power. So the solar plants that we need for the renewable energy of the future will have to rely today on coal, nuclear, and natural gas.

It is important, as we debate the so-called renewable electricity standard, as we talk about climate change and clean energy—and I have had legislation on those subjects every congress that I have been a Senator—to realize that cost is important if we don't want to keep jobs from going overseas and if we want people to be able to afford their electric bills. I mentioned that TVA's electric rates are average to low, but last December, 10 percent of the electricity customers of the Nashville Electric Service said they couldn't afford to pay their bills. When we come down here and start talking about proposals that are going to drive up the cost, and when we say we are going to deliberately drive up the cost, I think that is the wrong policy.

We are an inventive country. We can conserve. We can double the number of nuclear powerplants we have. We can double the energy research that we are doing on solar and other renewable energies, and we can do it with the objective of having low-cost electricity. That is the way to keep our jobs. That is the way to avoid poverty. That is the way to produce the largest amount of clean electricity for the future. We need a bridge to a clean energy future. Yes, of course, that includes renewable energy, but it is only 1.5 percent of what we have today. So to talk about driving the price up and relying on a national windmill policy, for example, to drive this big productive country is unrealistic.

I thank the President, and I yield the floor.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 24, 2009]

GETTING REAL ON WIND AND SOLAR

(By James Schlesinger and Robert L. Hirsch)

Why are we ignoring things we know? We know that the sun doesn't always shine and that the wind doesn't always blow. That means that solar cells and wind energy systems don't always provide electric power. Nevertheless, solar and wind energy seem to have captured the public's support as potentially being the primary or total answer to our electric power needs.

Solar cells and wind turbines are appealing because they are ''renewables'' with promising implications and because they emit no carbon dioxide during operation, which is certainly a plus. But because both are intermittent electric power generators, they cannot produce electricity ''on demand,'' something that the public requires. We expect the

lights to go on when we flip a switch, and we do not expect our computers to shut down as nature dictates.

Solar and wind electricity are available only part of the time that consumers demand power. Solar cells produce no electric power at night, and clouds greatly reduce their output. The wind doesn't blow at a constant rate, and sometimes it does not blow at all.

If large-scale electric energy storage were viable, solar and wind intermittency would be less of a problem. However, large-scale electric energy storage is possible only in the few locations where there are hydroelectric dams. But when we use hydroelectric dams for electric energy storage, we reduce their electric power output, which would otherwise have been used by consumers. In other words, we suffer a loss to gain power on demand from wind and solar.

At locations without such hydroelectric dams, which is most places, solar and wind electricity systems must be backed up 100 percent by other forms of generation to ensure against blackouts. In today's world, that backup power can only come from fossil fuels.

Because of this need for full fossil fuel backup, the public will pay a large premium for solar and wind—paying once for the solar and wind system (made financially feasible through substantial subsidies) and again for the fossil fuel system, which must be kept running at a low level at all times to be able to quickly ramp up in cases of sudden declines in sunshine and wind. Thus, the total cost of such a system includes the cost of the solar and wind machines, their subsidies, and the cost of the full backup power system running in ''spinning reserve.''

Finally, since solar and wind conditions are most favorable in the Southwest and the center of the country, costly transmission lines will be needed to move that lower-cost solar and wind energy to population centers on the coasts. There must be considerable redundancy in those new transmission lines to guard against damage due to natural disasters and terrorism, leading to considerable additional costs.

The climate change benefits that accrue from solar and wind power with 100 percent fossil fuel backup are associated with the fossil fuels not used at the standby power plants. Because solar and wind have the capacity to deliver only 30 to 40 percent of their full power ratings in even the best locations, they provide a carbon dioxide reduction of less than 30 to 40 percent, considering the fossil fuels needed for the ''spinning reserve.'' That's far less than the 100 percent that many people believe, and it all comes with a high cost premium.

The United States will need an array of electric power production options to meet its needs in the years ahead. Solar and wind will have their places, as will other renewables. Realistically, however, solar and wind will probably only provide a modest percentage of future U.S. power. Some serious realism in energy planning is needed, preferably from analysts who are not backing one horse or another.

[From the Daily Times]

ALCOA HOPES NEW POWER CONTRACT WILL BRING SMELTING RESTART

(By Robert Norris)

Ninety-five years after ALCOA Tennessee Operations fired up its first potline and seven weeks after the company shut down its last, the question remains: Will aluminum ingots ever roll out of the South Plant again?

''For some, the question is not so relevant anymore. After the announcement that the plant was being closed, more than 130 ALCOA employees accepted the company's severance package. Others were laid off—245 hourly workers and 80 of the salaried workforce.

The London Metal Exchange price for aluminum is half what it was one year ago, so prospects for any immediate change is nil. The demand for the 1.3 million pounds of molten metal that the smelting plant can produce does not exist in the current marketplace.

Still, leadership at the company is hopeful that when the economy rebounds, Tennessee Smelting Operations will be in a position to be restarted.

''We're in the standard, ready position,'' said Brett McBrayer Tennessee Primary Metals location manager. ''The employees have done such an incredible job of preparing the plant to have it in as much a ready state as possible.''

Cranes are being moved up and down to keep them operational, and preventive maintenance is being done so the plant will be prepared if and when the call comes to restart.

''I can't say enough about the employees. The way they faced the tough call and the way they responded says a lot about the character of the employees in this region. That drives me even harder in discussions with TVA to get a deal done,'' McBrayer said.

The deal McBrayer is looking for is a long-range power contract with the Tennessee Valley Authority—the current contract expires next year—that will allow Tennessee Smelting Operations to be cost competitive when metal prices rebound. That has happened at ALCOA smelting plants in other regions where the company has negotiated more flexible prices with electricity suppliers.

''We've been in discussions with TVA for quite some time. It always seems more complicated than it needs to be, but there are a lot of issues,'' McBrayer said. ''The sooner we get a deal done, the stronger candidate we'll be for a restart. The longer negotiations drag out, it seems to become harder. An agreement can't happen soon enough.''

TVA issued a statement indicating its desire to reach an equitable agreement with the aluminum company.

''ALCOA has long been a valued customer of TVA's and we are working diligently to reach agreement on a long-term power contract for the future. While these contract negotiations are confidential, we are working to reach an agreement that will allow ALCOA to operate its Tennessee facility while, at the same time, not disadvantaging other Valley ratepayers,'' said Jim Allen, a TVA spokesman.

Brickey Beasley, president of United Steelworkers Local 309, said he looks forward to the day the South Plant Smelting Operations reopens and also in maintaining the North Plant rolling mill. The Tapoco Division of ALCOA—the four-dam hydroelectric project on the Little Tennessee and Cheoah rivers—should give Tennessee Operations an edge over other locations, according to Beasley.

We hope that TVA can help out some and the economy can help some,'' Beasley said, ''We've got a great workforce that's idle right now.''

McBrayer, who is chairman of the Tennessee chamber of Commerce and Industry Board of Directors, said the impact of the shutdown goes beyond the employees immediately affected.

''Being from Blount county and this are a—recognizing the impact on East Tennessee—there's more than just the families impacted from the layoff. The impact multiplies exponentially,'' Beasley said.

''Hopefully, when we obtain the power contract, it will just be a matter of waiting for the market to pick up again. The good thing about aluminum is that it is used in more and more applications. It's going to be around for a long time.''

GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. JOHANNS. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the detainment facilities at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base.

At the end of January of this year, the President signed an Executive order indicating his intention to close Guantanamo. Unfortunately, the Executive order was very short on detail. We do know the Justice Department is reviewing the cases of individual detainees. We know the President would like to move these detainees somewhere else. Unfortunately, 3 months after the release of the Executive order, that is about what we know today.

If the President still plans to close Guantanamo Bay within a year, the clock is ticking, and we only have 9 months until the deadline laid out in the Executive order. Indeed, the President's supplemental request for Iraq and Afghanistan includes $80 million to close Guantanamo. We know that $30 million would go to the Justice Department to shut down the facilities, review detainee procedures, and to fund future litigation. The other $50 million would go to the Department of Defense, primarily to support the transfer of the detainees and the associated personnel. However, we do not know—and neither does anyone else within the administration or outside it—where the detainees would go. I am troubled by this insubstantial approach and what appears to be a haphazard approach. This is a matter vital for national security.

Memories have dimmed and we forget the days surrounding September 11. We remember the day itself quite well—the shock in the morning—but we seem to forget the resolve that came after that. The resolve was born of our understanding that there was a global network of violent extremists with substantial international support dedicated to attacking the United States and its allies. Make no mistake about it, these terrorists are highly dangerous. By now, most Americans are probably familiar with the name Khalid Shaikh Mohammed. He is a Guantanamo resident. Before his capture in 2003 and later transfer to Guantanamo, he was one of al-Qaida's top agents and mastermind behind the September 11 attacks. I believe this man belongs in Guantanamo. With his contacts and his terrorist expertise, he would be a menace to the United States and its allies should he ever be set free.

But he is only the operational face of this contagion. Also in custody at Guantanamo is Ramzi Bin al-Shibh, a lead operative in the September 11 plot. This terrorist could not obtain a U.S. visa to get into this country. That

made it impossible for him to participate in the attacks directly. He was forced to remain in Germany where he lived as a student. However, this did not stop him from acting as a primary communications liaison between the U.S.-based hijackers and the al-Qaida management in Afghanistan and in Pakistan.

Shortly after the September 11 attacks, he arrived in Afghanistan where he was forced to flee when the Taliban fell. He was apprehended in 2002 and eventually transferred to Guantanamo.

Terrorism runs in this family. His uncle is Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, mastermind of the 9/11 attacks. His cousin is presently incarcerated for his participation in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing event. He served as a travel and financial facilitator for the 9/11 terrorists and helped al-Qaida members escape from Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban. From 2002 to 2003, this individual prepared al-Qaida members for travel to the United States and later plotted attacks against Western targets in Karachi.

A different detainee at Guantanamo was involved in plotting to kill the Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia, as well as attacks on a series of Indonesian churches on Christmas Eve in the year 2000. Most famously, this terrorist helped plan the Bali bombings, in October of 2002, which killed over 200 people, including several Americans.

Another notorious face residing at Guantanamo was the head of al-Qaida operations in the Arabian Peninsula. This terrorist saw combat within various insurgencies and later with the Taliban before being instructed by Osama bin Laden to focus on terrorism in Yemen. He followed bin Laden's orders. In 2000, he successfully coordinated the attack of the USS Cole in the Yemeni Port of Aden. That attack killed 17 American sailors.

The Cole attack is the most well-known event in this individual's long career of terrorism, but it doesn't stop there. He has a resume of attacks. He coordinated efforts to kill U.S. personnel in Saudi Arabia. He planned car bomb attacks and assaults on oil tankers. He was also involved with a plot to crash a plane into a Western naval vessel in the UAE.

In 2002, however, he was captured and ultimately sent to Gitmo.

These extremists are part of the al-Qaida A-Team of terrorists; and they have no business being released or transported to American soil.

I describe these individuals today to put a face on this debate.

The al-Qaida members detained in Guantanamo are the worst of the worst. They are unrepentant, they are unpredictable, and are still dangerous.

So, if not Guantanamo, where should these unrepentant terrorists reside?

One option would be for our international allies to help with their detainment.

I know that the administration has been trying to persuade the Europeans to accept custody of some of the detainees. Attorney General Holder is in fact discussing this issue with European officials this week.

On Wednesday, he will be making a speech in Berlin about Guantanamo, and I hope he has some good news. Unfortunately, there has not been much to date.

When the President met with European leaders in early April, he also asked for help in resettling the detainee. They agreed to help—with one.

We should perhaps count that as a victory, since many national leaders have said thanks but no thanks or remained completely noncommittal.

For example, Austria's interior minister has rejected accepting detainees flat-out. I am not surprised. Despite all the international angst about Guantanamo, most nations recognize that these detainees are very dangerous to free people.

Our time is not unlimited, since the administration's self-imposed January 2010 deadline for transferring these individuals is coming closer. In the absence of radically increased international cooperation, the administration will thus be forced to release the remaining detainees or keep them on U.S. soil.

And those are possibilities that I, like many Nebraskans, am particularly concerned about. Two of the sites being considered are Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, and the United States Penitentiary Maximum Security facility in Colorado, known as ADX Florence. Both are far too close to Nebraska for comfort—both within 250 miles of my home State of Nebraska.

This is likely a non-starter with my constituents, and for good reason. Thus, last week, I sent a letter to Attorney General Holder asking to be informed if any of the detainees were to be moved within 400 miles of Nebraska.

I will not allow my home State to be endangered by the proximity of unrepentant al-Qaida terrorists. Other Senators and their constituents are likely to have similar concerns.

In 2007, the Senate rejected moving Gitmo detainees to U.S. soil. The Senate spoke loudly and clearly in an overwhelming 94–3 vote against moving Gitmo prisoners to our shores or releasing them into our society. I do not believe the sentiment in this body has changed today.

The last option that I will mention—releasing them into the American population—seems unthinkable, if not absurd. However, if they are transferred into the American judicial system, their release is a possibility. This option is simply unacceptable.

The $80 million requested by the administration to close Guantanamo, and the executive order signed to that effect, are troubling.

In a dangerous world, facilities such as those at Guantanamo are a necessity that we cannot change simply by waiving a magic wand and wishing it so.

With about 270 days left before its proposed closure date, it is clear the administration still has no plan for its demise.

That is a gamble that the American people cannot afford.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to take just a very few moments to speak about an issue I think is resonating and causing great concern all over our country; that is, the outrageous escalation in credit card interest rates.

I note that the House and the Senate will soon be addressing the issue of credit cards, but I hope very much that both bodies will include within their legislation something that is long overdue; that is, a cap on interest rates. We need a national usury rate law. It is totally unacceptable to me—and I think the vast majority of the people in our country—that credit card companies are charging people 25, 30, and 35 percent rates of interest on their credit cards. This is usury. This is wrong. From a biblical perspective, this is immoral, and it is time we got a handle on it.

The truth is that a number of years ago, many States had usury laws which prohibited very high interest rates. As a result of a Supreme Court decision, those State laws were essentially made null and void and companies that moved to States such as South Dakota and Delaware could essentially charge the American people any rate they wanted. Within the last 20 years, we have seen a huge increase in interest rates. About one-third of the American people are paying 20 percent or more. It is time we got a handle on that issue.

What I would like to do this afternoon, very briefly, is read some of the e-mails that are coming to my office from the State of Vermont but, in fact, from all over this country. On late Friday afternoon, I sent out an e-mail to our e-mail list, and within 2 days' time we have had 900 responses from people who have expressed to me what is going on in terms of their relationship with their credit card companies. The stories I am hearing are absolutely appalling—in some cases, unbelievable. What is particularly disturbing is that at a time when the taxpayers of this country have provided hundreds of billions of dollars to bail out failing financial institutions—which, because of their greed, their recklessness, and their illegal behavior, caused them to collapse—these same financial institutions are now saying to the taxpayers

who bailed them out: Thank you very much; now we are going to raise your interest rates substantially.

So what I will be doing in the coming weeks is coming here to the floor and reading stories from Vermont and from all over this country. Let me start off with one that comes from Poultney, VT. This is what the gentleman says:

I owned and operated a summer business in excess of 43 years. My business credit card was with Avanta at 7.9 percent for years. Last year, my payment jumped about $400 per month. I thought there was fraud involved. Upon checking, I found my interest had been raised from 7.9 to 28.8 percent. I always paid more than the minimum and always on time. When Avanta was contacted and asked why, I was told it's a floating interest. I asked to speak to a manager and was advised that's the way it was and they could do nothing to lower it. I got a line of credit loan from Heritage credit union at 1 percent over prime, paid them off, and shut down my business. After 43 years of business, it took usury to shut me down.

That is just one story.

Somebody writes from Virginia—the State of our Presiding Officer—and says:

Explain to me, do the banks/credit card companies feel that the only way to make money is to cheat us or manipulate us into taking part in an endless Ponzi scheme? How much profit is to be expected in an honest deal? Even 15 percent seems high to me.

This goes on, Mr. President. We have one from Barre, VT:

I only have one thing on my credit card every month. It is the Internet access charge of $10.95. My credit card is a Visa from Capital One. I received a letter stating that the rates were almost double what I agreed to pay if a payment was late, but it also stated if I did not agree to their term, they would cancel my credit card. Let's not only do something about credit card fees, let's stop banks in their tracks with all fees they access on customer accounts they have.

From Castle Rock, CO, another individual writes:

I have excellent credit. Nearly 780 last time I checked. I had a ''fixed'' interest rate with Capital One at 4.9 percent since 2002. In 2007 the rate was raised to 7.9 percent. I received a letter in early April of this year that it will rise to 17.5 percent for no particular reason, except that it was a company decision. I am outraged! This is really unfair for everyone but I think especially unfair for those who really pay attention to maintaining good credit.

That person had a 780 credit number, which is very good.

Here is one from Bennington, VT:

I'd been on time every month and one day I got my statement and wow my interest rate had more than doubled. I called and they did put it back to the rate I had and said it would be good for only 9 months and then they would up it again and I would have to call again. This is hard for the families who aren't using their credit cards anymore and they are on a budget and factor in the credit card payment, and then all of a sudden one month it's gone up a lot and you didn't factor that in.

Wilder, VT:

I am tired of being the one who has to pay! The executives of these credit card companies mess up and the little people pay. The government messes up and the little people pay. Now my oldest child is going off to college and I can't even get financial help except for loans. Yes, more interest. So now I have to pay more interest on my credit cards. When will I get help? I pay my bills, I pay my taxes. If I pay late I get a finance charge and it hurts my credit rating. When these big companies fall behind, they get my tax money, and I get to pay it back for them.

This is from Bridport, VT:

On my Bank of America cards I made purchases at 9.9 percent which was not a variable rate. I assumed I had that interest rate because I have never had a late payment and have never made just the minimum payment. This month I received notice that my interest rate is going to jump to 15.65 percent and be a variable rate. I do have steady income and I don't want to damage my credit rating by paying the balance off in a few months then cancel the card.

Here is another, from West Burke, VT:

My husband sustained severe brain trauma in 2000. We managed to not file bankruptcy and to pay off all credit cards. I now find that we were idiots to do this. Our credit is ruined by going a year without income. Ruined, because we paid any credit card debt we owed.

Here is one from Little Rock, AR:

I am 67 years old and had the card since the year of the flood. I was on vacation and out of the country and did not make my card payment on time. I had always kept my account up. When I went to charge a flight on line it was denied. I called them and they replied that since I was a ''late payer'' I had to pay off my account every 30 days as it used to before they allowed extended payments for large purchases. I paid off the card that day and cut up the card.

From West Newberry, VT:

I send my payment by mail and sometimes the postal service is slow and the card company got payment one day late and has changed my interest rates from 16 percent to 29.9 percent, and now if I pay the minimal payment the charges are more than what I paid on the bill.

One day late, and their rate went from 16 percent to 29 percent.

As I mentioned, in 2 days we have gotten about 900 e-mails, significantly from Vermont but from all over the country. So I have introduced legislation which would cap interest rates on credit cards at 15 percent, with some exceptions going up to 18 percent. That legislation is cosponsored by Senators DURBIN, LEAHY, WHITEHOUSE, HARKIN, and LEVIN. The legislation is based on longstanding law which regulates credit unions, which under normal circumstances cannot charge more than 15 percent.

The American people are hurting. We are in a recession because of the greed of a small number of banks on Wall Street, and now these very same banks are hitting the middle class and working families of this country with outrageously high interest rates. Enough is enough. We need to establish a national usury rate, so I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

ROXANA SABERI IMPRISONMENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this is a photograph of Roxana Saberi. Yesterday, April 26, was her 32nd birthday. She was born and raised in Fargo, ND. Her father Reza Saberi is an Iranian citizen who moved here over 35 years ago. Her mother Akiko is Japanese.

This young woman is a 1994 honor graduate of Fargo North High School, active in music, soccer, dance, a member of the North High School Hall of Fame, and an outstanding athlete. In 1997, she was voted Miss North Dakota. That year, she was made one of the 10 finalists in the Miss America pageant, winning the Scholar Award. In 1999, she completed her master's degree in broadcast journalism at Northwestern. In 2000, she earned a master's degree in international relations from Cambridge University in England. I tell you all that about this young woman because she sits in a 10-foot by 10-foot prison cell in Evin Prison in Tehran, Iran.

I spoke to her father this weekend. Her father and mother are in Tehran.

Roxana was arrested in Tehran and put in prison, and she has been there 86 days. When she went to Iran, she did so because she was proud of her Iranian heritage. Even though she was born, raised, and educated here in the United States, she was interested in going to the country where her father had come from, and so she went to Iran. She is a woman who was trained in journalism. I met her when she practiced journalism in North Dakota. She has reported for National Public Radio, BBC, for FOX News, and others, from Tehran. She stayed in Iran after her credentials as a journalist were rescinded in 2006. She stayed to write a book about Iran and to complete work on her degree in Iranian studies and international relations.

As I said, as of yesterday she has spent 86 days in prison in Iran, in a 10 foot-by-10 foot cell with three cell mates. She was arrested January 31 and was convicted of spying just a week ago and given an 8-year sentence in prison. It is an absolutely preposterous miscarriage of justice. This young woman is not engaged in espionage and is not a spy. She is a young woman who went to Iran because she was proud of her cultural heritage. She was arrested and held in an Iranian prison without the capability of access to an attorney. Her parents didn't know where she was. She was held there incommunicado. She is a young woman caught in the grips of a judicial system and the politics in Iran from which she can't seem, at this point, to escape. She is an innocent woman sitting in a prison cell in Iran.

Roxana has been on a hunger strike for the past 7 days in protest of her sentence. Her father told me when I visited with him on Saturday that he was going to the prison today in Tehran to visit Roxana, and he tried to convince her to cease the hunger strike. She does not want to do that.

She has already lost 10 pounds. Her father said she looked very weak and said she intends to continue the hunger strike until she dies or is released from jail. The only nourishment she is taking is water with some sugar.

The entire world has protested this arrest and conviction and sentencing, which is a miscarriage of justice. As I said, she was held for 10 days without an ability to communicate with anyone. It took a month before the country of Iran admitted they were holding her. It was more than 5 weeks before she was allowed to see a lawyer.

The charges kept changing. First, the Iranian Government said the charge was that she purchased a bottle of wine, and the person who sold it to her told the Iranian Government, and therefore she was arrested. That was what she was told she was put in prison for. She had bought a bottle of wine.

Then she was accused of working as a journalist without a valid press license. That was the second accusation.

Then, weeks later, she was accused of being a spy. The court has not released any evidence against her. They held a ½-day trial—behind closed doors. There was no release of any evidence against her. According to her attorney, she was not allowed to speak in her own defense.

To us that is a completely foreign notion of what justice should be. Apparently, at least in some circles in Iran, they consider that some kind of perverted justice.

Let me say there is at least some hopeful signs. President Ahmadinejad sent a letter to Iran's prosecutor saying Roxana's rights must not be violated and asking him to ensure that she is allowed to offer a full defense on the appeal. Her attorney, as I understand it, is now set to offer the appeal. The Ayatollah Shahroudi, who is the head of Iran's judiciary, has requested a quick and fair appeal of Roxana's case. That also gives some of us hope.

Perhaps some of Iran's leaders understand that what is also on trial is the credibility of those who govern Iran.

This has been very difficult for our country because we do not have an embassy or ambassador in Iran. We must communicate through the Swiss Embassy, which is the protecting power for American citizens in Iran. So it is very hard for us to know what is going on there.

I want to say, again, this young woman is not a spy. It is preposterous for her to be charged with espionage. It is an unbelievable miscarriage of justice for her to be sitting in a 10-by-10 prison cell. Yet on her birthday she sat in that cell in Evin Prison in Tehran facing an 8-year sentence in a circumstance in which she was not even allowed to defend herself. The basic tenets of justice have somehow been denied to this young woman.

What I believe Iran should do is release her from prison and allow her to leave the country and return home with her parents to the U.S. I hope the Iranian Government is listening—not just to us, not just to me, but to virtually everyone in the world who cares about fairness and justice and human rights. All of them have weighed in on Roxana's behalf saying: How on Earth can you do this? How do you justify this?

Iran leaders understand the spotlight of the world is on their country and on those who decided to arrest this young woman, a young woman so proud of her heritage that she was there wanting to write a book about her heritage. I hope they understand the injustice of what they have done and what the rest of the world sees of that injustice and what it means to Iran in the eyes of the rest of the world.

If they do, if they understand that, most surely they will decide to release her from prison, exonerate her, and allow her to go home. I hope they do that soon. They face great risks with the health of this young woman who is now on a hunger strike. President Ahmadinejad and the people who run the judicial system of Iran should pay close attention and do the right thing.

I have spoken to the Permanent Iranian Representative to the United Nations on numerous occasions about this case, and I intend to keep pushing. I hope today perhaps the Iranians will understand the unfairness of what they have done and finally, at long last, make it right.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. MERKLEY relating to the introduction of S. 901 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, what is the parliamentary situation?

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

FRAUD ENFORCEMENT AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2009

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 386, which the clerk will report by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 386) to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 984, to increase funding for certain HUD programs to assist individuals to better withstand the current mortgage crisis.

Inhofe amendment No. 996 (to amendment No. 984), to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the national language of the Government of the United States.

Vitter amendment No. 991, to authorize and remove impediments to the repayment of funds received under the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

Boxer modified amendment No. 1000, to authorize monies for the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program to audit and investigate recipients of nonrecourse Federal loans under the Public Private Investment Program and the Term Asset Loan Facility.

Coburn amendment No. 982, to authorize the use of TARP funds to cover the costs of the bill.

Thune amendment No. 1002, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to use any amounts repaid by a financial institution that is a recipient of assistance under the Troubled Assets Relief Program for debt reduction.

DeMint amendment No. 994, to prohibit the use of Troubled Asset Relief Program funds for the purchase of common stock.

Coburn amendment No. 983, to require the Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency to investigate and report on the activities of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that may have contributed to the current mortgage crisis.

Kohl amendment No. 990, to protect older Americans from misleading and fraudulent marketing practices, with the goal of increasing retirement security.

Ensign amendment No. 1004, to impose certain requirements on public-private investment fund programs.

Ensign amendment No. 1003 (to amendment No. 1000), to impose certain requirements on public-private investment fund programs.

Hatch amendment No. 1007, to prohibit the Department of Labor from expending Federal funds to withdraw a rule pertaining to the filing by labor organizations of an annual financial report required by the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer.

The bill, S. 386, is the bipartisan Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, the Leahy-Grassley bill. When I mention my name and Senator GRASSLEY's name, we are only two of a large number of people on this bill. We have Senators KAUFMAN, KLOBUCHAR, SCHUMER, MURRAY, BAYH, SPECTER, SNOWE, HARKIN, LEVIN, DORGAN, WHITEHOUSE, ROCKEFELLER, SHAHEEN, STABENOW, SANDERS, BENNET of Colorado, DURBIN, MIKULSKI, GILLIBRAND, BEGICH, BURRIS, DODD, MENENDEZ, CARDIN, REID, and PRYOR as co-sponsors.

I mention those names because they go across the political spectrum. They know we have to strengthen the Federal Government's capacity to investigate and prosecute the kinds of financial frauds that have severely undermined our economy and hurt so many hard-working people in this country.

The reason so many of us came together, again, across the political spectrum—and I note there are several former prosecutors in that group—is we have seen what some of these unscrupulous people have done. They have set up these mortgage frauds in basically an unregulated area. They will come to somebody who is facing difficulty in paying off a mortgage—there has probably been a foreclosure and they come and say: Here, we can take care of you. Sign these papers. Put this money down. Send payments to us. We will take care of everything.

So people exhaust their life savings. Maybe they send the money they put away for their kids to go to college. Probably it is part of their retirement account. By the time they get done, the people committing the fraud are gone. The mortgage on the house, however, has not been paid off. In fact, the bank is still going to foreclose. They have lost their life's savings. They have lost all the money they have set aside for whatever reasons so many millions of Americans set money aside for. And these people who committed the fraud are gone. They have been robbed of their savings, their retirement accounts, their children's college funds, their equity, and, of course, many have lost their homes on top of that.

When the testimony of the FBI and the Department of Justice and others showed this type of fraud—which was bad enough in years past—has skyrocketed in the last couple of years, the Senator from Iowa and I decided we should bring a piece of legislation that would allow the FBI and the Department of Justice to go after these people defrauding Americans.

I do not want to just have a simple fine. If somebody steals $100 million, and they get a fine of $5 or $10 million, it is a matter of doing business. I want enough teeth in here that they will go to jail. If you steal somebody's home, if you steal their dreams, if you steal their retirement, you should go to jail. We send kids to jail for sealing a car. How much more important is it that we should send these white-collar thieves to jail for stealing someone's life and someone's dreams? That is what we want to do here.

The bill will help provide the resources and legal tools needed to police and deter fraud but also to protect the taxpayer-funded economic recovery events now being implemented.

I was disappointed that last week our efforts to enact this legislation were stalled. But I take a great deal of hope now to know that by tomorrow midday it should be passed. It is, as I said, a bipartisan bill. It does strengthen the tools available to law enforcement to combat financial and mortgage fraud.

We were delayed a number of times before we got on the floor of the Senate, and I compliment the distinguished majority leader for bringing it to the floor last week. And when we did, we began to work on 18 amendments that were offered to the bill. We had votes on a number of them. By Thursday afternoon, we had voted on all the germane amendments. We also worked in good faith on a number of amendments not related to the underlying fraud enforcement legislation.

I would like to mention the kind of cooperation we had. The distinguished Republican deputy leader, Senator KYL, had a series of amendments that I believe would have passed the test of germaneness. He talked with Senator GRASSLEY and myself, and we arranged a vote on one amendment. He had wanted to bring up several similar ones. They were objected to. He pulled them down, and we had a vote on the one. We spent very little time doing that. We had plenty of time for Senator KYL to make his points, Senator GRASSLEY and I to make ours, and then we had a vote on it.

So we voted on all the germane amendments. For the remaining amendments, we sought an agreement to proceed to vote on each of those pending amendments, the ones that had not been voted on. When the offer was rejected, after being on this bill for several days, the majority leader was forced to file cloture to conclude consideration of this bipartisan legislation.

Majority Leader REID did the only thing he could responsibly do because this is timely legislation. It is needed to protect people from losing their retirement funds, their homes, and their savings for their children to go to college. Americans are seeing their life's savings taken from them by unscrupulous criminals.

I think of my parents who came up during the time of the Great Depression and started a small business. They saved all their lives for their own retirement, to send their children to college. I think of how I would have reacted if I had seen somebody steal from them. Well, it is happening to a lot of other parents and grandparents around this country. It is time for the Senate to act before more people have their lives destroyed.

The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act will make necessary changes to criminal laws, including criminal fraud, securities, and money-laundering laws. It will increase the funding available to Federal law enforcement agencies to combat mortgage fraud and financial fraud. It will revise the False Claims Act to ensure that the Government can recover taxpayer dollars lost to fraud. This is a very important part of the bill. If somebody is stealing the taxpayers' dollars too, we want to get that back for the taxpayers.

Throughout this debate, I have several times commended the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, our lead cosponsor. I commend him and I thank him for his contributions to the bill and the debate, his work in the Judiciary Committee, in getting us this far, and for his dedication to protect taxpayer funds by deterring, investigating, and prosecuting fraud. I thank our many cosponsors for their steadfast support. I have named them. I shall not again. But everybody I have heard from across this country supports this bill.

No one should want to see taxpayer money intended to fund economic recovery efforts diverted by fraud. No one should want to see those who engage in mortgage fraud escape accountability. That is what is going to happen unless we vote to conclude the debate on this bill, pass it, get it to the other body, get it passed, get it signed into law, and give law enforcement the resources and tools they so desperately need.

During the first months of this year, the Judiciary Committee has concentrated on what we can do legislatively to assist in the economic recovery. Already we have considered and reported this fraud enforcement bill and the patent reform bill, and worked to ensure that law enforcement assistance was included in the economic recovery legislation.

The recovery efforts are generating signs of economic progress. That is good. That is necessary. But that is not enough.

We need to make sure we are spending our public resources wisely. We want to make sure they are not being taken by fraud. We also need to ensure that those responsible for the downturn through fraudulent acts in financial markets and the housing market are held to account. It should not be a case where we taxpayers pay for what they did and they get away scot-free. Two decades ago we responded during the savings and loan crisis by hiring more agents, analysts, and prosecutors. We allocated the resources needed to catch those who took advantage to profit through fraud. We have to do it again.

At our February hearing, we heard from the FBI, the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Assets Relief Program, and the Justice Department. All of our law enforcement witnesses testified of the need for this legislation and these additional law enforcement resources.

Deputy Director John Pistole of the FBI warned that the losses of this economic crisis dwarf those of the savings and loan debacle, and the need for more enforcement is even greater now than it was then.

Special Inspector General Neil Barofsky described how law enforcement resources had understandably been diverted from traditional white collar crime to terrorism, but that had left the Justice Department's capacity

to respond to financial and securities fraud significantly weakened. He warned that with trillions of dollars being spent under TARP and other associated programs, ''it is essential that the appropriate resources be dedicated to meet the challenges of both deterring and prosecuting fraud.'' I agree.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Rita Glavin of the Justice Department testified that our bill would provide the Justice Department with needed tools ''to aggressively fight fraud in the current economic climate'' and ''provide key statutory enhancements that will assist in ensuring that those who have committed fraud are held accountable.''

We then held a hearing with FBI Director Robert Mueller. Director Mueller reiterated law enforcement's message. Here is what he said: ''[The bill] will be tremendously helpful in giving us the tools to investigate . . . to help prosecutors prosecute, and finally to obtain the convictions and the jail sentences that are the deterrent to this activity taking place in the future.''

Each week we learn of additional scandals in the financial industry, as leading money managers are charged with multimillion dollar fraud schemes carried out over the years. We need to clean up the mess. That means providing the tools and resources that law enforcement needs to get to the bottom of this, restore order, and exact accountability.

To show how severe this is, reports of mortgage fraud are up 682 percent over the past 5 years, more than 2,800 percent over the past decade. Some say we are losing more than $4 billion a year to mortgage fraud. And massive, new corporate frauds, like the $65 billion Ponzi scheme perpetrated by Bernard Madoff, are being uncovered as the economy has turned worse, exposing many investors to massive losses.

The problem is getting worse, not better. The victims of these frauds have to be protected now more than ever. The victims include, as I have said, homeowners who have been fleeced by unscrupulous mortgage brokers, retirees who have lost their life savings in stock scams and Ponzi schemes, which have come to light only as corporations collapse and the market falls.

They also include American taxpayers who have invested billions of dollars to restore our economy. These American taxpayers expect us to protect the investment they have made to make sure those funds are not exploited by crime. Each one of us is among those taxpayers. We all want to make sure the money is not stolen.

I urge all Senators to support our efforts and work with us to pass this bill without further delay. That means to vote for cloture so that we can conclude the amendment process and vote on the bill.

I see the distinguished cosponsor of this bill, Senator GRASSLEY, on the floor and I yield to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I heard the kind remarks of the Senator from Vermont. I thank him for those remarks about this Senator and I thank him for his cooperation on this bill, including some things I am very much interested in, but also the basis of the legislation that he proposed, and I support it as enthusiastically as I do the rest of the bill. I thank the Senator from Vermont.

I am here, obviously, to speak in support of the Fraud Enforcement Recovery Act which has been so thoroughly discussed by our distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee. As the lead Republican cosponsor of this timely antifraud legislation, I believe it is a very important component—a very important component—to help get both the financial and the housing markets back on track. The fraud enforcement tools and resources provided in this bill are very necessary. They will ensure that the taxpayers' dollars that have been expended to shore up bank and financial institutions and corporations and Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and others aren't lost to fraud, waste, and abuse.

This bill sends a very clear message to would-be bad actors that their conduct will have repercussions from here on out. It will also make sure money lost to fraud can be recovered through the False Claims Act. Most importantly, this bill will help show the American people we are doing something to try and prevent future fraud and recover moneys lost to that fraud and that abuse. That is why I am voting for cloture on this bill.

Early in the process of bringing this bill to the floor, I explained to the Democratic leadership that I wanted an open process for amendments to be considered on this bill before I supported the cloture that we will be voting on. The leadership honored that and we had a number of amendments filed on this bill. We have spent a week and have debated and disposed of a number of amendments to the bill. We have some other amendments that remain outstanding that are good amendments and should be debated on a housing or banking bill that is coming up in the very near future. It is now time to pass this bill. Our law enforcement officials need these tools and they need these resources and they need them now. That is why I am going to vote for cloture on this bill.

Taxpayers have been asked to shoulder an enormous burden at this time of economic crisis created by a credit crisis. They have shouldered an enormous burden, be it the bailout of financial institutions, an economic stimulus bill that handed out $1 trillion, and more recently the Omnibus appropriations bill loaded full of Government spending. To my colleagues: Whether you agree with these expenditures, we simply cannot allow these funds to be unprotected from fraud, waste, and abuse.

This legislation ensures that our law enforcement officials and our prosecutors have the tools necessary to enforce our laws and the resources to hunt down the bad actors. It makes revisions to our criminal fraud laws to ensure that complex financial and mortgage crimes aren't outside the scope of Federal jurisdiction in the future. It also makes necessary corrections to our antimoney laundering laws to ensure that a recent Supreme Court decision doesn't limit the ability of our Department of Justice to go after criminals who launder their ill-gotten funds.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly from the standpoint of this Senator, the bill amends the civil False Claims Act to ensure that taxpayers' money lost to fraud, waste, and abuse can, in fact, be recovered and particularly when that recovery is associated with a patriotic work of whistleblowers who make that known. Back in 1986, I authored major revisions to the False Claims Act and did that so we could fight fraud, particularly against Government then more so than now, by defense contractors. Now it seems to be Medicare and the health care industry. Since those revisions were signed into law in 1986 by President Reagan, the False Claims Act has recovered over $22 billion of taxpayer money.

This powerful law allows citizen taxpayers to act as private attorneys general by going to court on behalf of our Government when they know of fraud against the Government. These qui tam whistleblowers are the heart and soul of the False Claims Act. They uncover fraud from the inside, bringing schemes to light so taxpayers are not taken for a ride. However, in recent years, litigation fueled by powerful Government defense and health care contractors has created legal loopholes that threaten the application of this powerful tool that has brought in billions of dollars. This legislation fixes this, thus ensuring that no fraud can go unpunished by simply navigating through the legal loopholes.

This bill will help deter potential defrauders from attempting to scam the Government and the taxpayers. In addition, this legislation will help instill confidence back into the housing and financial markets. I hope my colleagues will join me by voting for cloture on this bill to help make sure these taxpayer dollars are protected.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business. However, if anyone wishes to come in and talk about the pending bill, I will certainly defer to them.

Mr. LEAHY. Reserving the right to object, and I shall not object, what time is this bill scheduled for a vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The vote will occur at 5:20, the vote on cloture.

Mr. LEAHY. If the Senator will be kind enough to amend his unanimous

consent request to include not to interfere with the vote at 5:20.

Mr. INHOFE. I certainly amend it accordingly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Again, I would say if anyone wants to come in and talk about this vote that is coming up, I will yield to them.

GUANTANAMO BAY

I seem to be involved in four missions right now and one of them happens to be the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. I have had occasion to be down at that facility right after 9/11 and then, of course, the other day I was there again. There are some very serious problems I think many Members of this body are not aware of. One is that when President Obama gave his excellent speech that was his inaugural speech, he recognized we need to determine what we are going to do with those who are currently detained at Guantanamo Bay and those who may come into that facility as a result of the escalation of activity in Afghanistan before making a determination that it has to be closed. Unfortunately, 2 days after he made that speech, he stated it was going to be closed and the prison would be closed within a year.

On February 2, I took a group down there with some Senators who had never been to Guantanamo Bay. All they could do on the way back is say: Why are we considering giving up this facility? In fact, shortly after that, I introduced legislation that would prevent any transfers of detainees from Guantanamo Bay to anywhere in the United States or its territories. The reason I did this is because while this has been used to detain some 800 al-Qaida and Taliban combatants, they are down right now to about 525 of those who have been tried and departed from Gitmo for other countries. Today, there are approximately 245 detainees left. This is the problem. These detainees—about 170 as near as we can determine—are very serious detainees such as Khalid Mohammed and others who were directly involved in the planning of 9/11. Many of the countries will not accept them back. They cannot be repatriated to any country; nobody wants them. So the choices are limited either to keep them at that facility or to figure out some way to put them in, as has been suggested, to some facility in the continental United States. They have talked about some 17 places that could detain these terrorists.

The problem we have with that is these would become 17 magnets for terrorism in the United States. I can't find one Member of the U.S. Senate—not one—who is willing to have any of these detained in his or her State. I often wonder what is this obsession that people have to closing this facility. It is kind of funny because it is one of the few good things that is out there—few good deals we have. We have had this facility since 1903. We are still paying the same amount of money—$4,000 a year—for this facility, and it is the state-of-the-art place for the United States to take care of this type of detainee. Let's keep in mind that we also have a complex called the expeditionary legal complex located at Gitmo. It is about the only place of its kind in the world where you can try these cases. If you don't try them there, very likely they could find their way into our justice system. Of course, I think we all understand the rules of evidence are different in that facility than they are in our Federal judiciary system.

I had occasion to go to Fort Sill in my State of Oklahoma, which is 1 of the 17 that have been named as possible areas for detention of these individuals.

Sergeant Major Carter was there, the one running the facility. She had occasion to be stationed for over a year at Guantanamo. She said: Why in the world would we give up that facility to send them down here to Fort Sill? First of all, we don't have the capacity to keep them in the various classifications in security that they do at Guantanamo. Second, she said that the ratio is 1 to 2 in terms of health care facilities. There is just one health care person in most locations, but there are doctors and nurses for each two detainees at Guantanamo Bay. We don't have anything like that at Fort Sill or Leavenworth or any of the other suggested places.

Consequently, they have studied and found and determined that never has there been a case of abuse in the way of human rights abuses with the detainees. There has never been a case of waterboarding or of any kind of torturing. Yet they are there, and nobody has been able to say why it is that they should be closed down.

What troubles me most is that the Obama administration seems more focused on closing Gitmo and protecting the rights of those detainees than on conducting the war on terror and protecting our country and our people from the terrorists currently held there.

It is interesting that Attorney General Holder went down to look at Gitmo to determine what we should do. He came back with a glowing report about the conditions. The Pentagon released a report stating that Gitmo meets the highest international standards, the very highest standards. Unfortunately, the Obama administration seems bent on closing Gitmo—I guess for political reasons. Yet I have not heard the reasons why it is that people are so obsessed with the idea of closing it down.

I think it is time for the Members of Congress to weigh in because as we look at the evidence and the problems, we have to find a place to put the detainees who are there. I say to my friend from Vermont, it is not just the 245 detainees currently there, it is the ones who are going to be there as a result of the surge. People say there are two prisons in Afghanistan, there is Bagram and Kandahar. The problem with that is, it is my understanding they will only accept detainees who are Afghan. You have others going from Saudi Arabia, from other areas, and there is no place else they can be put.

I think we have an opportunity there to have a place that is secure, with the highest standards. Again, the only alternative would be to put them in places where we have detainees—where we have other facilities in the United States.

In 2007, the Senate passed a resolution by a vote of 94 to 3. It stated that the detainees housed at Gitmo should not be released into American society, nor should they be transferred stateside into facilities in American communities and neighborhoods. That vote was 94 to 3.

Madam President, I suggest to you that we will have the opportunity to call on those 94 Members, and certainly their constituents back home, who don't want to have them released and housed in any area other than Gitmo. My State of Oklahoma is not the only State where the State legislature has passed resolutions saying we don't want any of those detainees housed in our State. I think we will have an opportunity—since the vote is taking place in a minute and my time has expired—an opportunity in the next few days, before any final action takes place, to allow the Members of both the House and Senate to express a very strong position that they don't want to have these detainees placed in any of the stateside facilities.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, we have about a minute left. I reiterate for my colleagues that this is a bill that, when it is voted upon, I predict—and I am fairly good about such predictions—will pass almost unanimously, certainly with 80 to 90 votes for it. We handled a number of amendments—mostly Republican amendments—and we either included them or voted them down. Most were included in this bill. Cloture was filed only because a huge number of amendments came in that had absolutely nothing to do with the jurisdiction of either the Judiciary Committee or this bill. That is the only way to get on to the bill and give our law enforcement the tools they need. Many law enforcement groups in this country has spoken in favor of this.

I ask unanimous consent that a group of letters from law enforcement organizations and other groups in favor of it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL FRATERNAL
ORDER OF POLICE,
Washington, DC, March 18, 2009.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN, I am writing on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order

of Police to advise you of our support for S. 386, the ''Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act.''

This bill will strengthen our ability to investigate and prosecute the kinds of financial crimes that have so severely undermined our economy by providing law enforcement with the tools they need to investigate fraudulent activity in connection with bailout and recovery legislation,

The legislation you have introduced along with Senators Grassley, Schumer, Klobuchar, and Kaufman will authorize $165 million a year for hiring fraud prosecutors and investigators at the U.S. Department of Justice for FY2010 and 2011, including specific funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to hire additional special agents, professional staff and forensic analysts to rebuild its ''white collar'' investigation program. The bill also authorizes $80 million a year over the next two years for investigators and analysts at the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Office of Inspector General for the Housing and Urban Development Department to combat fraud against Federal assistance programs and financial institutions.

Additionally, the bill will make changes to fraud and money laundering statutes to enhance prosecutors' ability to combat this growing wave of fraud and improve one of the most potent civil tools we have for rooting out fraud in government—the False Claims Act.

I applaud you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you and your staff to move this bill forward. If I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco through my Washington office.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

TAXPAYERS AGAINST FRAUD,
Washington, DC.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee, Russell Senate Office Building, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: I am writing to express Taxpayers Against Fraud's support for the recently introduced Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009 (S. 386). Taxpayers Against Fraud is dedicated to eradicating fraud against the United States government. We strongly believe that this well-reasoned legislation will serve that end, and will greatly benefit the American people during this trying time. In particular, the S.386 provisions closing False Claims Act loopholes will prevent fraudsters from stealing tax dollars with impunity.

Over the past twenty years, it has become utterly clear that the government's most effective fraud-fighting tool is the federal False Claims Act, returning over $22 billion in settlements and judgments. However, recent court decisions have interpreted the False Claims Act in ways inconsistent with the Congressional intent, causing harm to taxpayers. These judicial rulings could leave billions of federal dollars exposed to fraud. Perhaps most disturbing, the Supreme Court recently held that the False Claims Act does not impose liability for false claims on government funds disbursed by a government contractor for government purposes. This ruling severely limits the reach of the False Claims Act. S. 386 specifically addresses this Court ruling. Therefore, during this time, when the government is distributing unprecedented funds as part of the economic recovery efforts, Congress is rightly seeking to strengthen the False Claims Act, thus ensuring that every stimulus dollar is appropriately spent to get our country back on track.

We strongly support this legislation, and we encourage others to join the fight in protecting Amercia's scarce fiscal resources.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH E. B. WHITE,
President & C.E.O.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
Lewisberry, PA, March 22, 2009.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: As the National President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), a 26,000 member organization exclusively representing federal law enforcement officers, I would like to commend you for your introduction of Senate Bill 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009.

Three sections of the bill in particular are of great importance to our membership. First, Subsection 27, paragraph (1) seeks to define the term ''proceeds'' correctly as relates to a money laundering violation (Title 18, USC 1956 C). Your bill will ensure that a criminal is charged for the ''gross receipts'' they earned from a specified unlawful activity. Money launderers should not be allowed to use receipts from their criminal enterprise as a means to lower the dollar amount for which they are criminally charged.

Under Section 3, paragraph (2) (A), your bill specifies funding the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. Specifically, your bill recommends funding the FBI $65 million each year in an effort to combat crimes involving ''federal assistance programs and financial institutions.'' In light of the economic crisis our country is facing, and the rampant fraud being committed against programs designed to assist Americans, it is imperative that the FBI receives the proper funding and resources to investigate criminals who seek to steal from our government.

We also support the additional $30 million allocations specified for both the Postal Inspection Service and the Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD-OIG), As the Postal Service confronts its fiscal challenges, it is imperative that the Postal Inspection Service is properly funded in order to carry out its vital mission. If the Postal Service continues to tighten the Postal Inspection Service belt, our Inspectors won't be able to breathe, i.e. continue to conduct high impact criminal institution crimes. They, too, need to be properly funded so they can continue to investigate those who seek to steal from our government.

Thank you, Senator Leahy, for recognizing the need to fund those agencies who are dedicated to protecting our government's capital. We also applaud your recognition of the need to address the misguided interpretation of the money laundering statute that was rendered in the Santos case.

Respectfully submitted,

J. ADLER,
National President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS,
Lake Ridge, VA, March 20, 2009.

Re Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, S. 386

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Republican Leader,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID AND REPUBLICAN LEADER MCCONNELL: On behalf of the National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys, I write to urge the Senate to proceed without delay to approve the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, S. 386. This legislation was reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 5. Our organization, which represents the interests of the 5,400 Assistant United States Attorneys responsible for enforcement of the nation's laws and the pursuit of justice, strongly supports this legislation and urges prompt Senate passage. The legislation also has the support of the Department of Justice itself.

The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act (FERA) will make new tools and resources available to prosecutors and law enforcement authorities to investigate and prosecute the corporate and mortgage frauds that have contributed to the collapse of our economy and caused such widespread harm. The legislation authorizes $230 million for hiring fraud prosecutors and investigators at the Justice Department for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. This includes $50 million for U.S. Attorneys' offices to expand prosecutorial staffing of its mortgage fraud strike forces and $40 million for the criminal, civil, and tax divisions at the Justice Department to provide special litigation and investigative support to those efforts.

FERA also makes a number of important improvements to fraud and money laundering statutes to strengthen the ability of federal prosecutors to combat this growing wave of fraud.

This legislation, like the FIRREA legislation responding to the savings and loan crisis, is the most significant effort to reinvigorate our federal fraud enforcement program in more than two decades. Congress should move quickly to pass this legislation so American taxpayers can be confident that those who are criminally responsible for contributing to the present economic disaster, as well as those who may attempt to exploit federal efforts to promote recovery, are apprehended and held fully accountable fox their wrongs.

Sincerely yours,

RICHARD DELONIS,
President.

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS,
Austin, TX, March 10, 2009.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and the premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with nearly 50,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud world-wide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession. The mission of the ACFE is to reduce the incidence of fraud and white-collar crime and to assist in fraud detection and deterrence.

On behalf of the ACFE, I applaud you and the Senate Judiciary Committee for your commitment to reduce fraud and your diligence in creating S. 386, The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009. This is an important piece of legislation that will make a significant impact on reducing the impact of Fraud and restoring public confidence in our financial markets.

According to a Survey of Certified Fraud Examiners (CFEs) who investigated cases between January 2006 and February 2008, U.S. organizations lose an estimated seven percent of their annual revenues to fraud. When applied to the projected 2008 United States Gross National Product, the seven percent figure translates to approximately $994 billion in fraud losses. The ACFE published the

results of the survey in our 2008 Report to the Nation on Occupational Fraud & Abuse

The ACFE administers the CFE credential. The CFE denotes proven expertise in fraud prevention, detection and deterrence. CFEs are trained to identify the warning signs and red flags that indicate evidence of fraud and fraud risk. CFEs around the world help protect the global economy by uncovering fraud and implementing processes to prevent fraud from occurring in the first place. As you stated in a recent press release, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009 was created to strengthen the Federal Government's capacity to investigate, prosecute, and even deter financial frauds. In order to be effective at these goals, it requires practitioners who are trained with the necessary fraud prevention, detection, and examination skills. The CFE credential and the training and experience required of an individual to become a CFE are critical skill sets that the Federal Government should demand of its resources. We encourage you to include CFE training and credentials as part of any plan to help prevent and detect fraud.

With our compliments, enclosed is our Report to the Nation as well as the current issue of Fraud Magazine. We hope these publications provide greater insight into the valuable work that both the ACFE and its members provide. The ACFE is proud to have such an honorable colleague in the fight against fraud and we are deeply appreciative of your exemplary work.

If there is anything I can offer or extend to you in the future, please do not hesitate to ask.

Cordially,

SCOTT J. GROSSFIELD,
CEO.

Enclosures: Report to the Nation, Fraud Magazine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of 5:20 having arrived, under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the committee substitute amendment to S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009.

Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow, Kent Conrad, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Herb Kohl, Jeff Bingaman, Russell D. Feingold, Bernard Sanders, Bill Nelson, Ben Nelson, Richard Durbin, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Claire McCaskill, Harry Reid.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the committee substitute amendment to S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) would have voted ''yea.'' The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 170 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Akaka	Feingold	Menendez
Alexander	Feinstein	Merkley
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Baucus	Graham	Murkowski
Bayh	Grassley	Murray
Begich	Gregg	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Harkin	Pryor
Bingaman	Hatch	Reed
Bond	Hutchison	Reid
Boxer	Inouye	Risch
Brown	Isakson	Sanders
Burris	Johanns	Schumer
Byrd	Johnson	Sessions
Cantwell	Kaufman	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Shelby
Carper	Kerry	Snowe
Casey	Klobuchar	Specter
Chambliss	Kohl	Stabenow
Cochran	Lautenberg	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Conrad	Levin	Udall (CO)
Corker	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Crapo	Lincoln	Warner
Dodd	Lugar	Webb
Dorgan	McCain	Whitehouse
Durbin	McCaskill	Wicker
Enzi	McConnell	Wyden

NAYS—4

Coburn	Inhofe
DeMint	Kyl

NOT VOTING—11

Brownback	Ensign	Rockefeller
Bunning	Landrieu	Vitter
Burr	Martinez	Voinovich
Cornyn	Roberts	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 4. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for me to raise a point of order en bloc against all pending amendments; that they are not germane postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Chair hears none, and, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I raise a point of order en bloc that the pending amendments are not germane postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is well taken. The amendments fall en bloc.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back, the substitute amendment is agreed to, and the clerk will read the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I understand the vote will be tomorrow on the bill. Would it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays at this point?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is.

Mr. LEAHY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be. The yeas and nays are ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the distinguished Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise in strong support of S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act, and I congratulate Chairman LEAHY for introducing this important piece of legislation. If enacted, this bill will enhance our ability to combat fraud and help bring justice to those injured by misconduct that contributed to our current financial crisis.

The bill has several important aims. First, it provides badly needed additional funds for fraud-fighting efforts at the FBI, the Department of Justice, and other agencies. It also makes critical changes to our existing criminal fraud statutes, so they capture the malfeasance in the mortgage and financial markets that we hear about every day. Last, certainly not least, it strengthens the False Claims Act to facilitate actions against Government contractors or their subcontractors for wasting Government money.

First, I want to say a few words about the additional resources authorized by this bill. In recent years, the number of fraud cases has ballooned. Last month, the Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, told the Judiciary Committee that his agency's caseload of active mortgage fraud cases, for example, has almost tripled in the past 3 years.

The FBI, along with Department of Justice and other agencies, has struggled with allocating their scarce resources. As Director Mueller testified, ''these cases are straining the FBI's resources. . . . [W]e have had to shift resources from other criminal programs to address the current financial crisis.''

The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act provides essential money for investigating and prosecuting fraud. Both in the last Congress and earlier this Congress, Senator SNOWE and I had introduced legislation, which also would have temporarily increased resources at the FBI to fight white-collar crime because we recognized that our law enforcers do not have the resources they need to fight the ever-growing caseload of fraud cases. S. 386 serves the same important end by providing $245 million a year to the Justice Department, the FBI, and other investigative agencies.

S. 386 does more than just provide money, though; it aims to fight fraud

in a comprehensive, far-reaching manner by amending criminal laws. The changes in the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act will give Federal law enforcement agencies the tools they need to address some of the most nefarious criminal activity in the financial world.

As we have seen in recent years, many of our vulnerabilities in the financial sector originated from bad mortgages and dangerous derivatives. The companies in the center of the storm are the names you hear every night on the news. Of course, not every person in those companies has acted criminally. But some have. These the actors who were able to exploit holes in the regulatory system or identify problems with oversight—often with intentional disregard for the health of the economy. Unfortunately, our present laws don't neatly capture some the criminal acts that are at the heart of financial crisis.

To that end, this bill will amend the definition of ''financial institution'' to extend the fraud laws to private mortgage-lending businesses that were not directly regulated or insured by the Federal Government. It will also amend the law to cover mortgage-backed derivatives—so intentional, fraudulent acts related to those instruments can be prosecuted.

The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act also changes the law to better capture Ponzi schemes. As it stands now, courts have held that the perpetrators of those schemes are liable only for ''profits'' they earned—rather than being liable for all the ''proceeds'' they received over the course of time.

Furthermore, the bill puts the money expended through the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and other stimulus bills under the ambit of the fraud statutes. By making this change now, we hopefully will deter the type of intentional, criminal activity that has contributed to the present financial crisis.

There is also another way we can protect the TARP and ARRA money—by strengthening civil fraud enforcement. The Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act makes overdue changes to the False Claims Act, so that the Federal Government can recover money lost due to contractor abuse and fraud.

Through Senator GRASSLEY's efforts since the 1980s, the False Claims Act has become the powerful tool that it is today. Individuals, on behalf of the Government, or the Government itself can sue to recover money from contractors who have abused their access to Government funds. We have seen in the Iraq war context that when contractors have access to large tranches of Government money, fraud and abuse will often follow.

Yet some of the False Claims Act cases decided by courts in the last decade have made the False Claims Act less effective. One line of cases determined that fraudulent actions by subcontractors are not subject to the False Claims Act. A change in the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act plugs this hole in the existing law.

It is too late to turn back the clock and prevent today's financial crisis from happening. But we can hold the bad actors accountable now by prosecuting the perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law. The provisions of the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act will help ensure that our enforcement resources match the gravity of the situation before us.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio be allowed to speak at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE CRISIS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, later this week, the Senate is going to consider legislation that I have been working on for 2 years. Two years ago, it was apparent to me that we were facing a mortgage foreclosure crisis in America. It was a crisis which had just begun, but it was obvious there were many victims. I had no idea when I introduced this legislation that we would be standing here 2 years later and the state of the American economy we would face.

The Senate will consider legislation I have offered to help families save their homes and avoid foreclosure. When we consider amendments to the bill, the key number to remember is 1.7 million families—1.7 million. That is the number of families we will either give a chance to save their homes or allow them to be thrown out in the street, depending on how the vote turns out. My amendment will help 1.7 million families avoid foreclosure. It will make a small change to the Bankruptcy Code to provide these families with a little bit of leverage—leverage they do not have today.

I had a meeting on Friday in my office in Chicago. Groups came from all over the city of Chicago and told me about the mortgage foreclosure crisis in that city. I love that town. I am honored to represent it. But there are neighborhoods that are in serious trouble and not because folks aren't keeping up their homes—they do. They have fierce pride in their little bungalows and homes they maintain. It is not because they aren't proud of their churches they attend and temples and synagogues. That is always a part of life in most cities, and it certainly is in Chicago. And not because the kids aren't out playing on the playgrounds and reflecting the values of their families. No, it is usually because there is one house on the block that has gone into foreclosure.

You may think to yourself: So what. That is only one house. But imagine in your own hometown, in your own neighborhood, if that house next door went into foreclosure. Imagine it was vacant, with plywood on all the windows, and you started noticing that not only was the lawn not being tended to, it was becoming a vacant lot for trash to accumulate. Then the word was out that there were vandals who were stripping the copper tubing and piping out of that house. The next thing you know, there are rumors about drug gangs using it late at night.

That is the reality of these neighborhoods, and it is the reality of mortgage foreclosure. It is not just the economic loss for the neighbors. It is the loss of a neighborhood spirit. That is what foreclosure brings us.

You say to yourself: You know that family that was in there, they just made a terrible decision on a mortgage. Some of them did. Some of them were misled into those terrible decisions.

Have you ever been to a closing to buy a home? Do you remember that stack of papers they put on the table in front of you? They would turn the corner over and they would say: Keep signing.

What is this?

Oh, it is a Federal Government form. The banks looked at it; the realtors looked at it; everything is fine. Keep going. Here is a check. Sign this. Now here is your payment book. In 60 days make your first payment.

Secreted in some of these documents were provisions that a lot of people did not understand. Sometimes the whole process was a fraud. In the worst of times, many of these mortgage brokers were saying to people:

How much money do you make?

Oh, $50,000, $60,000.

Oh, that is great. We will put you in a nice little house, we will give you an adjustable rate mortgage and the house will go up in value and everything will be fine.

They call them no-doc mortgages. That meant no documentation. The borrower, the person buying the home, did not have to produce a single document to indicate their income or net worth.

We have a little provision in the Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service. If you spend a few dollars and fill out a form, we will verify what your income is so the people who are loaning the money are going to have verification. That was not even asked for. Why? Because the folks who were doing these deals wanted to get them done and get out of town and they did. They left behind a mess in community after community, in city after city.

Now, as these people face foreclosure in their homes, many of them do not know where to turn. They go back to the bank and they say to the bank: Come on, I understand I can get a low interest rate now. Maybe I can stay in this home. I am not going to default

and I will not lose the home. It will not be foreclosed.

Do you know what the banker tells them? The banker says: Oh, we just did a credit rating on you and it turns out you are upside-down. You owe more money on your house than it is worth; therefore, your credit rating is too low. Therefore, we cannot renegotiate the mortgage, therefore you are going to face foreclosure.

That's the Catch-22 reality of mortgage foreclosure today.

I told a story to some people the other day. I got on an airplane to fly from Washington to Chicago. I do that a lot. A stewardess, flight attendant, said she wanted to talk to me. After they served the coffee and soda, the drinks on the plane, she came down and knelt down in the aisle next to me. People are looking around: What is this all about?

She said: Senator, I am a single mom. I have three kids. I have been a flight attendant on this airline for 20 years. I go to work every day and work real hard. I have a house just outside of Chicagoland area, in the metropolitan area, and I have a 7-percent mortgage on it and I cannot do it. I can't make the payments. But I know they are offering mortgages now that are down in the 4- and 5-percent range and I think I can swing it. But they will not sit down and talk to me. Nobody will talk to me. I have to default on my payment and go into foreclosure before anybody will sit and talk to me.

That is the reality of what housing is in many places across America. So, 2 years ago, I came up with this idea of changing the Bankruptcy Code. Currently, under the Bankruptcy Code, if you are facing bankruptcy and you own several pieces of real estate—a home, a vacation condo in Florida, a ranch or a farm—and you go into bankruptcy, the bankruptcy judge can take a look at the mortgage which is in foreclosure for your condo in Florida, and that bankruptcy judge can say: The fair value of that condo is X. Therefore, we will reduce the principle on the mortgage to X. We will change the interest rate, and we believe you can make the payments. You can keep your condo. The same for your farm, the same for your ranch. But your home? No deal. The bankruptcy court cannot even consider changing the mortgage terms on your home.

That has been in the law for awhile. I think it is a terrible provision. The people who want to protect that provision? Many of the banks that brought us this crisis, many of the banks that have been given billions of dollars. It's not all of them. I will tell you the good guys later on. But many of these banks that have benefited from the hundreds of billions of dollars taxpayers have put on the table have said, when it comes to a bad mortgage and a foreclosure, tough deal. They made a bad decision. They have to pay for it.

Really? These bankers who were raking in the billions of taxpayers' dollars because of their bad deals and their rotten portfolios have said to these poor people facing foreclosure: Tough. Tough. You should have known better. You should not have made that mistake. You should have shown the wisdom and foresight that we show in the banking business.

How about that for turning the tables?

That is what this debate is all about. I don't want to see more people in bankruptcy. That is not a good outcome. But if the lenders of these mortgages know that at the end of the road, after everything else has gone on, there may be a bankruptcy judge who will sit down and look at that mortgage and say to that flight attendant: You know what. You are offering mortgages at this bank for 4 and 5 percent. You offer this woman 4.5 percent. She can make the payments and keep her home and the court is going to order it.

If they knew that could happen at the end of the day, I think those bankers would be in a position where they would want to sit down before it occurs and try to avoid the foreclosure, avoid the terrible outcome for the family and the neighborhood.

Mr. President, 1.7 million American families could save their homes with my amendment. I didn't come up with that figure; the analysts did. It makes a very small change in the Bankruptcy Code which could result in that. If it passes, it is not just a family who wins or the neighbors who win, the banks win. Do you know what it costs a bank to take a home through foreclosure? A minimum, I am told at a hearing I held, of $50,000. That is what they lose for all the legal fees and things that are involved in a foreclosure on property. Then, do you know what happens to 99 percent of the properties that go into foreclosure? Do you know who owns them after the foreclosure? The bank. Now that bank has to worry about cutting the grass, making sure it is a presentable property, providing security if necessary. What might happen if somebody started squatting on the property—which is starting to happen. Or drug gangs started invading the building? Now it is a banker's problem, not one they signed up for but one they face.

We can save the homes of 1.7 million families with this issue. The mortgages that are under discussion here were risky instruments. Too many lenders threw caution to the wind and they issued these subprime mortgages, no-doc mortgages, mortgages with stair-step rate increases, and a lot of people were sucked in and taken advantage of.

The Mortgage Bankers Association and their cronies scoffed when we told them we were going to have even more foreclosures, but the number continues to grow. This is the cancer at the heart of this recession. This is what we have to address.

This President has worked overtime with a Recovery and Reinvestment Act, putting money back into the economy, saving jobs, creating jobs. But we have to get to the heart of this housing crisis. We have to stop what has become a steady decline of neighborhoods and real estate values in America. It affects us all.

The institutions that held billions of dollars of these mortgage assets began to fail. You remember the litany: Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers, AIG. The global financial system started to melt down and it started with these bad mortgages. Then the American taxpayers were asked to provide $700 billion to bail out institutions, just like the ones I have named. Lending dried up at the banks across America. Businesses had to cut back. Millions of American workers have lost their jobs.

In my home State of Illinois, we were losing on average 1,200 jobs a day—a day. Unfortunately, that continues. We think we are starting—starting to turn the corner but ever so slightly.

Trillions of dollars in savings of workers and retirees were wiped out. It happened to everybody, everybody who was in an investment with a 401(k) or IRA or even a pension plan. Eventually, even safe mortgages were put at risk. It started with subprime mortgages. Now it is starting to spread. Credit Suisse now estimates that 8.1 million mortgages could fail in the next few years. It is not over. What does that represent? One out of every six homes in America could face foreclosure.

When I gave this speech a year ago and called for this measure, people came to the floor and said: Durbin, you are exaggerating. It is not that bad. It is going to get well. People will be fine.

That has not happened. Just the opposite has happened.

It does not have to be this way. Many of these mortgages can be slightly modified and people can stay in their homes. The banks can still profit and families can still have a place for a future. If we can save these homes, the value of the assets based on these mortgages could regain much of their value. The institutions that hold billions of dollars of these assets, such as Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and many others could return to full health more quickly. Confidence might return to the financial system. The American taxpayers would get their money back much earlier from the institutions we bailed out with hard-earned taxpayer dollars. Lending would ramp up at a more rapid pace. Businesses might feel more confidence.

The banks have said all along we don't need any change in the law, we will take care of this problem. Look what has happened. As they promised us they would take care of it, they didn't. More and more homes went into default and face foreclosure because they won't sit down and make the deal. Why wouldn't they? If they face $50,000 in losses on these foreclosures, if they have all these new obligations, at the

end of the day why wouldn't they sit down?

I will tell you why. For many of them, they don't want to concede the fact that they created this crisis. Second, many of them believe that at the end of the day Uncle Sam and the taxpayers of America will ride to the rescue, buying these mortgage securities, taking care of these banks, saving them after the bottom falls out of the real estate market and housing market in America. What an awful outcome, that all these families would have to go through all this suffering, that all these neighborhoods would have all these problems, so at the end of the day the banks that made the original bad mortgages would be rescued. That must be what they are thinking.

The groups that are leading the charge against me on this are familiar names on Capitol Hill: The Mortgage Bankers Association, the people who brought us this wonderful subprime mortgage crisis, they oppose my bill; the Financial Services Roundtable, the biggest names in financial services in this Nation, the ones who have had their hands out for Federal money, oppose this idea of helping people facing foreclosure; and the American Bankers Association. What a disappointment. What a disappointment that a great association such as that, representing so many good banks, would not even sit down at the table to discuss this provision. It is a source of great disappointment to me because, as a Congressman and Senator, I have worked with them on so many issues. I have never found them more unyielding and unreasonable than on this issue.

They say: Don't worry about it, Senator, we are experts. We are going to handle it. Don't tell us what we need to do.

Many of those same banks are the first in line when it comes to Federal money. In effect, they have said we have created these rotten mortgages in the first place. Then we sliced them up into securities and sold them to investors all over the world as though there were no risks involved, although we knew better. They tell us we made billions of profits on the backs of homeowners, and then we took billions more from the taxpayers when the mortgages went bad, but don't make us solve the crisis. The Mortgage Bankers and American Banking Association says: We will handle it by ourselves. Time will take care of it.

That was effectively the message of the leading banking associations when, for the last several months, we have begged them, pleaded with them to sit down and work this out. They have refused. They have been adamant.

The Independent Community Bankers of America and the National Association of Federal Credit Unions—a group which I always supported in the past—they have had a little different message. They said: We didn't cause this crisis. Why should we be part of any plan to solve it?

We tried lengthy negotiations to address their concerns. We told them this solution will help the economy, will help their borrowers, and basically help their clients. And they just will not buy it.

I can tell them this. It is time for Congress to act and I hope we can muster the courage and find the votes, although I know it is going to be hard, hard to imagine that today the mortgage bankers would have clout in this Chamber, but they do.

They have a lot of friends still here. They are still big players on the American political scene. They have said to their friends: Stay away from this legislation. Do not vote for it.

Some of them will follow their lead. Not everyone has walked away from this responsible solution. The amendment which we will vote on a little later this week has the support of CitiGroup, the Center for Responsible Lending, and many other leading homeowner advocacy groups such as the AARP, the Leadership Council on Civil Rights, the Consumer Federation of America, and dozens of other groups. They have worked with me to craft a responsible, reasonable proposal to give lenders a clear incentive to work hard to keep families in their homes.

The amendment I am going to offer will make a modest change in the Bankruptcy Code with a lot of conditions. It will not apply across the board. In the past, some of my colleagues have understood the need for action but have been uncomfortable with some of the original language. So let me be clear. This amendment is very different. This amendment limits the assistance in bankruptcy to situations where lenders are so intransigent that they are unwilling to cooperate with the two primary foreclosure prevention efforts already underway, the Obama administration's Homeowner Assistance and Stability Plan, and the congressionally created HOPE for Homeowners Refinancing Program, which this bill will greatly improve.

I am not going to go into further detail, but I want to say to my colleagues in the Senate and those who follow this debate, this is not the first time I have come to the Senate floor in the 13 years I have served to raise issues involving the exploitation of American consumers. I can recall the bankruptcy reform debate, had that a few years back, and I offered a simple amendment. Here is what it said: If you, as a lender, are guilty of predatory lending practices—in other words, if you have violated the law in the way that you have suckered in people to sign up for the mortgages, then you cannot show up at the bankruptcy court and ask that court order the person in bankruptcy to pay you. Your hands are not clean. You are a predatory lender.

At that time, many years ago, opposing my amendment was Senator Phil Gramm of Texas. Phil Gramm of Texas and I have an opposite political philosophy. He is a very articulate and a very smart man, and he was debating me. Do you remember what he said during the course of the debate? He said:

> If the Durbin amendment passes—

This is about 8 years ago.

> if the Durbin amendment passes, that will be the end of subprime mortgages.

Think about that. If 8 years ago we would have put an end to these subprime mortgages with that amendment, would we be in the mess we are in today? Well, perhaps, but perhaps not. We called the amendment for a vote. The amendment said the banks that were guilty of predatory lending could not recover in bankruptcy, and I lost by one vote. One vote.

I thought to myself so many times as this recession has unfolded how it might have been different if somebody had stood up at that moment in time, just one more Senator for consumers across America. This will be another test. Who is going to win this debate, the mortgage bankers, the American Bankers Association, or the consumers across this country? The flight attendant on that flight, a single mom with three kids, her one asset in life is her home, and she is about to lose it? All she wants is a chance to renegotiate that mortgage and no one will sit down and talk with her. They would rather see her go all the way through default and foreclosure. It is an outrageous situation. It is repeated over and over and over.

We will have this debate this week. I hope this amendment can prevail. We are going to work hard to make sure we do everything we can so that it passes.

Then next week we are going to take up the credit card issue. We will be back with our friends in the banking industry. The American people know a lot about credit cards, and they know what this industry has done. The President said in a meeting last week: This is another industry that is entitled to make a profit but not entitled to exploit America's families and consumers. He is right. This will be a real test of my colleagues in the next few weeks in the Senate. First, we come to mortgage foreclosure, and then when it comes to credit cards, as to whether we are going to stand up on the side of working people in America, families struggling to get by, struggling with debt, who need someone to speak up for them, we can do that in the Senate. I sincerely hope we do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Expressions of approval and disapproval are not permitted.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

TRADE POLICY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I actually approve of the Senator's comments. In this case I want to express that.

In the last few weeks, there has been a good bit of discussion in the media

and in Washington, not much around the country, but in the media and in Washington, about continuing the Bush trade policy by promoting the trade pacts he negotiated before leaving office.

We know President Bush pushed the Central American Free Trade Agreement through the Congress after his father and President Clinton had pushed through the North American Free Trade Agreement. And we know that continuing the Bush trade policy would be a mistake.

Look at what has happened in States such as Ohio and New Hampshire. Look all over this country. You can see not simply the incredible job loss middle-class families have suffered, not just their own job loss, what that means to a neighborhood, what that means to a community, what it means to police and fire protection and the layoffs of city workers and the general malaise that surrounds those in the community with major layoffs, but it has also meant years of stagnant wages. We have seen, since this huge loss of manufacturing jobs, since this exploding of our trade deficit, years of stagnant wages where most of America simply has not gotten a pay raise in real dollars.

A combination of the current recession and manufacturing jobs lost as a result of wrong-headed trade policies have taken their toll on community after community in Ohio. From the North American Free Trade Agreement to the Central American Free Trade Agreement, from Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China, to failing to enforce our trade laws, our Nation's trade policy in the last decade, pure and simple, has betrayed America's middle class.

Last year alone our trade deficit topped $700 billion. We have every day, yesterday—Saturday, Friday, tomorrow, the next day, all week, every day—a trade deficit of $2 billion, a $2 billion a day trade deficit. If you spent a dollar every second of every minute of every hour of every day, it would take you 63 years to spend $2 billion.

We have a $2 billion trade deficit every day. The first President Bush said a billion dollar trade surplus or a billion dollar trade deficit translates into some 13,000 jobs gained or lost. A $1 billion trade surplus means you are manufacturing and selling $1 billion more out of the country than you are importing. That is a 13,000 job gain. A $1 billion trade deficit is the reverse, is a 13,000 job loss. That is according to President Bush the first.

So you can do the math. A $700 billion trade deficit is a lot of lost jobs. This is a net trade deficit. This is imports minus exports or exports minus imports. Our trade deficit has resulted in our Nation not only importing goods and services and building that trade deficit and seeing the kinds of numbers of lost jobs, it is also importing the dangerous safety standards of our trading partners.

In Toledo, OH, several patients died after taking contaminated heparin for their heart conditions. The manufacturers of heparin had outsourced the making of the drug. As a result, they did not know where the contaminated ingredients came from. It has also happened in vitamins; it has also happened in other pharmaceuticals. It has happened in dog food, where the manufacturers of these dog foods or, in the case of the dog food, or the manufacturer of the pharmaceuticals, the companies have moved offshore, have bought ingredients—outsourced these ingredients—have bought them from all kinds of subcontractors, whom they generally cannot trace very well.

They have come back into the United States and caused significant damage, sometimes to the point of death for too many Americans.

The same with toys. Professor Jeffrey Weidenhamer, a professor at Ashland University, not far from where I grew up in Ohio, took his freshman chemistry class and went out and bought very inexpensive toys at Halloween and Christmas last year and then tested these toys for lead-based paint and found a significant number of them had far too high levels, dangerously high levels for children.

These were products made by an American company but outsourced. The production was outsourced to China. These companies then subcontracted with all kinds of small Chinese operations and at the same time pushed them every year to cut costs. So what happened? These companies used the cheapest, the easiest to apply paint, which happened to be lead-based paint, which is put on these products, which then make their way back into the United States and show up in the homes of children in Avon Lake and Bucyrus, OH.

Whether it is patients in Toledo, whether it is children who are using these toys in Zanesville, or whether it is workers who have lost their jobs because of trade agreements, it is clear our trade direction is not working. It is clear the trade agenda given us by the Bush administration, inherited by the Bush administration, should not be continued.

Make no mistake about it: I want trade, I want more of it. I want it under a different set of rules. That is why I will be asking the Government Accountability Office to conduct a comprehensive study on our current trade agreements. A GAO report on trade would provide a nonideological, nonpartisan analysis of what is working, and what is not working in our trade policy. It is an important step toward redirecting U.S. trade policy that will provide critical solutions for our Nation's recovery strategy.

The basic premise of redirecting U.S. trade policy is that we must see evidence that our trade model is working before we pass new trade agreements. Why should we pass a trade agreement negotiated by the Bush administration with Panama or with Colombia or with South Korea, when those trade agreements are based on the NAFTA, CAFTA trade model, the same kind of trade agreement that surely has cost us jobs? If you do not believe it has cost us jobs, first, you are not looking at the statistics, but even if you do not believe it, let's go back and have that dispassionate analysis, nonideological, nonpartisan principled analysis of NAFTA, of CAFTA, of our trade policy with China before we move on and pass further trade agreements.

At the same time, during the last 8 years, the Bush administration never accepted a 301 petition to help us with trade enforcement, including a petition for an investigation of Chinese currency practices, and a petition of Chinese workers' rights. Are the Chinese using slave labor, child labor? The Bush administration would not even examine it. They dismissed those 301 petitions in a matter of, in one case, less than a day. The Bush administration also never acted on 421 cases even when the International Trade Commission found injury.

The nonenforcement has left struggling companies in my State, small manufacturing companies in New Hampshire, the Presiding Officer's State, unable to compete against unfair trade practices.

I am encouraged by the Obama administration's emphasis on trade enforcement. I want to see Congress work with the President to ensure the trade enforcement is a governmentwide practice.

Finally, I believe Congress should give President Obama the authority to negotiate better trade deals. But I do not believe we can give President Obama or any President a blank check on these trade agreements. Congress needs a stronger role in the process. That means Congress must review, must renegotiate, must revitalize trade. That is why Congress should enact the Trade Reform Accountability Development and Employment Act I introduced in the last Congress and plan to introduce soon in this Congress.

The trade act is forward looking. It is a pro-trade piece of legislation that requires a review of existing trade agreements and then provides a process to renegotiate existing trade agreements, when necessary. It outlines principles on labor standards, on the environment, on investment, on food safety, on consumer product safety, such as children's toys, to be included in future trade agreements, something that has never been included. Any consequential provisions, none of them have ever been included in any of these trade agreements on labor, on investment, on environment, on food safety, on consumer product safety.

With any delegation of its authority to negotiate better trade deals, Congress must ensure negotiating objectives are binding and that there is a

congressional vote on a trade agreement before it is signed by the President.

From on high, the President cuts all the special interest deals. We saw that in the Bush years and, frankly, we saw it too often in the Clinton years, the first Bush and the Reagan years also. The trade negotiators would cut their special interest deals, send the agreement to Congress, and Congress had to vote, after the President had signed on, either up or down. Reasserting congressional authority must also ensure Congress's public policy prerogatives are respected by international trade organizations such as the World Trade Organization. We must not find our public policy subject to corporate rights of action at the WTO or NAFTA that outweighs the Government's responsibility to preserve the public welfare.

What has happened is the corporate rights have been respected but not rights of workers, not rules to protect the environment or consumer safety and food safety.

A global system such as the WTO that doesn't give countries policy space risks the very legitimacy of global institutions. Countries should have sovereignty. If Canada wants to pass a strong environmental rule, if Mexico wants to pass a strong food safety law, who are we, in a world trade body or as another government, or who is someone in a corporation to tell those countries they can't pass a strong environmental law or a strong food safety law.

I recognize the framework I have outlined is only one strategy, but we can all agree our current trade model has not been working. When we change the process for writing trade deals, we can make trade deals work for more people in our country and for people living in the countries who are our trading partners. We have seen demonstrations in Central America against trade agreements, understanding that these trade agreements have so often overridden consumer protection rules in their countries. We see people in our country complain of trade agreements because workers lose jobs, because safe drinking water is not protected under these agreements. It is time these trade agreements are written for communities, for workers, and for small businesses. They have not been in the past. This is our chance to set out a new direction on trade.

CONGO CONFLICT MINERALS ACT OF 2009

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to pause from the press of daily business to consider the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo. I have frequently come to the floor to talk about the tragedy in Darfur—yet the situation in Congo is worth as much attention.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been devastated by civil war, conflict and a humanitarian crisis. Since 1998, there have been an estimated 5.4 million deaths. The poverty and insecurity in Congo is pandemic. Illegal armed groups and military forces commit widespread human rights violations with impunity. The conflict there still results in an estimated 45,000 deaths each month.

This is a tragic situation, deserving of the international community's attention.

My colleague from Kansas, Senator BROWNBACK, and I traveled to the DRC together a couple of years ago. Congo is, in many ways, a beautiful country, rich in natural resources.

But, like so many other places in the world, Congo's natural resources have also become a curse. Warring factions struggle for control of resources to pursue their own political aims. During our trip, Senator BROWNBACK and I learned that armed factions are plundering the mineral resources of eastern Congo and that illegal trade in these minerals is essentially financing the violence there.

We witnessed first-hand atrocities in eastern Congo—atrocities of horrific and inhumane proportions. Armed groups perpetrate unspeakable acts of sexual violence against women and girls to humiliate and terrorize communities and weaken their resistance.

I have met several times with a true modern day hero, Dr. Denis Mukwege, who runs the Panzi hospital of Bukavu, Congo. The Panzi hospital specializes in treatment for victims of sexual violence. The hospital performs surgeries and provides psychological counseling for these victims, but Dr. Mukwege and his staff are overwhelmed by the number of women seeking assistance.

Last year, I held a Judiciary hearing on rape as weapon of war. This is happening every day in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Rape and other forms of sexual violence affect hundreds of thousands of women and girls there, resulting in severe injuries, longterm psychological trauma, and immeasurable destructive impacts on the communities there. This war is being financed, at least in part, by the illegal trade in these minerals.

So what can we in the United States do about this? Well, many of these minerals end up right here in the U.S. and in many other countries, because they are used for everyday electronics products. Our cell phones, BlackBerrys, computers, and many other commonly used electronics contain these minerals.

Senator BROWNBACK and I, along with Senator FEINGOLD, who chairs the Africa Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, have introduced legislation to create more transparency about the end users of these minerals in the United States.

The Congo Conflict Minerals Act of 2009 would require companies that are involved in commercial activities involving three minerals (coltan, cassiterite, and wolframite) to disclose the country of origin of the minerals to the Securities and Exchange Commission. If the minerals are from DRC or neighboring countries, companies would have to also disclose the mine of origin.

We want to know where U.S. companies are getting these minerals, and we want to work with them to promote responsible practices and due diligence to ensure that their suppliers provide raw materials in a way that does not support the armed conflict or contribute to human rights abuses.

In the longer-term, we hope that Congo and its neighbors will establish a regional framework to prevent the illicit trade of these minerals. In the meantime, we can take this step to work with U.S. companies to ensure they are not inadvertently fueling the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

MUSLIM MIDDLE EAST

Mr. KYL. Madam President, in an April 16 Wall Street Journal column, ''Speaking Truth to Muslim Power,'' former CIA officer and Middle East expert Reuel Marc Gerecht writes about the fierce internal debates over Islam, jihadism, and modernity within the Muslim Middle East.

As Gerecht writes, while Western countries cannot determine the outcome of those debates, they can help shape them and provide a boost to Muslim reformers. While it is fashionable to criticize President George W. Bush's Middle East policies, Gerecht says that Arab democracy activists ''have never been so hopeful as they were'' from 2002 to 2006, during which time democracy promotion flourished. He argues that President Bush's pro-democracy rhetoric ''energized the discussion of representative government and human rights abroad.''

I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Gerecht's column be printed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to consider his thoughtful views.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Wall Street Journal, Apr. 16, 2009]

SPEAKING TRUTH TO MUSLIM POWER

(By Reuel Marc Gerecht)

''The United States is not at war with Islam and will never be. In fact, our partnership with the Muslim world is critical in rolling back a fringe ideology that people of all faiths reject.''

So spoke President Barack Hussein Obama in Turkey last week. Following in the footsteps of the Bush administration, Mr. Obama wants to avoid labeling our enemy in religious terms. References to ''Islamic terrorism,'' ''Islamic radicalism,'' or ''Islamic extremism'' aren't in his speeches. ''Jihad,'' too, has been banished from the official lexicon.

But if one visits the religious bookstores near Istanbul's Covered Bazaar, or mosque libraries of Turkish immigrants in Rotterdam, Brussels or Frankfurt, one can still find a cornucopia of radical Islamist literature. Go into the bookstores of Arab and Pakistani immigrant communities in Europe, or into

the literary markets of the Arab world and the Indian subcontinent, and you'll find an even richer collection of militant Islamism.

Al Qaeda is certainly not a mainstream Muslim group—if it were, we would have had far more terrorist attacks since 9/11. But the ideology that produced al Qaeda isn't a rivulet in contemporary Muslim thought. It is a wide and deep river. The Obama administration does both Muslims and non-Muslims an enormous disservice by pretending otherwise.

Theologically, Muslims are neither fragile nor frivolous. They have not become suicide bombers because non-Muslims have said something unkind; they have not refrained from becoming holy warriors because Westerners avoided the word ''Islamic'' in describing Osama bin Laden and his allies. Having an American president who had a Muslim father, carries the name of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, and wants to engage the Muslim world in a spirit of ''mutual respect'' isn't a ''game changer.'' This hypothesis trivializes Islamic history and the continuing appeal of religious militancy.

Above all else, we need to understand clearly our enemies—to try to understand them as they see themselves, and to see them as devout nonviolent Muslims do. To not talk about Islam when analyzing al Qaeda is like talking about the Crusades without mentioning Christianity. To devise a hearts-and-minds counterterrorist policy for the Islamic world without openly talking about faith is counterproductive. We—the West—are the unrivalled agent of change in the Middle East. Modern Islamic history—including the Bush years—ought to tell us that questions non-Muslims pose can provoke healthy discussions.

The abolition of slavery, rights for religious minorities and women, free speech, or the very idea of civil society—all of these did not advance without Western pressure and the enormous seductive power that Western values have for Muslims. Although Muslims in the Middle East have been talking about political reform since they were first exposed to Western ideas (and modern military might) in the 18th century, the discussion of individual liberty and equality has been more effective when Westerners have been intimately involved. The Middle East's brief but impressive ''Liberal Age'' grew from European imperialism and the unsustainable contradiction between the progressive ideals taught by the British and French—the Egyptian press has never been as free as when the British ruled over the Nile valley—and the inevitably illiberal and demeaning practices that come with foreign occupation.

Although it is now politically incorrect to say so, George W. Bush's democratic rhetoric energized the discussion of representative government and human rights abroad. Democracy advocates and the anti-authoritarian voices in Arab lands have never been so hopeful as they were between 2002, when democracy promotion began to germinate within the White House, and 2006, when the administration gave up on people power in the Middle East (except in Iraq).

The issue of jihadism is little different. It's not a coincidence that the Muslim debate about holy war became most vivid after 9/11, when the U.S. struck back against al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Many may have found Mr. Bush's brief use of the term ''Islamofascism'' to be offensive—although it recalls well Abul Ala Maududi, a Pakistani founding father of modern Islamic radicalism, who openly admired European fascism as a violent, muscular ideology capable of mobilizing the masses. Yet Mr. Bush's flirtation with the term unquestionably pushed Muslim intellectuals to debate the legitimacy of its use and the cult of martyrdom that had—and may still have—a widespread grip on many among the faithful.

When Sunni Arab Muslims viewed daily on satellite TV the horrors of the Sunni onslaught against the Iraqi Shiites, and then the vicious Shiite revenge against their former masters, the debate about jihadism, the historic Sunni-Shiite rivalry, and the American occupation intensified. Unfortunately, progress in the Middle East has usually happened when things have gotten ugly, and Muslims debate the mess.

Iran's former president Mohammed Khatami, whom Bill Clinton unsuccessfully tried to engage, is a serious believer in the ''dialogue of civilizations.'' In his books, Mr. Khatami does something very rare for an Iranian cleric: He admits that Western civilization can be morally superior to its Islamic counterpart, and that Muslims must borrow culturally as well as technologically from others. On the whole, however, he finds the West—especially America—to be an amoral slippery slope of sin. How should one talk to Mr. Khatami or to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the less curious but morally more earnest clerical overlord of Iran; or the Saudi royal family and their influential state-supported clergy, who still preach hatred of the West; or to the faithful of Pakistan, who are in the midst of an increasingly brutal, internecine religious struggle? Messrs. Khatami and Khamenei are flawlessly polite gentlemen. They do not, however, confuse civility with agreement. Neither should we.

It's obviously not for non-Muslims to decide what Islam means. Only the faithful can decide whether Islam is a religion of peace or war (historically it has been both). Only the faithful can banish jihad as a beloved weapon against infidels and unbelief. Only Muslims can decide how they balance legislation by men and what the community—or at least its legal guardians, the ulama—has historically seen as divine commandments.

Westerners can, however, ask probing questions and apply pressure when differing views threaten us. We may not choose to dispatch the U.S. Navy to protect women's rights, as the British once sent men-of-war to put down the Muslim slave trade, but we can underscore clearly our disdain for men who see ''child brides'' as something vouchsafed by the Almighty. There is probably no issue that angers militants more than women's rights. Advancing this cause in traditional Muslim societies caught in the merciless whirlwind of globalization isn't easy, but no effort is likely to bear more fruit in the long term than having American officials become public champions of women's rights in Muslim lands.

Al Qaeda's Islamic radicalism isn't a blip—a one-time outgrowth of the Soviet-Afghan war—or a byproduct of the Israeli-Palestinian confrontation. It's the most recent violent expression of the modernization of the Muslim Middle East. The West's great transformative century—the 20th—was soaked in blood. We should hope, pray, and do what we can to ensure that Islam's continuing embrace of modernity in the 21st century—undoubtedly its pivotal era—will not be similarly horrific.

We are fooling ourselves if we think we no longer have to be concerned about how Muslims talk among themselves. This is not an issue that we want to push the ''reset'' button on. Here, at least, George W. Bush didn't go nearly far enough.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on April 23, 2009, the Joint Committee on Printing organized, elected a chairman, a vice chairman, and adopted its rules for the 111th Congress. Members of the Joint Committee on Printing elected Senator CHARLES E. SCHUMER as chairman and Congressman ROBERT BRADY as vice chairman. Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the committee rules be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING—111TH CONGRESS

RULE 1.—COMMITTEE RULES

(a) The rules of the Senate and House insofar as they are applicable, shall govern the Committee.

(b) The Committee's rules shall be published in the Congressional Record as soon as possible following the Committee's organizational meeting in each odd-numbered year.

(c) Where these rules require a vote of the members of the Committee, polling of members either in writing or by telephone shall not be permitted to substitute for a vote taken at a Committee meeting, unless the ranking minority member assents to waiver of this requirement.

(d) Proposals for amending Committee rules shall be sent to all members at least one week before final action is taken thereon, unless the amendment is made by unanimous consent.

RULE 2.—REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House and Senate are in session. A regularly scheduled meeting need not be held if there is no business to be considered and after appropriate notification is made to the ranking minority member. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman, as he may deem necessary or at the request of the majority of the members of the Committee.

(b) If the Chairman of the Committee is not present at any meeting of the Committee, the vice-Chairman or ranking member of the majority party on the Committee who is present shall preside at the meeting.

RULE 3.—QUORUM

(a) Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, which is required for the purpose of closing meetings, promulgating Committee orders or changing the rules of the Committee.

(b) Three members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

RULE 4.—PROXIES

(a) Written or telegraphic proxies of Committee members will be received and recorded on any vote taken by the Committee, except for the purpose of creating a quorum.

(b) Proxies will be allowed on any such votes for the purpose of recording a member's position on a question only when the absentee Committee member has been informed of the question and has affirmatively requested that he be recorded.

RULE 5.—OPEN AND CLOSED MEETINGS

(a) Each meeting for the transaction of business of the Committee shall be open to the public except when the Committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by roll call vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public. No such vote shall be required to close a meeting that relates solely to internal budget or personnel matters.

(b) No person other than members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and other representatives as they may authorize, shall be present in any business session that has been closed to the public.

RULE 6.—ALTERNATING CHAIRMANSHIP AND VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP BY CONGRESSES

(a) The Chairmanship and vice-Chairmanship of the Committee shall alternate between the House and the Senate by Congresses: The senior member of the minority party in the House of Congress opposite of that of the Chairman shall be the ranking minority member of the Committee.

(b) In the event the House and Senate are under different party control, the Chairman and vice-Chairman shall represent the majority party in their respective Houses. When the Chairman and vice-Chairman represent different parties, the vice-Chairman shall also fulfill the responsibilities of the ranking minority member as prescribed by these rules.

RULE 7.—PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Questions as to the order of business and the procedures of the Committee shall in the first instance be decided by the Chairman; subject always to an appeal to the Committee.

RULE 8.—HEARINGS: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WITNESSES

(a) The Chairman, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee, shall make public announcement of the date, place and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing unless the Committee determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date. In the latter event, the Chairman shall make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The staff director of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(b) So far as practicable, all witnesses appearing before the Committee shall file advance written statements of their proposed testimony at least 48 hours in advance of their appearance and their oral testimony shall be limited to brief summaries. Limited insertions or additional germane material will be received for the record, subject to the approval of the Chairman.

RULE 9.—OFFICIAL HEARING RECORD

(a) An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of all Committee proceedings and actions. Brief supplemental materials when required to clarify the transcript may be inserted in the record subject to the approval of the Chairman.

(b) Each member of the Committee shall be provided with a copy of the hearing transcript for the purpose of correcting errors of transcription and grammar, and clarifying questions or remarks. If any other person is authorized by a Committee member to make his corrections, the staff director shall be so notified.

(c) Members who have received unanimous consent to submit written questions to witnesses shall be allowed two days within which to submit these to the staff director for transmission to the witnesses. The record may be held open for a period not to exceed two weeks awaiting the responses by witnesses.

(d) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee. Testimony received in closed hearings shall not be released or included in any report without the approval of the Committee.

RULE 10.—WITNESSES FOR COMMITTEE HEARINGS

(a) Selection of witnesses for Committee hearings shall be made by the Committee staff under the direction of the Chairman. A list of proposed witnesses shall be submitted to the members of the Committee for review sufficiently in advance of the hearings to permit suggestions by the Committee members to receive appropriate consideration.

(b) The Chairman shall provide adequate time for questioning of witnesses by all members, including minority members and the rule of germaneness shall be enforced in all hearings notified.

(c) Whenever a hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any measure or matter, the minority on the Committee shall be entitled, upon unanimous request to the Chairman before the completion of such hearings, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to the measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

RULE 11.—CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FURNISHED TO THE COMMITTEE

The information contained in any books, papers or documents furnished to the Committee by any individual, partnership, corporation or other legal entity shall, upon the request of the individual, partnership, corporation or entity furnishing the same, be maintained in strict confidence by the members and staff of the Committee, except that any such information may be released outside of executive session of the Committee if the release thereof is effected in a manner which will not reveal the identity of such individual, partnership, corporation or entity in connection with any pending hearing or as a part of a duly authorized report of the Committee if such release is deemed essential to the performance of the functions of the Committee and is in the public interest.

RULE 12.—BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS

The rule for broadcasting of Committee hearings shall be the same as Rule XI, clause 4, of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

RULE 13.—COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) No Committee report shall be made public or transmitted to the Congress without the approval of a majority of the Committee except when Congress has adjourned: provided that any member of the Committee may make a report supplementary to or dissenting from the majority report. Such supplementary or dissenting reports should be as brief as possible.

(b) Factual reports by the Committee staff may be printed for distribution to Committee members and the public only upon authorization of the Chairman either with the approval of a majority of the Committee or with the consent of the ranking minority member.

RULE 14.—CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

No summary of a Committee report, prediction of the contents of a report, or statement of conclusions concerning any investigation shall be made by a member of the Committee or by any staff member of the Committee prior to the issuance of a report of the Committee.

RULE 15.—COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) The Committee shall have a staff director, selected by the Chairman. The staff director shall be an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate.

(b) The Ranking Minority Member may designate an employee of the House of Representatives or of the Senate as the minority staff director.

(c) The staff director, under the general supervision of the Chairman, is authorized to deal directly with agencies of the Government and with non-Government groups and individuals on behalf of the Committee.

(d) The Chairman or staff director shall timely notify the Ranking Minority Member or the minority staff director of decisions made on behalf of the Committee.

RULE 16.—COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the Committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee. Specifically, the Chairman is authorized, during the interim periods between meetings of the Committee, to act on all requests submitted by any executive department, independent agency, temporary or permanent commissions and committees of the Federal Government, the Government Printing Office and any other Federal entity, pursuant to the requirements of applicable Federal law and regulations.

DRAKE RELAYS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President. I wish to pay tribute to a 100-year tradition in my home State of Iowa . This past weekend, the Drake Relays in Des Moines, IA, celebrated a century of competition for the world's elite track and field athletes.

Schools and athletes from all over the country come to Des Moines each year to compete in this classic. The display put on by the Drake community every year brings alumni, Iowans, athletes, friends, and families together to cheer competitors in victory and defeat.

The Drake Relays has been creating memorable moments for 100 years. It is moments created by Jesse Owens, Michael Johnson, Carl Lewis, Jim Ryun, Gwen Torrence, and Iowa's very own Lolo Jones, Natasha Kaiser-Brown, Kevin Little, and Joey Woody. It is unknown athletes making their own mark in history and taking the first step toward fame far beyond the borders of Iowa. It is high school kids, like my son Robin, whose capstone moment of their athletic career was participating in the Drake Relays.

Anybody who has attended the Relays understands the marvel of this one-of-a-kind sporting event. For some it is the blue track that helps athletes run a little faster, jump a little longer and higher, and throw a little further. For others it is the fans filling every seat to cheer for the athletes who cross the finish line in first and for those who cross last. And for some it is the intense competition from the high school kids all the way to the top athletes in the world who are standing shoulder to shoulder waiting for their event.

Whatever it is, there is a reason fans and athletes alike keep coming back to the Drake Relays year after year.

Just as Jesse Owens said, ''There's something special about the Drake Relays.''

Congratulations to the Drake Relays on 100 years of ''America's Athletic Classic.''

SIMON WIESENTHAL HOLOCAUST EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act, which I recently introduced. This important legislation would provide competitive grants for educational organizations to make Holocaust education more accessible and available throughout the Nation.

Last Tuesday, people from all corners of the Earth, representing all faiths stood together to solemnly commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day, in memorial of perhaps the greatest crime ever perpetrated against humanity. As we reflect upon the tragedies of the events surrounding the Holocaust—the lives lost, the families destroyed, the potential unfulfilled—we must renew our commitment to never forget, so this dark chapter in history will never be repeated.

We must never forget the approximately six million Jewish men, women and children, as well as the millions of others who faced persecution, displacement, and death at the hands of the Nazis. We must remember their stories not just to honor their lives, but more importantly, to educate the next generation about the dangers of intolerance, ignorance, and bigotry.

Some may question the necessity of studying an event that—while horrific—happened over half a century ago and an ocean away. Other skeptics will argue that anti-Semitism—while terrible—is a relic of the past that simply doesn't exist in modern society. Unfortunately, we ignore history at our peril, and not recognizing and taking seriously the seeds of bigotry and anti-Semitism that have again begun to take root around the world only serves to promulgate it.

Recently, anti-Semitism has surfaced disguised in the form of anti-Israel rhetoric. The two have morphed into a virulent attack against all Jews resulting in a provocative and dangerous escalation of physical attacks against Jewish individuals, synagogues and other Jewish institutions around the world. Symbols of Nazi Germany have been used in this form of anti-Semitism as a cudgel against Jews, insulting the honor of millions of Jewish people—a people still emerging from the dark shadow cast by the Holocaust. Some have sought to rewrite history to minimize and spin the facts surrounding the Holocaust. The leadership of Iran has waged campaigns not just to alter, but to simply erase an inconvenient history. Holocaust deniers—authors and others who have the bully pulpit have smeared the truth of history—something that is regrettably so much easier to do as the Holocaust recedes in time and as those who can bear witness are dwindling in numbers.

Unfortunately, we need not look half way around the globe for examples of anti-Semitism, intolerance and hate; but rather we can look to our own neighborhoods and communities. In Fort Lauderdale earlier this year at an anti-Israel rally, a demonstrator was heard to say ''Go back to the oven. You need a big oven,'' a horrific reference to the crematoria of Nazi Germany. And it saddens me to note that in my home State of New Jersey, a State of immense diversity, tolerance and understanding, we have seen a number of recent troubling anti-Semitic incidents that tear away at the decency and civility that we should expect in this great Nation.

Last December, three Glen Rock teenagers were charged with painting a swastika and the word ''Jew'' on the property of Jewish residents.

This past January, a Kenilworth family awoke one morning to find a Star of David and the word ''Die'' carved into their garage door.

Last month, Northvale public school students had to endure anti-Semitic graffiti scrawled throughout the walls of their school.

A New Jersey family made national headlines by naming their three young children Aryan Nation, Hinler, and Adolf Hitler.

As recently as last week, in Union City, where I grew up, authorities were investigating an act of arson in a classroom of a Jewish school that is being reported as a hate crime.

These troubling events do not occur in a vacuum. They are a reflection of an ever-present current of hate. We cannot sit idly and hope that time alone will heal the wounds of genocide or solve our issues of continued intolerance. We must take proactive steps to ensure that our society remembers and learns from the painful experiences of the Holocaust. Holocaust education is essential to the enlightenment, understanding, and empathy of our youngest generations and their role in history to come.

The Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Act is an important step toward this goal. While some States, like New Jersey, currently require the Holocaust to be taught in public schools, this act goes further and makes grants available to organizations that instruct students, teachers, and communities about the dangers of hate and the importance of tolerance in our society. This legislation would give educators the appropriate resources and training to teach accurate historical information about the Holocaust and convey the lessons that the Holocaust can teach us today. I certainly cannot think of a better namesake for this bill, for Simon Wiesenthal honored the memories of those lost by dedicating his life to bringing those responsible for these horrific acts to justice.

Only by proper acknowledgement of the incredible loss of life during the Holocaust, will we ever be able to ensure that such an event never happens again.

It is in our common interest to raise our voices against anti-Semitism and against all hatred and discrimination. Funding accurate Holocaust educational programs is a step toward winning this battle.

So as America stands with Israel and all followers of the Jewish faith in condemning anti-Semitism, let us do everything in our power to end discrimination and educate future generations about the danger of hatred and bigotry.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

NATIONAL AMERICAN CITY QUALITY MONTH

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to recognize April as the 21st Annual National American City Quality Month. Led by the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the American City Planning Directors' Council/American City Quality Foundation, this valuable program brings together a wide range of public and private partners. Their efforts demonstrate what it takes to build great communities, addressing vital issues to include land use, building design, transportation, parks and recreation, energy efficiency, and environmental protection.

City planners across my State of Maine and throughout the Nation are calling on public and private sector leaders to commit to efforts that will lead to better planning, redevelopment and development of our Nation's cities and surrounding regions. This is essential to accommodate U.S. Census projected population growth of 34.5 million by the year 2020 and 100 million within 20 to 30 years.

This public-private partnership is necessary to meet the growing need for higher quality, more energy efficient and sustainable housing, buildings, public transportation, infrastructure, agriculture, and industry. I applaud these collaborative efforts to improve urban and rural communities across our Nation.

This collaborative planning works. Just a few weeks ago, Forbes magazine named Portland, ME, my State's largest city, as the most livable city in America. In addition, Portland's busy Commercial Street was voted as one of the country's great streets by the American Planning Association. The transformation of Portland did not happen by accident. It is the result of citizens and organizations working together. And American City Quality Month celebrates this effort.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM TOBIN

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I wish to honor a pioneer of Alaska journalism who did much during his 62-year career to make his adopted State of Alaska what it is today. William J. ''Bill'' Tobin died earlier this month at age 81, following a year-long battle with cancer.

Bill served 2 years in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1943 to 1945. He started his journalism career in 1948 working for the Associated Press in Indianapolis, IN, while still in college at

Butler University. After Indianapolis, he worked for the Associated Press in New York City and Louisville, KY. In 1956, he was moved by the AP to cover Alaska news from Juneau, then the territorial capital, staying until after statehood in 1960. He was Alaska's first national resident newsman. He finished his 17-year AP career as the assistant bureau chief in Baltimore, MD, from 1960 to 1961 and as the bureau chief for the State of Montana from 1961 to 63. Bill and his wife missed the beauty and excitement of Alaska, and in 1963, he began a 45-year career with Anchorage's then largest newspaper, the Anchorage Times, and later with the Voice of the Times editorial and internet publication. He retired in 2008.

During his time Mr. Tobin covered or edited stories on every major event in Alaskan history. Stories of his efforts to publish the Times in the aftermath of the Good Friday earthquake of March 27, 1964—at a revised 9.2 on the Richter scale, the largest quake every measured in North America—are legendary. The paper was published even though downtown Anchorage was literally destroyed. He edited stories on the discovery of oil on Alaska's North Slope in 1968, covered and edited debate in Congress on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and edited stories on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act in 1974 that permitted construction of the 800-mile pipeline that to this day moves 13 percent of the Nation's domestic oil production to market.

Mr. Tobin's career spanned several legislative milestones including the passage of a law that created a 200-mile exclusive fishery management zone around Alaska, the passage of the Alaska lands bill that placed 131 million acres of Alaska—more than a third of the State—into parks and protected land status in 1980, and a career that saw Alaska become a major training and forward deployment base for the U.S. military.

His official obituary said it best when it noted that ''he was an ardent supporter of the U.S. military and men and women in uniform'' and that Bill was ''a tireless champion of Alaska and its potential.'' His Saturday and later Sunday columns covered the personal side of life in Alaska for decades. The editorials that he and Anchorage Times Publisher Robert Atwood wrote and published did much to turn Anchorage, which at statehood had a population of several thousand, into the State's largest city with a population today of more than 275,000.

Bill was an active civic leader, serving over time as a board member or president of nearly 40 community organizations in Anchorage. At his death, he was active as associate publisher of the Roman Catholic diocese newspaper, the Catholic Anchor, based in Anchorage. He was vice chairman of the Atwood Foundation, a member of the Alaskan Command Civilian Advisory Board, a member of the University of Alaska School of Nursing advisory board, a member of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Snedden Professor advisory board, and a member of the University of Alaska Anchorage Atwood Journalism Chair selection board. He was named Alaskan of the Year in 1988, the 1990 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan Award Winner for Distinguished Individual Community Service, the 2000 Outstanding Civilian of the Year by the Armed Services YMCA, the 2002 Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Alaskan of the Year, the 2004 Junior Achievement of Alaska Business Hall of Fame Laureate, and was a 2006 Honorary Doctor of Laws recipient by Gonzaga University.

Born on July 28, 1927, in southwest Missouri in the City of Joplin, Bill grew up in Tulsa, OK, Fort Worth, TX, and South Bend, IN, but he grew wise in Alaska. He knew more about Alaska's history and politics than most any other Alaskan journalist. As a person who got my start in elected office as a State representative from north Anchorage, I have firsthand knowledge that Bill was an old-school journalist who religiously checked his copy for factual accuracy and was always polite and fair to his sources on stories he covered. While he had clear and strong editorial opinions, he was always courageous in support of his newspaper's and city's goals. Bill was a wonderful family man, a devoted member of his church, and a pillar of the Alaska Republican Party, and always a true gentleman.

All of Alaska joins in offering condolences to his wife of nearly 57 years, Marjorie, and his three sons, Mike, David, and Jim, and their families. Alaska journalism and the State's political establishment are certainly poorer for his passing.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Thank you for letting me email my thoughts and feelings regarding today's gas prices. This may not be what you expected but I am writing this email from the heart.

I am angry with our government with respect to rising gas prices. I find it so hard to believe why they want to put our country in to this situation. Everybody and every business suffers. Going places and doing things as a family has been taken from us since the first hit is putting gas in the vehicle. The hotels, restaurants, grocery stores have been forced to increase their prices. Small businesses cannot survive. We own our own business (recycling center) and the fuel costs to run our fleet is astronomical. This is outrageous and needs to stop immediately. It is only going to cause increased homeless people and poverty. Do something now before it gets any worse. Please stop this insanity and get our country back whole again. Remove speculation and reduce gas prices immediately. Thank you for letting me speak out.

ANITA, *Lewiston*.

Not so much a story as a plea . . . I wish I could grab every Congressman by the shoulders, look them in the eye, and say: ''Either you, or your replacement, will allow us to get the energy we need!''

Right now we are heading toward environmental communism. Yet it is a fact that CO2 levels follow higher temperatures, not the other way around! That is, the Earth warms and cools on it is own, and will continue to do so, whether we use fuels or not.

CLIFF, *Pocatello*.

I am disgusted with [partisan behavior] and the do-nothing attitude [of so many elected officials] towards our impending energy disaster. I realize that there are pockets of trustworthy individuals who still listen to their constituents rather than special interest groups. There are those that would like nothing better than to put this nation into such a drastic depression that communism would look like heaven. I am in the agricultural business and energy prices have drastically increased my costs on every single input. It has affected the costs of diesel, gas, pvc, plastics, metal (shipping and production of), labor (have to pay more to get them out to work), fertilizers, chemicals, tires and other rubber compounds. I have seen diesel for my tractors go from $1.50 per gallon to over $4 per gallon in less than three years. The rest of our fleet is now having to burn $4.70 per gallon diesel and because of the EPA and [increased regulation], these large trucks get half the fuel economy that they did in the late 1970s. Please help us before this nation comes to a grinding halt and our enemies seize the opportunity to attack.

UNSIGNED.

I am angry at oil companies for stealing from consumers and angry at Congress for [not addressing the problem].

Alternatives which should rapidly be developed are:

1. Hydro electric: clean, cheap renewable.
2. Off shore and ANWR drilling: more competition means less monopoly.
3. Nuclear: free up our private enterprise from stifling regulations and we would have an abundance of inexpensive power.
4. Biomass (slash and trash incinerators) for producing electricity or hydrogen.
5. Stop burning our forests down and allow Americans to harvest trees and build houses.

P.C.

The Governor of Alaska wants drilling to begin in Alaska. Why does Congress insist on

not allowing this? We have a vast area untapped that could produce millions of barrels of oil for Americans.

In the 70s, I remember having to wait in long lines to fill up my car. I remember Congress grandstanding that something needs to be done to secure America's future. Thirty years later, I am hearing the same rhetoric. What does it take to get Congress to take action and utilize the resources we have in this country?

Drill in Alaska, the oceans off shore, the Midwest. The average American does not care if an oil rig interferes with the ocean view of a multimillion-dollar mansion. We are fed up with the rich getting everything on the backs of the hard-working American.

LINDA.

I am writing to you in response to your request for testimonials about the prices for energy. My dad is a middle class lowboy driver in St. Maries. The prices of energy have an effect on not only my dad, but for his boss. It is depressing to see men and women in my community laid off, who cannot afford oil to heat their homes in the winter, watch their homes and possessions get foreclosed upon, and have to figure out where their source of income will be coming from. My father is very lucky to be spared this misfortune. Jobs in our community are hard to come by, because loggers cannot afford to pay outrageous diesel prices. Even one of the richest men in Idaho is suffering from sky high diesel bills. Additionally, I recently moved to Moscow to start my life at the University of Idaho. I have been in Moscow for almost a month, and have been rejected by numerous jobs. Many adults are taking jobs that teenagers and college students like myself usually take.

I do not point the blame on the oil companies; however, but I do find it hard to believe that the federal government makes more profit than the oil companies do off each barrel of oil. How is this?? How can the government have all this profit, and not make any good use of it (by means of building a new refinery, which hasn't been done in 30 years; or drilling in Alaska/ANWR; or increasing drilling in the Gulf of Mexico). The American voters are tired of oil dependency from terrorists! Please knock some sense into the liberals who insist upon this practice of dealing with the Middle East! We need to figure out a way that we can be dependent on ourselves. The only way to fix the prices on energy is to be our own supplier. Otherwise, our country will fail. We, the middle class, are the economy. In our area, we supply products that build our economy's businesses, homes, paper products, and [other important products]. We need lower fuel prices to maintain our livelihoods and jobs. I hope this somewhat helps you convince the liberals that they are not looking out for the ''underdogs''. If these prices keep increasing, my dad, and many of friends' parents, will be out of jobs, and scrambling to do something. Thank you for your time.

JACKIE, *Moscow*.

I am a 52-year-old woman and I have been a single parent all my life. I am now disabled. I can honestly say that if I were a single parent with small children in today's times, I would not be able to manage putting gas in my car to take my children to school and then go to work. It is hard enough just buying food with today's prices. As it is, I am disabled and I live on $1,000. This means that I am only able to put gas in to my car once a month. With the old clunker that I have, it cost me $75 or more to fill it up. Then that has to last me all month, which means I do not travel much.

Also, in today's world, much of the housing is equipped with only gas heating. For a single parent that makes too much money for food stamps and heating assistance, the cost of heating apartment or house is very costly. I have to try and cut corners in everything I do when it comes to the cost of gas.

I am not sure how to change the cost of things but, I think I would certainly try obtaining petroleum in the good ole USA. I think we would have enough resources to handle the USA if one was to try hard enough. Thank you for your time and attention to America's concerns.

EUNICE.

This letter is in response to your request for personal stories chronicling the impact of $4 per gallon gas on the lives of ordinary Idahoans. I am an ordinary Idahoan, and I am happy to report that $4 per gallon gas has had essentially no impact on my lifestyle. Like the majority of Idahoans, I live in a city. I ride my bike or walk to work, and use my car only for out of town trips. I also own a vehicle that gets about 30 miles per gallon (mpg). The marketing efforts of Ford and GM hawking huge inefficient vehicles failed me; I drive a Subaru.

I find it disingenuous that you are requesting letters to support unsustainable lifestyles and provide welfare for poor vehicle choice decisions. With that in mind, I am providing a perspective on the merits of high fuel prices.

The impacts of more expensive fuel include: (1) fewer miles traveled by car; (2) less fuel consumption; (3) less greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere; and (4) record usage of public transportation. These are laudable accomplishments only possible in our market-based society via pricing influences. In addition, if more of us walked or bicycled to work, perhaps we would reduce health care costs associated with the obesity epidemic.

Here are some suggestions for what you can do to lessen the impact of more expensive fuel:

1. Increase mileage standards on US made cars and foreign cars imported to the US. You should have voted to increase CAFE standards in past years. If Americans drove 35 mpg vehicles instead of big SUVs, we would have consumed, and would be consuming, much less oil. I wonder what fuel prices would be today if US consumption at the pump were half of the current rate, achieved through more efficient vehicles? 20 billion barrels of oil would be saved if we all drove cars that got 40 mpg. It would have been great if US car manufacturers had competed to make cars with the best mileage instead of the biggest trucks and SUVs.

2. Change mileage stickers on cars from miles per gallon to gallons per 10,000 miles. Although they are numerically the same, the psychology of 800 gallons per 10,000 miles (roughly $3,200 per year) compared to 200 gallons per 10,000 miles (roughly $800 per year) is not equivalent to 12.5 versus 50 mpg. This is how appliances are sold.

3. We do not need a bailout from the federal government on fuel prices. We need better jobs so these prices do not completely cripple Idaho's economy. The government can assist ordinary Idahoans by supporting or funding public transportation, including light rail in the Treasure Valley. The government can also assist us by better-funding education so Idahoans can work in higher paying jobs.

4. Idaho is unique in our nuclear energy past. I wholeheartedly support the development and usage of new-generation nuclear energy technology. Idaho, and the Idaho National Laboratories, can take a lead in this area.

5. Do not forget conservation. Drive less. Drive slower. Idaho could lower speed limits and save the equivalent of 50–80 cents per gallon.

Thank you for considering the points in my letter. I am hopeful that you will share it with your Committee Chair.

CHRIS, *Boise*.

As the cost of energy continues to go up our lifestyle continues to go down. No money to spend on any home maintenance, automobile maintenance, or replace anything that wears out or breaks. It is like I am living in a third world country right here in the United States of America. I can only imagine what it must be like for people who make less than I do. Corporations make billions every 3 months and there is nothing wrong? Please fix this before it cost us our entire country.

BLAKE.

I disagree with you on the raising of taxes. The oil companies and the rich should have to pay taxes to help support our country along with all the other U.S. citizens. All you accomplished by cutting taxes is causing local taxes to go up to compensate for the federal tax cuts. Because of the tax cuts to our state, we had to vote in more property taxes to cover the cuts. We are now paying much more taxes to keep Idaho functioning and our federal taxes did not go down. As a matter of fact, they went up since we can no longer take our Medicare premiums off of our federal taxes.

LOIS.

I just want to share my story with you. We recently had a wedding in our family that required us to travel to Arizona for the wedding. The majority of our family was unable to go because of the high cost of gas. The eight of us that did go carpooled in a suburban so that it was affordable for us to even go and support our family member who was getting married. The high cost of energy is preventing families from being able to get together for reunions and other family gatherings. This is pretty sad.

Let us not forget that it is not only at the gas pumps we are getting gouged, but at the grocery store and anywhere else we shop. The store owners are passing the higher shipping charges on to the consumer as well. So the cost of energy is impacting us in multiple areas of our budget.

We are in desperate need of alternative energy sources to help control the cost of energy. If the oil companies had to compete for our business their prices would not be so high.

Thanks for your efforts

BRENT, *Twin Falls*.

We are a family of six, and we have two vehicles. My husband has a car for commuting to work, and I have a minivan to transport our family around. Gas prices have gone so high now that it cost us more money to fill up both our vehicles, than it does to feed our family for two weeks. It is an expense that is hard to cut costs on. We need to be able to get around. But the prices are not just afecting us at the tank. It costs a farmer over $400 a day to drive his tractor now, and there is the gas for the semi-truck driver too. So gas is driving our food prices up. It is hard on the American family.

What I suggest we do is use America's intellectual gifts and come up with a new alternative fuel source, preferably a renewable one that will not damage the environment. Then we need cars that can run off it. We could help the global warming problem and our fuel problem. While that is being done, maybe we can use some of our own gas instead of the Middle East's gas. We are working so hard to fight Iraq with our strength.

But they are fighting us with economics, and we are letting them win.

TAMARA.

I think the worse part of high energy costs is the restrictions our married children that live a few hours from home feel about traveling. They are on limited budgets and cannot budget in very many travels on the high fuel expenses. Anything that keep grandparents from seeing their grandchildren as often should be a federal offense! I am sure you would agree!

RENEE.

With all due respect, I think you are off track. Yes, prices are rising. No, that does not mean you should vote against climate change legislation.

Please, focus your energy on diversifying our energy sources in the sense of solar and wind power. Do not go for the short-term scheme of drilling for more domestic oil. That would be a short-term fix. We need to think generations down the road, and realize that our current consumption is simply not sustainable.

Yes, I have been impacted by high prices. So have my coworkers and neighbors. But the subsequent changes I see in our lifestyles are wonderful: we drive less, choosing to bike, walk and take the public bus to work or run errands or to recreate. Need less . . . what a solution!

MARGARET, *McCall*.

We are farmers from Idaho Falls. The energy prices are hugely affecting our bottom line. In the past year alone, due to the cost of fuel, fertilizer has gone up four times. Many people do not understand that farmers are not just affected by the cost of putting fuel in their tractors. The rising price of fuel affects every aspect of our business. It is unfortunate that in the news farmers are being portrayed as just raking in the dollars right now while the consumers struggle to buy food at the grocery stores. This just is not the case.

We have no way of staying in business if the cost of the commodities we sell does not go up to compensate for the huge increase in our costs. It is time the American consumers stand up to uninformed environmentalists. Environmentalists are setting energy policy that is going to devastate our entire economy. As farmers, we are the best environmentalists that exist. We care that future generations will have a clean safe place to live and exist. We also believe that the way out of our current problems, without crippling the entire economy, are solved with a multi-dimensional approach. Yes, fuel economy for cars should be increased on a time line that is feasible. We also know that we have to open up new oil drilling and refinery capacity to help stabilize our economy. We also feel that we need to have better means of producing power. Nuclear energy is safe, clean, and reliable. We need to be the leaders in the world of good energy policy and planning.

If we shut down all industry in the United States, we will become slaves to a foreign nation. Do people really believe that food produced in other countries is as safe and reliable as food that is produced domestically? If we do not start now to develop a better approach to our current energy problems, we all be at the mercy of China and oil-producing nations.

MARK and STEPHANIE, *Idaho Falls*.

The President's plan to stimulate the economy was a like a drop in the bucket compared to the rise in gas prices at the pump. The gas prices have doubled from last summer. If you received a 1%, 3% or higher cost of living increase, you are still short. The increased minimum wage was wasted effort. The increase in gas prices will force an increase across the board, just because this country, especially in states like Idaho, is very dependent on vehicles from semi-trucks to bring food from one state to another to a way to get to work, etc.

I think time, effort and money should be spent on developing alternate energy sources. Oil is a non renewable resource as is nuclear energy. More effort should be placed on energy sources that renew themselves, such as wind power and power derived from the ocean. Right now would be a great time for the development of a combustion engine that is clean and fuel efficient. I believe that there are those inventions already available, just not used.

SHARON.

I, like others, who are so tired of rising fuel costs, would like to see something done about it. Please put something in motion and help get these rising prices lowered. I am not sure what is driving the prices higher. But it is the people that suffer. You just cannot afford to do anything or go anywhere anymore. And that causes depression in a lot of people. My gasoline bill last month was over $500 and that is outrageous. I drive to the INL site every day and that adds up very quickly.

Please help do something about this.

DONNA, *Rigby*.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AGNES ''AUNTY AGGIE'' KALANIHOOKAHA COPE

• Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I congratulate Mrs. Agnes Kalanihookaha Cope for receiving an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The honorary degree is typically conferred on worthy candidates who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions in areas other than science. The degree will be awarded at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Spring 2009 commencement ceremony.

I wish to acknowledge ''Auntie Aggie,'' as she is fondly known, for her long dedication and inspirational efforts in organizing the practice, preservation and perpetuation of ethnic cultures in the state of Hawaii, particularly the Hawaiian culture. She has also demonstrated a commitment to improving the health of Native Hawaiians—physically, culturally, and mentally. Aunty Aggie is an established educator, talented and respected kumu hula or Hawaiian dance instructor, and an ardent advocate for Native Hawaiians. A few of her many noteworthy accomplishments include—founding the Waianae Coast Culture and Arts Society, helping to found the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and serving as board chair of Papa Ola Lokahi, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Organizations.

Auntie Aggie is a true guardian of the culture and the arts. The legacy and testament to her work is the Agnes Cope Community and Cultural Health Award, which is issued by the Brown and Bakken World Health awards program for the purposes of bringing the community together and working collaboratively to improve world health. However, Aunty Aggie could not have achieved what she has done without the additional support and knowledge of her family and community. I commend all those who have helped in her efforts to be a leader in the Hawaiian renaissance and to keep the Native Hawaiian culture and community alive and thriving.

I would also like to echo University of Hawaii Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw who said, ''Spanning four decades, Mrs. Cope's personal dedication and civic contributions to enhancing the health and education of Native Hawaiians and preserving their culture have improved the lives of all citizens of Hawaii.'' I congratulate Aunty Aggie and challenge the next generation to continue her important work and wish them all continued success in the years to come.•

ABORTION RECOVERY AWARENESS MONTH

• Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I stand today to commend Governor Bobby Jindal, Louisiana State senator A. G. Crowe, and Louisiana resident Cindy Collins for their efforts in making April ''Abortion Recovery Awareness Month'' in Louisiana. I would like to take a few moments to remark on this important issue.

I would also like to thank the following organizations for their efforts in helping to reduce abortions and fighting for the unborn. I thank Abortion Recovery International, Louisiana Abortion Recovery Alliance, Post Abortion Helpline of Louisiana, Rachel's Vineyard Louisiana, Pregnancy Resource Centers of Louisiana, National Abortion Recovery Helpline, Operation Outcry Louisiana, and Silent No More Awareness Louisiana.

All human life is sacred, and I have worked hard in Congress to advance a culture of life, including banning partial-birth abortions, outlawing abortion drugs, fighting against taxpayer funding of abortions, and strongly supporting adoption and crisis pregnancy centers. I have always been adamant in my support of pro-life and pro-family measures in Congress, and groups and individuals like these are instrumental to these and other advances we have made in promoting a culture of life.

Thus, today, I applaud Governor Bobby Jindal, State senator A. G. Crowe, Cindy Collins, and the many great organizations listed above for their efforts in making April ''Abortion Recovery Awareness Month'' in Louisiana.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 3:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

S. 39. An act to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93–531, commonly known as the ''Bennett Freeze''.

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The enrolled bill and joint resolution were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 895. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

S. 896. A bill to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1374. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Karl W. Eikenberry, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1375. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations; Columbus, Georgia'' (MB Docket No. 08–100) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1376. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations; Augusta, Georgia'' (MB Docket No. 08–103) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1377. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Final DTV Table of Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations; Des Moines, Iowa'' (MB Docket No. 09–22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1378. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''General Jurisdiction Over Freight Forwarder Service'' (RIN2126–AA25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1379. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of the Atlantic High and San Juan Low Offshore Airspace Areas; East Coast, United States'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1259) (Airspace Docket No. 08–ASO–1)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1380. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca Arriel 1B, 1D, 1D1, 2B, and 2B1 Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2009–0302)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1381. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. ALF502L–2 and ALF502L–2C Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–1207)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1382. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF6–80A Series Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2008–0827)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1383. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((Docket No. 30661) (Amendment No. 3317)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1384. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; EADS SOCATA Model TBM 700 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2009–0124)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1385. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Models PC–12 and PC–12/45 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0126)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1386. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited Model 206A Series, 206B Series, 206L Series, 407, and 427 Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0350)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1387. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model 717–200 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–1155)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1388. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA–46–350P and PA–46R–350T Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1389. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Hamilton Sundstrand Propellers Model 568F Propellers'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0270)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1390. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((Docket No. 30658)(Amendment No. 3314)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1391. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((Docket No. 30659)(Amendment No. 3315)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1392. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD–90–30 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2007–0074)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1393. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule

entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; ATR Model ATR72 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–1081)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1394. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. Models AT–400, AT–401, AT–401B, AT–402, AT–402A, and AT–402B'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2006–23646)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1395. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ten Sleep, WY'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1129)(Airspace Docket No. 08–ANM–7)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1396. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF34–1A, –3A, –3A1, –3A2, –3B, and –3B1 Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2007–0419)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1397. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH Models Dornier 228–100, Dornier 228–101, Dornier 228–200, Dornier 228–201, Dornier 228–202, and Dornier 228–212 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0123)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1398. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6–80A Series Turbofan Engines ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–1206)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1399. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model MD900 (including the MD902 Configuration) Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–0772)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1400. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((Docket No. 30660)(Amendment No. 3316)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1401. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC–8–50 Series Airplanes; Model DC–8F–54 and DC–8F–55 Airplanes; Model DC–8–60 Series Airplanes; Model DC–8–60F Series Airplanes; Model DC–8–70 Series Airplanes; and Model DC–8–70F Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–1324)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1402. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC–8–102, DHC–8–103, DHC–8–106, DHC–8–201, DHC–8–202, DHC–8–301, DHC–8–311, and DHC–8–315 Airplanes Equipped with a Cockpit Door Electronic Strike System Installed in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) ST02014NY'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0313)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1403. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries GmbH Model DA 40 and DA 40F Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0125)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1404. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell Flight Management Systems (FMSs) Equipped with Honeywell NZ–2000 Navigation Computers and Honeywell IC–800 or IC–800E Integrated Avionics Computers; as Installed on Various Transport Category Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–0899)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1405. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Liberty Aerospace Incorporated Model XL–2 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0329)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1406. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737–300, –400, and –500 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–0412)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1407. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Model BH.125 Series 600A Series Airplanes and Model HS.125 Series 700A Airplanes Modified in Accordance With Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SA2271SW'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–1240)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1408. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney (PW) JT9D–7 Series Turbofan'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008-0759)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1409. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited Model 206A, 206B, 206L, 206L–1, 206L–3, 206L–4, 222, 222B, 222U, 230, 407, 427, and 430 Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0301)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1410. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6–80C2 and CF6–80E1 Series Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–1025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1411. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC–8–50 Series Airplanes; Model DC–8F–54 and DC–8F–55 Airplanes; Model DC–8–60 Series Airplanes, Model DC–8–60F Series Airplanes; Model DC–8–70 Series Airplanes; and Model DC–8–70F Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2008–1324)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1412. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Conroe, TX'' ((Docket No. FAA–2009–0338)(Airspace Docket No. 09–ASW–9)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1413. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Establishment of Class E Airspace; Dallas, GA'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1084)(Airspace Docket No. 08–ASO–17)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1414. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace, Establishment of Class E Airspace; Binghamton, NY '' ((Docket No. FAA–2009–0202)(Airspace Docket No. 09–AEA–11)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1415. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Battle Creek, MI'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1290)(Airspace Docket No. 08–AGL–19)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1416. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Omaha, NE'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1228)(Airspace Docket No. 08–ACE–3)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1417. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Summersville, WV; Confirmation of Effective Date'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1073)(Airspace Docket No. 08–AEA–28)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1418. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Corpus Christi NAS/Truax Field, TX'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1140)(Airspace Docket No. 08–ASW–24)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1419. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Natchitoches, LA'' ((Docket No. FAA–2008–1229)(Airspace Docket No. 08–ASW–26)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–1420. A communication from the Attorney of the Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Health, Safety and Security, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Occupational Radiation Protection; Correction'' (RIN1901–AA95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1421. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Regulations, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Testimony by Employees and the Production of Records and Information in Legal Proceedings, Claims Against the Government Under the Federal Tort Claims Act, and Claims Under the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claim Act of 1964; Change of Address for Requests'' (RIN0960–AG99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 21, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–1422. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–29'' (RIN9000–AK91) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1423. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005–32; Technical Amendments'' (Docket 2009–0003) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1424. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination in the position of Associate Director of National Intelligence and Chief Information Officer, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 22, 2009; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC–1425. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Report on the Adequacy of Privacy Rules Prescribed Under the E-Government Act of 2002''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–18. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Kentucky urging the United States Congress to act swiftly to renew the exemption of the Delta Queen from Public Law 89–777; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Delta Queen is an integral part of the culture and character of the Ohio River valley; and

Whereas, the Delta Queen has made a lasting impression as a beloved part of the past in the hearts of passengers and crew members; and

Whereas, the Delta Queen is a part of the National Register of Historic Places, a National Historic Landmark, and a jewel of the United States' inland navigable water system; and

Whereas, the Delta Queen is the last of its kind, a sternwheel overnight passenger steamboat like those that contributed to this nation's westward expansion; and

Whereas, the Delta Queen has been and continues to be a safe and reliable vessel; and

Whereas, the Delta Queen was constructed in 1926 to operate as a passenger vessel in northern California, and during World War II was used in the United States Navy as a ferry for wounded being treated in San Francisco; and

Whereas, after being purchased in 1946 by Greene Line Steamers of Cincinnati, Ohio, the Delta Queen was carried from California, to and along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for refurbishment in order to carry passengers on the nation's inland navigable water system; and

Whereas, Public Law 89–777 mandates that all passenger vessels having berth or stateroom accommodations for 50 or more passengers obey safety requirements, particularly fire safety requirements; and

Whereas, after this act was passed, the wooden construct of the Delta Queen was treated with fire resistant materials and a modern sprinkler system, thereby making this vessel considerably more fire resistant; and

Whereas, the Delta Queen has historically been exempted from Public Law 89–777; and

Whereas, the Delta Queen's safety records do not indicate that she is any less safe today than at any point since the passage of the Act in 1966; and

Whereas, the current exemption for the Delta Queen is to expire in 2008, and the United States Congress has not acted to grant another exemption for the Delta Queen to allow her to continue operating; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky hereby urges the United States Congress to act swiftly to continue the exemption of the Delta Queen from Public Law 89–777.

Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Clerk of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and all of the members of Kentucky's Congressional Delegation.

POM–19. A resolution adopted by the St. Charles County Council of the State of Missouri supporting the Missouri House Concurrent Resolution 13 relating to state sovereignty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTION NO. 09–03

Whereas, House Concurrent Resolution 13 (hereinafter ''HCR13''), introduced at the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session the Missouri House of Representatives, is on the House Concurrent Resolutions calendar; and

Whereas, HCR 13 calls on the federal government to heed the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States which states, ''The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.''; and

Whereas, the Tenth Amendment defines the total scope of federal power as being that specifically granted by the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, powers not specifically granted to the federal government or prohibited to the states by the constitution are reserved in the Tenth Amendment to the states or to the people; and

Whereas, the states are concerned that over the course of time the federal government has developed an increasing policy to enact laws and regulations which treat the states as agents of the federal government in violation of the intent of the Tenth Amendment; and

Whereas, evidence of the federal entry into powers reserved to the states is evident in federal legislation that directs states to comply with federal mandates under threat of civil or criminal penalties or of loss of necessary federal funding; and

Whereas, in New York v. United States, 112 S.Ct. 2408, 2431 (1992) the United States Supreme Court ruled the Constitution protects the sovereignty of the states not for the states as abstract entities or for the public officials in charge of them, but for the protection of individuals so that the risk of tyranny or abuse from either the federal or state government is reduced by a healthy balance of power between the federal and state government; and

Whereas, the Missouri House has before it House Concurrent Resolution 13 (HCR 13) calling on the federal government to cease and desist from mandates beyond the scope of federal powers as enumerated in the constitution; and

Whereas, HCR 13 calls upon the federal government to cease passing compulsory federal legislation directing the states to comply or lose funding or face penalties and to repeal such laws already enacted; and

Whereas, the St. Charles County Council, for the reasons set forth above, concurs with HCR 13: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the County Council of St. Charles County, Missouri, as follows:

Section 1. The St. Charles County Council hereby enacts this Resolution to offer its support in favor of passage of House Concurrent Resolution 13.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the respective Clerks of the Missouri Senate and the House of Representatives.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*John Morton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

*William Craig Fugate, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 899. A bill to establish an assistance program for the construction of digital TV translators to fill coverage gaps that are created from the transition from analog to digital signals; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 900. A bill to require the establishment of a credit card safety star rating system for the benefit of consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 901. A bill to establish the Oregon Task Force on Sustainable Revenue for Counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mr. INOUYE):

S. 902. A bill to provide grants to establish veteran's treatment courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. Res. 114. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 27, 2009, as ''National Healthy Schools Day''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 46

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 46, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 182

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 182, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2–1–1 telephone service for information and referral on human services and volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 229

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 229, a bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 235

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 235, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 414, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act, to ban abusive credit practices, enhance consumer disclosures, protect underage consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 427

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to clarify that the value of certain funeral and burial arrangements are not to be considered available resources under the supplemental security income program.

S. 433

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 433, a bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish a renewable electricity standard, and for other purposes.

S. 454

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, a bill to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes.

S. 461

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 468

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 468, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 476

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 476, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the minimum distance of travel necessary for reimbursement of covered beneficiaries of the military health care system for travel for specialty health care.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 487

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 487, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 491, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 500

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 500, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish a national usury rate for consumer credit transactions.

S. 559

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to provide benefits under the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots (''WASP'').

S. 634

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 634, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 700, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to phase out the 24-month waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for Medicare benefits, to eliminate the waiting period for individuals with life-threatening conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access of Medicare beneficiaries to intravenous immune globulins (IVIG).

S. 738

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 738, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 775

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 775, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the availability of appropriated funds for international partnership contact activities conducted by the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 781

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 781, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 787

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 787, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States.

S. 797

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 797, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 2000, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the prosecution of, and response to, crimes in Indian country, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 11, a resolution to authorize production of documents to the Department of Defense Inspector General.

S. RES. 89

At the request of Mr. BAYH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 89, a resolution expressing support for designation of a ''Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 899. A bill to establish an assistance program for the construction of digital TV translators to fill coverage gaps that are created from the transition from analog to digital signals; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, on June 12, television broadcasters will finally transition from analog TV signals to an all-digital system and in doing so begin a new chapter of innovation. In addition to providing higher quality video and sound, the DTV Transition will allow broadcasters to offer new services such as interactive TV and content multicasting.

The benefits consumers will reap will be significant so we must make sure that they are clearly aware of this transition and the steps necessary to be prepared. Delaying the switchover till June has afforded us the opportunity to improve these efforts. However, there are several geographic areas across this nation that will be plagued by a particular problem that isn't a result of lack of consumer awareness or availability of converter boxes but because they will receive a weak digital signal or no signal at all.

The DTV ''cliff effect'' occurs when the broadcast signal is so weak that all that appears on a viewer's TV is a blank screen. Unlike an analog broadcast, where a weak signal means a viewer would receive a grainy or snowy picture, a weak digital broadcast would mean no picture at all—you either get it or you don't.

The DTV cliff effect occurs because of the different propagation characteristics that the new digital broadcast signals have compared to traditional analog signals. The terrain, distance from the broadcast tower, and the sensitivity of existing antennas, and even the weather all play a part in the strength of a broadcast signal and contribute to the cliff effect.

Recently, a market-research firm estimated that more than 9 million households could experience some digital TV reception problems. In addition, many households in Wilmington, North Carolina, which participated in a DTV Transition trial run last fall, and about a thousand homes in Hawaii, which transitioned early, experienced reception and cliff effect problems, so this is a very real threat that will disrupt a significant number of households.

That is why I rise today with my colleague Senator COLLINS to introduce legislation to directly address this problem by creating an assistance program for the construction of new digital translators to fill the gaps in the digital coverage of full-power stations. Specifically, the bill would provide $125 million in reimbursements for the construction of digital repeater or translator towers, which run approximately $80,000 to $100,000 each to build. These repeaters are essential in filling the dead zones that will result from the switchover.

The FCC recently released a report estimating that ''approximately 18 percent of stations—319—are predicted to lose coverage of 2 percent or more of the existing population they reached with their analog signals.'' One of the recommendations the Commission suggested to alleviate this problem was for affected stations to build translators. The FCC also provided a partial remedy in releasing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would allow stations to install digital translators immediately under Special Temporary Authority. However, in this poor economic climate many broadcasters do not have the resources to construct these expensive towers.

This legislation supplies some of the funding necessary to meet the challenges posed by this significant problem. It also should be noted that these towers can be used to co-locate wireless broadband facilities or other advanced communications services, which means an easier expansion of broadband in many areas that currently are without.

Fully addressing the DTV cliff effect problem will ensure the transition in June is as seamless and undisruptive as possible for all Americans. That is why I hope my colleagues will join Senator COLLINS and me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 900. A bill to require the establishment of a credit card safety star rating system for the benefit of consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as the credit crisis has gripped the nation, more and more families are relying on their credit cards to help them weather the storm. Unfortunately, as more folks use their credit cards, many more consumers are falling victim to the industry's abusive practices.

I am pleased that my colleagues in both the Senate and House are working hard to swiftly fix some of the most egregious existing practices. Like many of my colleagues, I agree that some of the credit card industry's practices are unconscionable. For example some provisions today allow issuers to raise the interest on a consumer to astronomical rates just because of a drop in their credit score or a missed payment on another, unrelated credit card. That's like having your home mortgage go into default because you missed a payment on your car loan. It is not fair and it's predatory.

Clearly, competition in the credit card industry is not working for consumers. Card issuers are not competing on the merits of their cards because consumers are still not able to make good comparisons on the overall cost of using their products. Consumers tend to focus on the interest rate and annual fees, not realizing that many of the little disclosures hidden in the legalese of their contracts can make the real cost of credit significantly higher.

Some practices are truly abusive and it may be best for Congress to eliminate those. However, while eliminating these practices would help protect some of the most vulnerable consumers, it would not solve the underlying systematic problem. For each abusive practice that Congress eliminates, another will pop up. That is why there must be a way to arm consumers with the information they need before they sign up for a credit card in order to reject such unfair practices.

With the financial future of so many Americans now dependent upon the unreadable jargon in credit card documents, consumers need to understand what they are getting into.

That is why I am introducing the Credit Card Safety Star Act of 2009. Last Congress, I introduced this legislation with then-Senator Obama because we both agreed that consumers need a simple way to cut through the unreadable jargon in agreements. My bill creates a safety rating system for credit cards, like the five-star crash rating system for new cars. The rating system for cars helps people understand how their car will protect them in a crash; my bill will help people understand if they can expect their card issuer to treat them fairly or kick them when they are down. Five-star cards would be the safest while one-star cards would be the least safe.

Cards are rewarded for terms that are consumer friendly and get knocked for the tricky terms that tend to get consumers in trouble.

For example, card issuers that can change the terms at any time for any reason or those that make consumers go into default based on credit ratings or other accounts would automatically receive a one-star rating.

However, card issuers that innovate new ways to make their agreements more consumer friendly could get points to out-compete others in the industry. For example, credit cards that give 90 days notice before the issuer intends to change terms, with the option for consumers to opt out, would get a point.

Under my system, card issuers would have to display the ratings on all their marketing materials, billing statements, agreement materials and on the back of the card itself. Consumers would also be able to see the ratings for their card and how their card got that rating on a stand-alone Federal Reserve website.

The Federal Reserve will be responsible for updating the star system and making sure that if new terms or practices come to market, those terms or practices are assigned an appropriate rating.

Additionally, my legislation creates a Credit Card Safety Star Advisory Commission which would study the effectiveness of the star rating system. The Commission would also implement a study that would examine whether it would be better to eliminate certain unfair practices rather than simply giving them a rating under my system.

My bill is designed to work in tandem with the other legislation that has already been introduced. While the Credit Card Safety Star Act will not ban any particular practices, it is designed to update if certain practices are banned.

While my legislation is not a silver bullet to solve all the problems in the credit card industry, it can provide a way forward that will arm consumers with usable information about the tricky terms in these agreements.

I believe it is time to put the free market to the test and see whether we can help consumers make better choices while also encouraging issuers to abandon some of these abusive practices and compete for consumers' business by offering them fair terms they can understand.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 900

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 ''Credit Card Safety Star Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) competition in the credit card market is severely hindered by a lack of transparency, which results in inefficient consumer choices;

(2) such lack of transparency is largely due to confusing terms and overwhelming information for consumers;

(3) the marketplace has not increased competition based on the merits of credit cards;

(4) a Government rating system that would use market forces by encouraging better transparency would increase such competition and assist consumers in making better credit card choices; and

(5) such a rating system would not preclude additional regulation or legislation that may eliminate certain practices considered unfair or abusive.

SEC. 3. TRUTH IN LENDING ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 127A the following new section:

''SEC. 127B. CREDIT CARD SAFETY STAR RATING SYSTEM.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'agreement' means the terms and conditions applicable to an open end credit plan offered by an issuer of credit;

''(2) references to a reading grade level shall be as determined by the Board, using available measurements for assessing such reading levels, including those used by the Department of Education;

''(3) the term 'Safety Star System' means the credit card safety star rating system established under this section; and

''(4) the term 'junk mail' means a form of disclosure that does not inform the consumer in a meaningful and significant way about changes in the contract, including small type, using separate pieces of paper for separate disclosures, and mixing disclosure materials with product advertisements.

''(b) RULEMAKING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Board shall issue final rules to implement the Safety Star System established under this section, to allow consumers to quickly and easily compare the levels of safety associated with various open end credit plan agreements.

''(2) CONSULTATION.—The Board shall consult with the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of Thrift Supervision, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in issuing rules to implement the Safety Star System.

''(c) ELEMENTS OF SAFETY STAR SYSTEM.—The Safety Star System shall consist of a 5-star system for rating the terms and conditions of each open end credit plan agreement between a card issuer and a cardholder, in accordance with this section.

''(d) SAFETY STAR RATINGS.—

''(1) ONE-STAR RATING.—The lowest level of safety for an open end credit plan shall be indicated by a 1-star rating.

''(2) FIVE-STAR RATING.—The highest level of safety in an open end credit plan shall be indicated by a 5-star rating.

''(e) POINT STRUCTURE FOR SAFETY STAR SYSTEM.—

''(1) VALUES.—Each variation of a term in an agreement shall be worth 1 point or –1 point, as applicable.

''(2) STAR SYSTEM.—For purposes of the Safety Star System—

''(A) 5-star credit cards are those with points totaling 7 points or greater;

''(B) 4-star credit cards are those with between 3 points and 6 points;

''(C) 3-star credit cards are those with between –1 point and 2 points;

''(D) 2-star credit cards are those with between –6 points and –2 points; and

''(E) 1-star credit cards are those with –7 points or fewer.

''(f) POINT AWARDS.—One point shall be awarded for each of the terms in an agreement under which—

''(1) no binding or nonbinding arbitration clause applies;

''(2) at least 90 days notice is provided to the cardholder if the card issuer wants to change the terms of the agreement, with the option for the consumer to opt out of the changes, while paying off their previous balance according to the original terms;

''(3) changes are disclosed in a manner that highlights the differences between the current terms and the proposed terms;

''(4) the original card agreement and all original supplementary materials are in 1 document at 1 time, and, when the card issuer discloses changes to the card agreement—

''(A) those materials are not in junk mail form; and

''(B) the changes are disclosed conspicuously, together with the next billing cycle statement, before the changes becomes effective;

''(5) no over-the-limit fees are imposed for the transactions approved at the time of transaction by the card issuer;

''(6) no fees are imposed to pay credit card bills using any method, including over the phone;

''(7) payments are applied to the highest interest rate principal first;

''(8) interest is not accrued on new purchases between the end of the billing cycle and the due date when a balance is outstanding;

''(9) security deposits and fees for credit availability (such as account opening fees or membership fees)—

''(A) are limited to 10 percent of the initial credit limit during the first 12 months; and

''(B) at account opening, are limited to 5 percent of the initial credit limit, and requires any additional amounts (up to 10 percent) to be spread evenly over at least the next 5 billing cycles;

''(10) the terms of the agreement are disclosed in a form that requires at or below an 8th grade reading level;

''(11) any secondary disclosure materials meant to supplement the terms of the agreement are disclosed in a form that requires at or below an 8th grade reading level;

''(12) no late fee may be imposed when a payment is received, whether processed by the issuer or not, within 2 days of the payment due date;

''(13) a copy of the agreement and all supplementary materials are easily available to the cardholder online; or

''(14) a substantial positive financial benefit would be provided to the consumer, as determined by the Board in accordance with subsection (h).

''(g) NEGATIVE POINTS.—One point shall be subtracted for each of the terms in an agreement under which—

''(1) binding or nonbinding arbitration is required to resolve disputes;

''(2) fewer than 30 days notice before the billing statement for which changes in terms take effect are provided to the cardholder when the card issuer wants to change the terms of the card agreement (which shall be assumed if notice of such changes is undisclosed in the agreement materials);

''(3) junk mailer disclosures are used to inform cardholders of changes in their agreements;

''(4) over-the-limit fees are imposed more than once based on the same transaction;

''(5) fees are imposed to pay bills by check, over the Internet, or by an automated phone system;

''(6) interest is accrued on new purchases between the end of the billing cycle and the due date when a balance is outstanding;

''(7) the terms of the agreement are disclosed in a form that requires a reading level that is above a 12th grade reading level;

''(8) any secondary disclosure materials meant to supplement the terms of the agreement are written in a form that requires a reading level above the 12th grade reading level;

''(9) a late fee may be imposed within 2 days of the payment due date;

''(10) the issuer may unilaterally change the terms in the agreement without written consent from the consumer, or the issuer may unilaterally make adverse changes to the terms in the agreement without written consent from the consumer and written notice to the consumer of the precise behavior that provoked the adverse change;

''(11) the issuer charges interest on transaction fees, including late fees; or

''(12) there would be a negative financial impact on the interests of the consumer, as determined by the Board in accordance with subsection (h).

''(h) BOARD CONSIDERATIONS.—For purposes of subsections (f)(15) and (g)(16), the Board may consider—

''(1) the level of difficulty in understanding terms of the subject agreement by an average consumer;

''(2) how such terms will affect consumers who are close to the edge of their credit limits;

''(3) how such terms will affect consumers who do not have a good credit score, history, or rating, using commonly employed credit measurement methods (if it creates greater access to credit by reducing safety, or by other means);

''(4) whether such terms create what would appear to a reasonable consumer to be an arbitrary deadline or limit that may frustrate consumers and result in excess fees or worse financial outcomes for the consumer;

''(5) whether such terms, or the severity of such terms, is not based on the credit risks created by a particular consumer behavior, but rather is designed to solely increase revenue through lack of transparency;

''(6) whether any State has sought to limit such terms or terms that are similar thereto;

''(7) whether provisions of State law relating to unfair and deceptive practices would prohibit any such terms, but for the national bank exclusion from non-home State banking laws;

''(8) whether such terms have an anticompetitive or procompetitive effect on the marketplace; and

''(9) such additional terms or concepts that are not specified in paragraphs (1) through (8) that the Board deems difficult for an average consumer to manage, such as terms that are confusing to the typical consumer or that create a greater risk of negative financial outcomes for the typical consumer, and terms that promote transparency or competition.

''(i) LIMITATIONS.—For purposes of subsection (h), the Board may not consider, with respect to the terms of an open end credit plan agreement, the profitability or impact on the success of any particular business model of such terms.

''(j) AUTOMATIC RATING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, or any other provision of State or Federal law, any open end credit plan that allows the card issuer or a designee thereof to modify the terms of the agreement at any time or periodically for unspecified or unstated reasons, shall automatically give rise to a 1-star rating for such open end credit plan.

''(k) NO POINTS IF TERMS ARE REQUIRED BY LAW.—If a particular term in an agreement becomes required by law or regulation, no points may be awarded under the Safety Star System for that term.

''(l) PROCEDURES FOR RATINGS.—

''(1) CERTIFICATION TO THE BOARD.—Each issuer of credit under an open end credit plan shall certify in writing to the Board, the number of stars to be awarded, separately for each of the card issuer's agreements. Each such certification shall specify which terms in each agreement are subject to the Safety Star System, and how the issuer arrived at the star rating for each agreement based on the Safety Star System in accordance with paragraph (2).

''(2) SUBMISSIONS TO THE BOARD.—Each agreement that is subject to a Safety Star System rating shall be submitted electronically to the Board, together with a written explanation of whether the agreement has or does not have each of the terms specified in subsections (f) and (g), before issuing or marketing a credit card under that agreement.

''(3) BOARD VERIFICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall verify that the terms in the submitted agreement and supporting materials (such as examples of future disclosures or examples of websites with cardholder agreements) comply with the certification submitted to the Board by

the issuer under this subsection, not later than 30 days after the date of submission.

''(B) AVOIDING DUPLICATIVE VERIFICATIONS.—A card issuer may certify to the Board, in writing, that all agreements that it markets include a particular term, or that the issuer will use certain practices (with supporting documents, including showing how future disclosures will be made) so that the Board is required to determine only once, with respect to that term or practice, how that term or practice affects the star ratings of the credit card agreements of the issuer.

''(4) MISREPRESENTATIONS AS VIOLATIONS.—Any certification to the Board under this section that the issuer knew, or should have known, was false or misrepresented to the Board or to a consumer the terms or conditions of a card agreement or of a Safety Star System rating under this section shall be treated as a violation of this title, and shall be subject to enforcement in accordance with section 108.

''(5) MODIFICATIONS BY CARD ISSUERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After the first annual review by the Board, mentioned in subsection (o), before implementing any new term or concept, or new way of approaching a term or concept, with respect to an open end credit plan, the card issuer shall submit the new term or concept and any supporting materials to the Board, other than with respect to an adjustment to the applicable rate of interest in an existing agreement that clearly specifies that such rate would be adjustable and under what conditions such adjustments could occur.

''(B) DETERMINATION OF THE BOARD.—Not later than 30 days after the date of a submission under subparagraph (A), the Board shall complete a review of the effects on safety of the subject new concept or term, and shall issue a decision on whether it affects the Safety Star System rating for the open end credit plan that will include the term or concept.

''(m) DISPLAY OF AND ACCESS TO RATINGS.—

''(1) DISPLAY OF RATING REQUIRED.—The Safety Star System rating for each credit card shall be clearly displayed on all marketing material, applications, billing statements, and agreements associated with that credit card, as well as on the back of each such credit card, including a brief explanation of the system displayed below each rating (other than on the back of the credit card).

''(2) NEW CARDS REQUIRED FOR LOWER RATINGS.—In any case in which the Safety Star System rating for a credit card is lowered for any reason, the card issuer shall provide new cards to account holders displaying the new rating in accordance with paragraph (1).

''(3) GRAPHIC DISPLAY.—The Safety Star System rating for a credit card shall be represented by a graphic that demonstrates not only the number of stars that the credit card has received, but also the number of stars that the card did not receive.

''(4) DEVELOPMENT OF GRAPHIC BY THE BOARD.—The Board shall determine the graphic and description of the Safety Star System for display on materials and the back of cards for purposes of this section.

''(n) CONSUMER ACCESS TO RATINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall engage in an extensive campaign to educate consumers about the Safety Star System ratings for credit cards, using commonly used and accessible communications media.

''(2) WEBSITE.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Board shall establish and shall maintain a stand-alone website—

''(A) to provide easily understandable, in-depth information on the criteria used to assign the ratings, as provided in subsections (f) and (g); and

''(B) to include a listing of the Safety Star System ratings for each open end consumer credit plan, information on how the issuer arrived at that rating, and the number of consumers that have that plan with the issuer.

''(o) ANNUAL REVIEW BY THE BOARD.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall conduct a thorough annual review (of not longer than 6 months in duration) of the Safety Star System, to determine whether the point system is effectively aiding consumers, and shall promptly implement any regulatory changes as are necessary to ensure that the System protects consumers and encourages transparent competition and fairness to consumers, including implementing a system in which terms are weighted to distinguish between different levels of safety, in accordance with the purposes of this section.

''(2) AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS.—Results of the review conducted under this subsection shall be submitted to Congress, and shall be made available to the public.

''(p) PERIODIC REVIEW OF STANDARDS.—Once every 2 years, the Board shall determine whether the requirements to satisfy 2-star standards and above should be raised on the grounds that card issuers have abandoned the most unfair practices. In making such determination, the Board may not consider the profitability of business models, but may consider whether competition in the credit industry will improve consumer protection, and how the change in standards will affect such competition.''.

SEC. 4. SAFETY STAR ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Credit Card Safety Star Advisory Commission (in this section referred to as the ''Commission'').

(b) DUTIES.—

(1) REVIEW OF THE CREDIT CARD SAFETY STAR SYSTEM AND ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Commission shall—

(A) review the effectiveness of the credit card Safety Star System under this section, including the topics described in paragraph (2);

(B) make recommendations to Congress concerning such system;

(C) study whether it would better protect consumers to ban some practices by creditors rather than use a rating system for those practices, including universal default, unilateral changes without consumer consent, allowing interest charges on fees, or allowing interest rate increases to apply to past debt; and

(D) by not later than March 1 of each calendar year following the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report to Congress containing the results of such reviews and its recommendations concerning such system.

(2) SPECIFIC TOPICS TO BE REVIEWED.—The Commission shall review—

(A) with respect to all credit card users—

(i) the methodology for awarding stars to credit cards under the Safety Star System, and whether there may be a better way to award stars that takes into account unfair or unsafe practices that remain uncaptured in the Safety Star System;

(ii) the consumer awareness of the Safety Star System and what may make the system more useful to consumers; and

(iii) other major issues in implementation and further development of the Safety Star System;

(B) with respect to credit card users who are at or close to their credit limits, whether such consumers are being specifically targeted in credit card agreements, and whether the Safety Star System should incorporate more terms or be revised to encourage more fair terms for such consumers; and

(C) the effects of the Safety Star System on the availability and affordability of credit and the implications of changes in credit availability and affordability in the United States and in the general market for credit services due to the Safety Star System.

(3) COMMENTS ON CERTAIN BOARD REPORTS.—

(A) TRANSMITTAL TO COMMISSION.—If the Board submits to Congress (or a committee of Congress) a report that is required by law and that relates to the Safety Star System, the Board shall transmit a copy of the report to the Commission.

(B) INDEPENDENT REVIEW.—The Commission shall review any report received under subparagraph (A) and, not later than 6 months after the date of submission of the report to Congress, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress written comments on such report. Such comments may include such recommendations as the Commission determines appropriate.

(4) AGENDA AND ADDITIONAL REVIEWS.—The Commission shall consult periodically with the chairperson and ranking minority members of the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the agenda of the Commission and progress towards achieving the agenda. The Commission may conduct additional reviews, and submit additional reports to the appropriate committees of Congress, from time to time on such topics relating to the Safety Star System as may be requested by such chairpersons and members, and as the Commission determines appropriate.

(5) AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Commission shall transmit to the Board a copy of each report submitted under this subsection, and shall make such reports available to the public in an easily accessible format, including operating a website containing the reports.

(6) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(7) VOTING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to each recommendation contained in a report submitted under paragraph (1), each member of the Commission shall vote on the recommendation, and the Commission shall include, by member, the results of that vote in the report containing the recommendation. The Commission may file a minority report.

(8) EXAMINATION OF BUDGET CONSEQUENCES.—Before making any recommendation that is likely to have a Federal budgetary impact, the Commission shall examine the budget consequences of such recommendation, directly or through consultation with appropriate expert entities.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the Comptroller General of the United States, in accordance with this section.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The membership of the Commission shall include individuals—

(i) who have achieved national recognition for their expertise in credit cards, debt management, economics, credit availability, consumer protection, and other credit card-related issues and fields; or

(ii) who provide a mix of different professions, a broad geographic representation, and a balance between urban and rural representatives.

(B) MAKEUP OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall be made up of 15 members, of whom—

(i) 4 shall be representatives from consumer groups;

(ii) 4 shall be representatives from credit card issuers or banks;

(iii) 7 shall be representatives from nonprofit research entities or nonpartisan experts in banking and credit cards; and

(iv) no fewer than 1 of the members described in clauses (i) through (iii) shall represent each of—

(I) the elderly;

(II) economically disadvantaged consumers;

(III) racial or ethnic minorities; and

(IV) students and minors.

(C) ETHICS DISCLOSURES.—The Comptroller General shall establish a system for public disclosure by members of the Commission of financial and other potential conflicts of interest relating to such members. Members of the Commission shall be treated as employees of Congress whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate for purposes of title I of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–521).

(3) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms of members of the Commission shall be for 5 years except that the Comptroller General shall designate staggered terms for the members first appointed.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has taken office. A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(4) COMPENSATION.—

(A) MEMBERS.—While serving on the business of the Commission (including travel time), a member of the Commission shall be entitled to compensation at the per diem equivalent of the rate provided for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, and while so serving away from home and the regular place of business of the member, the member may be allowed travel expenses, as authorized by the Chairperson.

(B) OTHER EMPLOYEES.—For purposes of pay (other than pay of members of the Commission) and employment benefits, rights, and privileges, all employees of the Commission shall be treated as if they were employees of the United States Senate.

(5) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Comptroller General shall designate a member of the Commission, at the time of appointment of the member as Chairperson and a member as Vice Chairperson for that term of appointment, except that in the case of vacancy in the position of Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Commission, the Comptroller General may designate another member for the remainder of that member's term.

(6) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(d) DIRECTOR AND STAFF; EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Subject to such review as the Comptroller General determines necessary to assure the efficient administration of the Commission, the Commission may—

(1) employ and fix the compensation of an Executive Director (subject to the approval of the Comptroller General) and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its duties (without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service);

(2) seek such assistance and support as may be required in the performance of its duties from appropriate Federal departments and agencies;

(3) enter into contracts or make other arrangements, as may be necessary for the conduct of the work of the Commission (without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (41 U.S.C. 5));

(4) make advance, progress, and other payments which relate to the work of the Commission;

(5) provide transportation and subsistence for persons serving without compensation; and

(6) prescribe such rules and regulations as it determines necessary with respect to the internal organization and operation of the Commission.

(e) POWERS.—

(1) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this section. Upon request of the Chairperson, the head of that department or agency shall furnish that information to the Commission on an agreed upon schedule.

(2) DATA COLLECTION.—In order to carry out its functions, the Commission shall—

(A) utilize existing information, both published and unpublished, where possible, collected and assessed either by its own staff or under other arrangements made in accordance with this section;

(B) carry out, or award grants or contracts for, original research and experimentation, where existing information is inadequate; and

(C) adopt procedures allowing any interested party to submit information for the Commission's use in making reports and recommendations.

(3) ACCESS OF GAO TO INFORMATION.—The Comptroller General shall have unrestricted access to all deliberations, records, and nonproprietary data of the Commission, immediately upon request.

(4) PERIODIC AUDIT.—The Commission shall be subject to periodic audit by the Comptroller General.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES.—The Comptroller General shall provide such administrative and support services to the Commission as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission, not more than $10,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out this section.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 901. A bill to establish the Oregon Task Force on Sustainable Revenue for Counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Sustainable Revenue for Oregon Counties Act, a bill aimed at finding a sustainable long-term solution to the revenue problems faced by Oregon's timber-dependent counties and other timber-dependent counties across our Nation. This bill, which is cosponsored by Senator RON WYDEN, will establish a task force to determine the best way to provide counties with a dependable source of revenue after the current county payments program expires.

Last year I promised that county payments would be the subject of my first bill as a Senator because addressing this issue is essential to the long-term success of Oregon's rural counties. Thanks to the hard work of Senator WYDEN and our congressional delegation, payments are in place for the next 2 years. But we need to start preparing for what happens next.

Let me give some background on this critical issue. Like many Western States, the Federal Government owns much of Oregon's land base. More than half of Oregon's land is federally owned. One class of the Federal lands is the O&C lands. These lands were granted to Oregon & California Railroad in 1866 and later reverted to the Federal Government when the railroad failed to live up to terms of the grant. They also included a class of lands that originated from a similar situation, the Coos Bay Wagon Road lands. These O&C lands make up 2.2 million acres in western and southern Oregon.

Then there are Forest Service lands—timbered lands owned by the Forest Service, managed—that make up 14 million additional acres across our State.

In both cases, the Federal Government has allocated a share of the revenue generated by cutting timber to compensate local counties for their services. Since 1908, in fact, the Federal Government has compensated counties for the revenue lost due to Forest Service lands with a simple formula: 25 percent of the revenue earned by harvesting timber. Since 1937 the Federal Government has sustained a similar commitment on our O&C lands. The O&C Act provided that counties receive 75 percent of the timber harvest revenues, and since 1957 that was reasserted with 50 percent going directly to the counties and 25 percent put into management.

Then along came the 1990s and something happened. What happened is, the Federal Government started saying for other reasons—environmental reasons, stewardship reasons—we were going to change the harvest practices on these lands. That has had a direct impact, a deep, profound impact on our timber counties. A deal was struck. In fact, in 1993, President Clinton proposed and Congress enacted a program to augment timber payments with Federal payments based on the historic harvest levels so the people of Oregon's timber counties will not be paying the price for the environmental goals and other goals that were put forward. This is a deal, this is a core foundation agreement between the Federal Government and our timber counties.

This program was modified in 2000 under the leadership of our senior Senator from Oregon, and the program became the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. That program, though, had a sunset in 2006 when the program disappeared that started to wreak havoc on our timber-dependent counties.

In Josephine County two-thirds of the county's general fund came from county payments. Loss of county payments meant cutting public safety programs. Overnight, patrols were down to one 10-hour shift split among six deputies covering an area the size of the State of Rhode Island.

In Harney County—where 78 percent of the landmass, an area the size of New Jersey, is federally controlled—70 percent of the road funds come from Federal payments.

In Lake County, Federal land, making up 61 percent of the county, is in anticipation of losing Federal funding, so the county had to cut its Federal Road Department from 42 individuals to 14—14 for a road department for a county the size of Connecticut and Delaware combined.

In Jackson County, where one-third of the general fund comes from Federal payments, Jackson County eliminated 117 jobs in parks, human services, roads, public safety, and closed all of their libraries.

This issue was so substantial that the Oregon Legislature, when I served as speaker, redirected more than $50 million in transportation funds away from counties under the normal formula to a formula based on the loss of the Federal timber dollars.

The good news is that due to the tireless work of the senior Senator from my State, Mr. WYDEN, and our colleagues in the other Chamber, counties received a 1-year reprieve in 2007 and just last fall a 4-year extension. But now we are faced again with expiration of these critical resources in 2011. So today I am here to propose a strategy to develop a coherent plan, a plan for restoring fiscal security and sustainable revenue to our counties so that, despite the crushing economic situation our counties are facing today—and unemployment is second highest in the Nation in Oregon, and in the timber-dependent counties far higher than the average, many with 14, 16, 18 percent unemployment—despite that, we need to provide a foundation for transition in 2011.

There are many elements that can go into this coherent strategy. Our forests, millions of acres of second growth forests are overgrown and need to be thinned to restore forest health and prevent forest fires. Increasing the harvest could generate revenue. The material cleared from the forest could be used to generate biomass energy and cellulosic biofuels, and harvesting that material, that biomass, could generate revenue.

Our forests can be used to sequester carbon, and the forests of the Northwest are potentially the largest carbon sink we have, so management to increase carbon sequestration could be a source of revenue.

Increased use of public lands by visitors brings economic benefit to our counties and these recreational and tourism activities could be a source of revenues.

Certainly, we need to look at the historic deal struck between the Federal Government and the counties and find a way to sustain it into the future—that deal saying, if we are going to put restrictions on the timber harvest under these traditional timberlands that we are going to compensate counties for the lost revenue.

This bill creates a task force with 15 members. Four members come from timber counties. They get their first-hand reports from the front line. One member each represents timber, conservation, recreation, and labor organizations—as well as a member from the Governor's office and a member from Oregon's tribes.

Then the task force will be expanded to include members who are experts on sustainable forestry, on natural resource economics, on biomass energy, on carbon sequestration, and on habitat conservation.

This task force is charged with developing a long-term plan to raise sustainable revenue for Oregon's counties, and it will consider all of the concepts that I have mentioned, as well as others that are proposed or that come up in the course of the task force's work. They are going to report back two strategies for consideration within 9 months of this bill being enacted.

Timberlands are an important part of the national economy and an extremely important part of the Oregon economy. Timber products can be used to help us address next generation biofuels. Timber can be used to sequester carbon. It is a creative, adaptable building material, and our timber counties have been hit particularly hard by the downturn in the national housing market.

So we need to sustain the traditional deal with Oregon's timber counties and with timber counties across this country. That is what this bill is intended to do. I am very proud to introduce it as my first bill as a Senator.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 901

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 ''Sustainable Revenue for Oregon Counties Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) more than half of the land in the State of Oregon is owned by the Federal Government;

(2) in many counties of the State, significant portions of the land of the counties (often significantly more than half of the land of the counties) is owned by the Federal Government;

(3) the land described in paragraph (2) includes Forest Service land and Oregon and California grant land;

(4) the counties described in paragraph (2) are unable to derive revenue from property taxes on land owned by the Federal Government;

(5) historically, payments made by the Federal Government based on revenues from harvesting timber (including Oregon and California grant land and Forest Service payments) have provided a revenue substitute for property taxes;

(6) the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 500 note; Public Law 106–393) augmented the payments described in paragraph (5) because of a significant decline in timber harvest revenues;

(7) Congress extended the payments described in paragraph (6) for 1 year in 2007, and for 4 years effective beginning in 2008, to provide time to develop a long-term sustainable alternative to the payments described in paragraph (6);

(8) the prospects for a long-term extension are uncertain because of concerns regarding Federal budget deficits and long-term financial assistance to local governments of the State;

(9) counties of the State that have historically received the payments described in paragraph (5) are in need of a sustainable, long-term revenue source;

(10) there are opportunities for the conduct of activities in the Federal forest land of the counties of the State that could be structured to be economically and environmentally sustainable, including—

(A) the harvesting of timber (including thinning to restore forest health) in a sustainable manner and in sustainable quantities;

(B) the removal of biomass material from the forest land for—

(i) the generation of electricity; and

(ii) the production of cellulosic biofuels;

(C) the conduct of activities that could—

(i) increase the sequestration by the forest land of atmospheric carbon; or

(ii) provide other ecosystem services for communities, such as clean water; and

(D) the conduct of recreational activities;

(11) other sources of revenue, including State and local revenue sources, should also be considered in selecting a sustainable, long-term revenue source; and

(12) payments made by the Federal Government could be continued under a variety of different payment methodologies.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARIES CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretaries concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Oregon.

(3) TASK FORCE.—The term ''Task Force'' means the Oregon Task Force on Sustainable Revenue for Counties established by section 4(a).

SEC. 4. TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a task force to be known as the ''Oregon Task Force on Sustainable Revenue for Counties''.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be composed of 15 members, of whom—

(A) 4 members shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned, of whom—

(i) each shall represent a county of the State; and

(ii) 2 shall represent counties in which there is located Oregon and California grant land;

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Governor of the State as the representative of the Governor of the State;

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned from among persons who are experts in economics (including natural resource economics);

(D) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned from among persons who are experts in sustainable forestry practices;

(E) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned from among persons who are experts in scientific and economic aspects of biomass energy;

(F) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned from among persons

who are experts in the scientific aspects of ecosystem services that are provided by temperate forests (including, at a minimum, the scientific aspects of carbon sequestration);

(G) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned from among persons who are experts in fields relating to wildlife habitat, endangered species, and biodiversity;

(H) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned as a representative of the forest products industry located in the State;

(I) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned as a representative of regionally or locally recognized conservation organizations located in the State;

(J) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned as a representative of—

(i) organized labor; or

(ii) nontimber forest product harvester groups;

(K) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned as a representative of persons who participate in or provide recreational activities or are engaged in related activities; and

(L) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretaries concerned as a representative of Indian tribes that are located in the State.

(2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appointment of a member of the Task Force shall be made not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) TERM; VACANCIES.—

(1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for the life of the Task Force.

(2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Task Force—

(A) shall not affect the powers of the Task Force; and

(B) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(d) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Task Force have been appointed, the Task Force shall hold the initial meeting of the Task Force.

(e) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(2) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Each meeting of the Task Force shall be open to the public.

(f) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(g) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Task Force shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Task Force.

SEC. 5. DUTIES.

(a) CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW OF REVENUE SOURCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall consider and review concepts for the establishment of a long-term revenue source for counties located in the State that have historically received Federal funds.

(2) REVENUE SOURCES.—In conducting the consideration and review under paragraph (1), in accordance with paragraph (3), the Task Force shall consider—

(A) revenue sources proposed by relevant legislation or administrative actions;

(B) payments based on timber harvests (including thinning to restore forest health) carried out at sustainable levels;

(C) payments based on revenues that each county of the State could have received through property taxation if the land owned by the Federal Government located in the county was privately held and subject to a property tax;

(D) revenue based on—

(i) a portion of the proceeds from sales of material collected from public land located in the State for the production of biomass electricity or cellulosic liquid transportation fuels;

(ii) user fees for recreational activities carried out on public land located in the State;

(iii) payments for increases in carbon sequestration; and

(iv) land exchanges or transfers that could provide compensation for nontaxable Federal land located in counties of the State;

(E) local sources of revenue that could be used to reduce or eliminate the reliance of counties of the State on Federal funds (including taxes, user fees, or economic development activities that could increase the revenue base of the counties of the State);

(F) payments made by the Federal Government to the counties of the State, including—

(i) guaranteed payments that are to be established at a reduced level and not based on timber harvest revenues; and

(ii) guaranteed payments that are to be established—

(I) at a level similar to the level of payments reauthorized in 2008;

(II) in part by timber harvest revenues; and

(III) with the use of additional Federal funds to the extent that timber harvest revenues described in subclause (II) do not meet the guaranteed level of payment; and

(G) any other revenue source that the Task Force determines to be appropriate for consideration and review.

(3) FACTORS.—In considering each revenue source under paragraph (2), the Task Force shall take into account—

(A) the long-term sustainability of each revenue source considered under paragraph (2);

(B) the relative value, long-term sustainability, and any other implication of the relative reliance of the counties of the State on revenues arising from Federal forests located in the counties, as compared to other local revenue sources;

(C) the potential long-term effects of each revenue source considered under paragraph (2) on the economies of the counties of the State;

(D) revenue sources that are used by other cities or counties of the State;

(E) the environmental effects of each revenue source considered under paragraph (2);

(F) the effect of each revenue source considered under paragraph (2) on local revenue streams and county services; and

(G) comments submitted to the Task Force by a stakeholder relating to any issue or proposal considered by the Task Force.

(b) HEARINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall hold such hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Task Force considers advisable to receive the input and determine the opinions of the public and stakeholders with respect to the establishment of a sustainable, long-term revenue source for the counties of the State.

(2) INCORPORATION OF PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In preparing the report required under subsection (c), the Task Force shall incorporate into the recommendations of the Task Force required under subsection (c)(2), to the maximum extent practicable, the public and stakeholder input received under paragraph (1).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that contains—

(1) a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Task Force;

(2) a description of not less than 2 policy scenarios for providing sustainable revenue to the counties of the State that are recommended by not less than ⅗ of the members of the Task force for consideration by the Federal Government, the State, and the counties of the State as the Task Force considers appropriate (including such legislation and administrative actions necessary to implement each policy scenario);

(3) a description of the opinion of each member of the Task Force regarding each policy scenario described in paragraph (2);

(4) a description of the minority views of each member of the Task Force who does not support any policy scenario described in paragraph (2);

(5) a description of each revenue source considered but not recommended by the Task Force under paragraph (2), including—

(A) an explanation of each reason why the Task Force did not recommend the policy scenario; and

(B) a description of the minority views of each member of the Task Force relating to the decision by the Task Force not to recommend the policy scenario; and

(6) a summary of comments received by the Task Force under subsections (a)(3)(G) and (b)(1).

(d) REQUIRED HEARINGS.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which each committee described in subsection (c) receives the report required under that subsection, each committee shall hold a hearing to evaluate the recommendations contained in the report.

SEC. 6. POWERS.

(a) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force may secure directly from a Federal agency such information as the Task Force considers necessary to carry out this Act.

(2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—On request of the Chairperson of the Task Force, the head of the agency shall provide the information to the Task Force.

(b) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Task Force may use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Government.

(c) GIFTS.—The Task Force may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

SEC. 7. TASK FORCE PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each member of the Task Force shall serve without compensation.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Task Force shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Task Force.

(c) DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the Federal Government may be detailed to the Task Force without reimbursement.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of the employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(d) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Task Force may procure temporary and intermittent services in accordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 9. TERMINATION OF TASK FORCE.

The Task Force shall terminate 120 days after the date on which the Task Force submits the report of the Task Force under section 5(c).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 114—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF APRIL 27, 2009, AS ''NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY''

Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 114

Whereas there are approximately 54,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation's 120,000 public and private schools;

Whereas over half of all schools in the United States have problems linked to indoor air quality;

Whereas children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards, as they breathe in more air per pound of body weight due to their developing systems;

Whereas children spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is associated with a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and cancer;

Whereas an average of 1 in every 13 school-age children has asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for approximately 14,700,000 missed school days each year;

Whereas the Nation's schools spend approximately $8,000,000,000 a year on energy costs, causing officials to make very difficult decisions on cutting back on much needed academic programs in their efforts to maintain heat and electricity;

Whereas healthy and high-performance schools that are designed to reduce energy and maintenance costs, provide cleaner air, improve lighting, and reduce exposure to toxic substances provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children and improve academic achievement and well-being;

Whereas new building construction, especially for new school buildings, should be designed to meet energy efficiency standards, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards;

Whereas green and healthy schools save an average of $100,000 per year on energy costs, enough to hire 2 teachers, buy 200 new computers, or purchase 5,000 new textbooks;

Whereas converting all of the Nation's schools to green schools would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 33,200,000 metric tons;

Whereas Congress has demonstrated its interest in this compelling issue by including the Health High-Performance Schools program in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our schools have the great responsibility of guiding the future of our children and our Nation; and

Whereas April 27, 2009, would be an appropriate date to designate as ''National Healthy Schools Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of April 27, 2009, as ''National Healthy Schools Day''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, April 27, 2009, at 5:30 p.m.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 386

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that at noon Tuesday, April 28, the Senate return to legislative session to resume consideration of S. 386; that upon passage of the bill, the Senate then return to executive session to resume consideration of the Sebelius nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS AFFECTING JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1626, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1626) to make technical amendments to laws containing time periods affecting judicial proceedings.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1626) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order; further, I ask consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, at 10 a.m. tomorrow the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Kathleen Sebelius to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. Under the previous order, there will be up to 8 hours for debate equally divided between the two leaders or designees. Senators should also be prepared for a vote on passage of S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act, at noon tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:34 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PEARLIE S. REED, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE BOYD KEVIN RUTHERFORD.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

THOMAS R. LAMONT, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE RONALD J. JAMES.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOHN D. PORCARI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE THOMAS J. BARRETT, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CATHERINE RADFORD ZOI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENERGY, EFFICIENCY, AND RENEWABLE ENERGY), VICE ALEXANDER A. KARSNER, RESIGNED.

WILLIAM F. BRINKMAN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, VICE RAYMOND L. ORBACH, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ANNE CASTLE, OF COLORADO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE MARK A. LIMBAUGH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KURT M. CAMPBELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS), VICE CHRISTOPHER R. HILL, RESIGNED.

DANIEL BENJAMIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE COORDINATOR FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, VICE DELL L. DAILEY, RESIGNED.

ROBERT ORRIS BLAKE, JR., OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, VICE RICHARD A. BOUCHER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

PHYLLIS CORRINE BORZI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE BRADFORD P. CAMPBELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DAVID HEYMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE STEWART A. BAKER, RESIGNED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, the House and Senate began final work on the Budget Resolution, and the Budget is more than numbers on a page—it is a statement of the priorities, values and goals of our President, this Congress and our nation.

The House Budget embraces the President's goals of rebuilding the economy and creating new jobs, restoring fiscal integrity, and making investments for our future prosperity and security.

Simply put, we will only be prepared, we will only be economically competitive, if we tackle the immediate economic and fiscal challenges before us, make essential investments that enable us to meet future challenges, and do so in a way that is fiscally responsible.

As the Budget Committee Vice Chair, I know that the President's Budget, modified by Congress, meets these goals.

The House Budget is an honest budget. It anticipates expenditures and it restores fiscal balance by committing to cut the deficit in half in five years.

And, most significantly, the budget makes smart investments that will contain costs and expand access to health care, build energy independence, and improve educational achievement, all critical if we are to grow the economy and be economically competitive in a global marketplace.

We should pass the Budget Resolution and begin the task ahead.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT ROBERT BARTLETT FOR HIS HEROIC SERVICE IN COMBAT AND WORK ON VETERANS HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the military service of one of Arizona's finest sons, Robert Bartlett.

Sergeant Bartlett enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2003 and was severely wounded by a roadside bomb in May 2005 while on patrol in Iraq.

In the aftermath of the explosion, Sergeant Bartlett twice suffered cardiac and respiratory failure and underwent dozens of surgeries. He has become a vocal supporter of mental health care for veterans returning from combat, and he serves as an example of courage and patriotism to his comrades in arms and civilians alike.

The following poem was penned by U.S. Capitol guide Albert Carey Caswell in honor of Sergeant Bartlett and his heroic service in combat and afterward.

ONE SHOT

One
One shot . . .
Is all we have!
All in our lives to give . . .
All in how we've got!
All in our choices . . .
All through our inner voices . . .
Taking sight . . . our scope . . .
As from our souls, comes hope . . .
One shot . . .
Taking aim with our hearts . . .
All in what we've invoked . . .
As our sights becoming clear . . .
As our targets in life appear . . .
As from these ashes, rose . . .
This is a Real American Hero . . .
As oneself forsaken . . .
But, for The Greater Good . . .
To stand tall in all you would . . .
In that battle of evil versus good . . .
To wear the uniform, with hearts of courage warm . . .
With all you could . . .
As into that valley of death . . .
As Robert, you marched on so until none was left!
While, there on a battlefield of honor dying . . .
As your face is almost gone, as you lay lying . . .
As a mother awakes crying . . .
As somehow she knows her son is dying . . .
But, beauty is but skin deep . . .
And our Lord, shall hold in his arms all of those whose faith so keeps!
Now, digging . . . digging in deep . . .
As your will to live keeps, is found in each and every heart beat!
Dying, three times . . . fighting to stay alive . . .
All in your beliefs . . .
As Robert cheats death, America's Best . . .
As with his story, and courage and faith . . .
An American tale our world will bless . . .
A messenger from God, exploding . . .
As he looks into a mirror, his darkest fears are realized . . .
Reloading, his new battle begins!
He cries . . .
As half his face is gone, has died . . .
In this face of courage we see . . .
The true definition of beauty . . .
Countless operations, courage's full measure . . .
All in faith's affirmation . . .
Both Beauty and The Beast . . .
As his shot is heard around the world . . .
As his courage is unfurled . . . beyond belief . . .
A Beautiful Man . . .
With every step, reloading . . .
With the Height of Courage exploding . . .
He takes command!
This Army Man . . . a real Hero, a fine American!
Who against all odds, now stands . . .
Out on point, as a lone centurion . . .
Of faith and courage . . .
To teach us all, and all our souls to nourish . . .
With his even greater weapon, he now fights . . .
As from his heart of courage, comes the light . . .
All in God's glory, his being . . . his soul . . . his very story . . .
For he will not miss, that One Shot!

Madam Speaker, Sergeant Bartlett remains on active duty, stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending him for his continued service, even after great personal tragedy, and in wishing him success throughout the rest of his military career.

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL PROJECT FUNDING

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I supported the following national projects that received funding through H.R. 1105, The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

National Writing Project for activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—The National Writing Project focuses on the teaching of writing and the professional development of writer instructors to ensure elementary and secondary students become successful writers and learners.

Reading is Fundamental authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—RIF promotes youth literacy by providing underserved children access to free and new books in every state and territory across the country.

Center for Civic Education for two programs—We the People and Cooperative Education Exchange—that are authorized in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as part of the Civic Education program—The Education for Democracy Act supports civic programs, such as We the People and the Cooperative Education Exchange Program, to educate American students about the fundamental ideals of the United States.

National Council on Economic Education for the Cooperative Education Exchange program, which is authorized in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as part of the Civic Education Program—The Education for Democracy Act supports civic programs, such as We the People and the Cooperative Education Exchange Program, to educate American students about the fundamental ideals of the United States.

HONORING AMELIA LEVER FOR RECEIVING NATIONAL ''LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE'' AWARD

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Miss Amelia Lever of

Albertville, Minnesota, for being chosen as a national winner in the Letters about Literature Reading Contest.

Miss Lever, a senior at St. Michael-Albertville High School, was chosen as one of six winners in a national competition with 55,000 students for her letter to poet Linda Paston. After studying the piece, ''Caroline,'' Miss Lever chose to write a letter to the author expressing the positive impact the poem provided as she dealt with the tragedy of losing her sister in an accident.

''I personally attribute a great deal of that peace to your poem, 'Caroline,'" Miss Lever wrote. ''I realize we can endure this pain only because of small miracles we experience every day. 'Caroline' is one of those miracles.''

The panel of judges gave Miss Lever a perfect score for her ''original, emotional, genuine, and inspiring response,'' and Target donated a $10,000 grant to St. Michael Catholic Library on her behalf.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Sixth District of Minnesota, I want to congratulate Amelia Lever for her talent and national achievement. I wish her the very best as she graduates high school and pursues what are sure to be bright endeavors in her future.

CELEBRATING ABINGTON TOWNSHIP

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Abington Township, a community in my district that has been recognized with three distinct national honors. Abington Township is a three-time winner of America's Promise ''100 Best Communities for Young People'' in the United States, and in fact, the township is the only three-time winner in Pennsylvania. Money Magazine named Abington Township as one of the ''100 Best Places to Live in America'' and most recently, US News & World Report awarded Abington Senior High School a bronze medal as one of America's best high schools.

I have had the privilege of representing Abington in the Pennsylvania State Senate and now as a member of Congress. I am also proud to be an Abington resident. Over the years, I have seen first-hand Abington's demonstrated commitment to building a strong community dedicated to the advancement of the lives of its young people.

Abington Township's ''Triple Crown Awards'' are the result of a concerted collaborative effort among the school district, police department, community organizations, businesses, and residents who have worked tirelessly to create a responsible, caring, and safe community. They've established the Abington Community Taskforce, comprised of parents, police, religious and civic leaders and over thirty civic groups, dedicated to the mission of teaching tolerance, promoting neighborhood safety, and building strong families.

The Abington Police Department has established strong community partnerships with innovative programs like D.A.R.E, the Police Athletic League, Citizens and Police Together, Kids in Safety Seats, and Town Watch. Abington Township adopted the state-sponsored Communities That Care Initiative to advance their collaborative efforts based on an annual needs assessment to best direct their long-term community building initiatives. They've established joint initiatives between the school district and police department, including an anti-drug program and the Community Partnership of Youth and Adults to encourage community spirit and participation.

Abington Township is the recipient of repeated national recognition because, as a community, the people of Abington represent values that are at the very core of the American spirit—duty, respect, selfless service, honor, and integrity.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the incredible accomplishments of Abington Township and wishing the residents of the township success in their endeavors to better their community. Abington Township sets an example for all of us to follow. I couldn't be prouder of Abington for its outstanding efforts.

HONORING DARRELL WAYNE VANZANDT II

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Darrell Wayne VanZandt II a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Darrell has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Darrell has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Darrell Wayne VanZandt II for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MAYOR NORM GRIMSLEY

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Norm Grimsley for his twenty-seven years of service as Mayor of Aroma Park and dedication to his family.

Under Mayor Grimsley's tenure, the Village of Aroma Park added a sewer system, which has greatly improved the quality of life of village residents. He worked to encourage the growth of new businesses, which brought Aroma Park thousands of dollars in additional revenue each year. Mayor Grimsley showed strong leadership on transportation issues, as evident in Aroma Park's early support and participation in the River Valley Metro Bus System.

Mayor Grimsley has enjoyed a forty-five year marriage to his wife Pam. He raised two successful children: Mike, a health manager and Carrie Grimsley-Jones, a professor of anatomy and physiology. He also has four grandchildren.

Mayor Grimsley has performed decades of superb service for the residents of Aroma Park. I am confident that Aroma Park will continue to prosper under his leadership. He is an excellent role-model in many capacities including, community leader, spouse, father, and grandfather.

NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1145) to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative, and for other purposes:

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, Chairman OBERSTAR and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff have worked with us very constructively on this legislation, and I'd like to insert an exchange of letters into the RECORD between Mr. OBERSTAR and myself.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, April 17, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,

Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 1145, the ''National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009''. This legislation directs the President to implement a National Water Research and Development Initiative.

H.R. 1145 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forgo a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 1145.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 1145 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Committee Report on H.R. 1145 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House Floor.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2009.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your April 17, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1145, the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has jurisdiction in H.R. 1145. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 1145 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

COPS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important public safety legislation.

The Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS, program is one of the most successful law enforcement support programs ever initiated by the federal government. As the National Association of Police Organizations noted in their April 21 letter to me on this bill, ''With the support of the COPS Program, community policing has been a dominant force behind the dramatic reduction in crime this nation has witnessed over the past 13 years.'' It's also clear that our communities are desperate to see this program properly funded, after eight years of neglect.

NAPO noted in their letter to me that in the last month, the COPS Program office received over 7,200 applications for the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP) grant funding contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the ''stimulus bill.'' Those 7,200 applications amounted to a request for funds to hire 40,000 more officers nationwide. Yet the $1 billion CHRP contained in the stimulus bill would allow local communities to hire only 5,000 to 6,000 new police. For New Jersey, previous COPS funding has meant an additional 628 police officers and/or sheriff deputies were walking the beat in the local communities of my Congressional district. Further, 33 school resource officers were hired to ensure that our children's schools are safe. H.R. 1139 would raise the CHRP authorization level to $1.25 billion, allowing state and local law enforcement to hire more officers. Based on historical funding data, this bill would allow New Jersey alone to hire more than 2,000 additional police, and those would be welcome reinforcements for our current law enforcement officers who are working to improve the quality of life in communities across New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good and much needed bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

ALTERING LAID OFF EMPLOYEES IN REASONABLE TIME ACT

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the Alert Laid off Employees in Reasonable Time (ALERT) Act, legislation to amend the definition of ''mass layoff'' in the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act and to increase penalties for the violation of this act.

With unemployment levels on the rise, widespread layoffs have ravaged our nation's workforce. All too frequently, employees are provided with no more than a month's notice to prepare for unemployment, and often less than that. This is a critical time that employees need to prepare for unemployment and to make informed financial decisions.

Current federal law does not do enough to protect these workers. Under the federal WARN Act, employers are only required to provide 60-days notice if the mass layoff impacts at least 500 employees or 33 percent of a workforce when that percentage represents at least 50 employees at one employment site. More and more, companies are conducting widespread layoffs which, nationwide, can impact hundreds and even thousands of employees but these massive layoffs often fail to trigger the WARN Act at each employment site. As such, far too many employees are denied the protections they are entitled to.

To address this issue, I am proud to have introduced the ALERT Act. This legislation amends the definition of a ''mass layoff'' to include layoffs by one employer at more than one worksite. In addition, this bill would increase the penalty for violating the WARN Act to two times back pay and benefits.

Madam Speaker, in these challenging economic times it is our responsibility do all we can to protect the workers. We must always remember that they are a key component to the growth of our economy and we must always ensure that they are protected, especially in this time of uncertainty. I am joined in support of this bill by the United Electrical Workers Union (UE) and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

TRIBUTE TO THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREMONT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Fremont Family Resource Center (FRC) located in Fremont, California. FRC opened its doors in June of 1999 and is currently celebrating ten years of service to the community.

The Fremont Family Resource Center is a collaborative effort of 27 California State, County, City and non-profit service agencies, all working together to serve families in the Tri-City area of southern Alameda County. Together, these agencies made the FRC a ''one-stop shop,'' where families can access a vast array of support services and programs. Their many services include adult and youth employment, child care information, referrals, subsidies and counseling and case management, housing information, parent support, immigration services, family economic success programs, services for the disabled, nutrition services for mothers and children, domestic violence prevention services, and health insurance counseling.

Tri City families make over 100,000 requests annually to FRC for services. The organization has become a model of service that has gained national and international interest and attention.

On the evening of May 2, 2009, FRC will celebrate its 10th anniversary and honor the individuals who have contributed to its success. As Fremont's Human Services Director, Suzanne Shenfil's ''out of the box'' thinking and leadership has led efforts to mobilize needed social services for vulnerable individuals in the Tri-City community. She has worked tirelessly to bring government and community organizations together to creatively eliminate barriers and build systems to serve those in need. Ms. Shenfil is the impetus behind the creation of the Fremont Family Resource Center.

In addition to the acknowledgment of Suzanne Shenfil, special recognition is also given to other members of the Fremont Family Resource team for their commitment and dedication to insure the success of the FRC. This team includes Letha Barnett, Schuman-Liles Clinic; Ledya Cedeno, State Department of Rehabilitation; Rodney Clark, Safe Alternatives to Violent Environments; Tony Limperopulos, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services; Shirley McPherson, Child Care Links; and Allen Jackson, Tri-City One Stop Career Center, and the Employment Development Department.

I join the Tri-City community in expressing appreciation to Human Services Director Suzanne Shenfil, the Family Resource Team, and staff and partner organizations for their vision and leadership over the past ten years of exemplary service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID EVANS

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of David Evans of Joliet, Illinois. Mr. Evans passed away in his home on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. His legacy will continue to flourish in those he left behind: his wife of twenty-five years, Rosie, five children, twenty-three grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Evans was a community leader in Joliet for decades. He devoted over thirty years to public office, including service on the Will County Board and the Joliet School District 86 Board. His record illustrates a sincere dedication to education and advocacy for children's issues in the community. Mr. Evans was also instrumental in promoting positive change in the community—and stated that one of his proudest moments was the naming of an elementary school in Joliet after African-American actress and Joliet native Lynne Thigpen.

In addition to his involvement in local government, Mr. Evans was also active in numerous community organizations. He founded Joliet Must Vote, co-founded Black Pride Inc., was the vice president of the Unity Community Development Corp., and served as chairman of the Will County Head Start Program. In 2004, he coordinated a Get-Out-the-Vote operation for then-Senator Barack Obama.

The sudden passing of Dave Evans has truly shaken the community. His passion for the Joliet community will live on in the many lives he touched. He is not only recognized for his community activism, but for his life as a husband, father, mentor, advocate, and friend. It is with great pride that I honor the life of Mr. David Evans.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an article written by Donald Conkey, a constituent of the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, regarding the National Day of Prayer. Mr. Conkey's article reads:

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Donald S. Conkey

This column on next week's Metro Atlanta Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday and the National Day of Prayer on Thursday was inspired by an e-mail, from Sally Field, that reminded me of just how much America's Founding Father's depended upon prayer to their ''Creator, the Supreme Judge of the world'' to support their efforts in creating a nation where liberty could be restored after nearly three thousand years of despotic and tyrannical rule that had enslaved mankind worldwide—and become a beacon of liberty to the world.

The Founders belief in, and their use of prayer, as clearly expressed in the Declaration of Independence, plus all their writings, should be a powerful example for those Americans who fear the nation's current economic challenges and the massive directional changes being made by our nations new administration.

America's National Day of Prayer has a long history. A resolution by the first Continental Congress in 1775 indicated it was ''a time for prayer in forming a new nation.'' President John Adams declared May 9, 1798 ''a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer,'' asking citizens of all faiths to pray ''that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it.'' In 1952 President Truman signed a national day of prayer proclamation and in 1988 President Reagan established the first Thursday of May as America's annual National Day of Prayer.

It is gratifying to know that I am not alone in believing in the power of prayer, or that God listens to and answers prayer (personal revelation), or that He answered the Founders prayers (collective revelation), not once but many times when they pleaded with Him, their Supreme Judge of the World, to establish and restore freedom to a world then enslaved by despots and tyrants. And to be able to join with other believers, of many faiths and cultures, in pleading with the Lord in prayer for ''the protection of divine Providence'' in a National Day of Prayer next week reinforces my beliefs and hopes that we whom He has entrusted to protect those everlasting principles of liberty given us by the Founders is reassuring.

The timing of next weeks prayer days may be providential: they are coming during the first 100 days of the new administrations efforts to bring about massive change of direction to the country, both internally and externally, and they follow last week's inspiring ''call to arms'' for Americans of every faith, culture, race and nationality to rally to the defense of their liberties in the form of ''Tea Party'' protestors. Their ''Tea Bag'' could well become America's new symbolic ''Liberty Bell.'' These ''Tea Party'' protestors represent that third of the nation who still believe America is great and that God inspired and raised up the Founders to restore liberty to mankind with a new nation, a nation ''choice above all other nations.'' This third also understands America will not continue to be a powerful and free nation if it continues to allow that secular third, those who reject God and want to remove Him from all aspects of American culture and dominate American politics, as they are doing today.

This third also understands that it is they who must work to educate (our schools have failed to teach these principles) that middle third who know not what America stands for or that their future liberties and freedoms are directly connected to the restoration of those principles upon which America was founded, with God's help. And they also understand they are involved in an ideological war, a war of ideas and thoughts that if lost could cost them that way of life they cherish so greatly.

And they, as did the Founders 230 years ago, inspired by Paul's admonition to the Ephesians of old, must put on ''the whole armour of God, that they may stand against the wiles of the devil,'' including their ''breastplate of righteousness,'' and their ''shield of faith wherewith they may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked'' as they battle the enemies of liberty and freedom that want to destroy this nation, and what it stands for, and make it a nation like unto all other nations, as in United Nations.

And lastly they fully understand they must unite with others of differing faiths with a unity of purpose, in defense of their liberties, as did the Founders who restored those freedoms, and put on their ''helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit . . . praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (freedom lovers) like them.''

Next week, as we pray individually, as families, and in larger gatherings as with Fields Metro Atlanta Prayer Breakfast, we should, remembering the counsel of ages past, and ''offer a prayer to preserve our nation's liberties'' and ''that our country may be protected from all the dangers that threaten it.''

Be assured, all righteous prayers offered ''with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence'' will be heard, especially from those willing to ''mutually pledge'' to stand with others and take a stand, and work to defend their liberties as did the Founding Fathers stand to create them—230 years ago.

RECOGNIZING THE DURBAN II COUNTERCONFERENCE SPONSORED BY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS AND THE JEWISH WEEK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, last week we witnessed the deplorable spectacle of a United Nations conference purporting to address the troubling issue of racism, hijacked by nations with a deplorable record on human rights and turned into an all-out attack on Israel. I am proud that the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, The Jewish Week and other leading organizations in New York City organized a counter-conference that really discussed the continued problems of racism, racial discrimination, genocide, xenophobia, gender discrimination and religious intolerance.

I was pleased to have been asked to address the conference's opening day. Set forth below are my remarks:

''I want to thank Robert Weinberg, Marc Landis, the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and Jewish Week for giving me the opportunity to address you this morning.

Eight years ago at Durban I, we witnessed a spectacle of anti-semitism the like of which has not been seen since World War II. There are many places you might expect to see anti-semitism—a ku klan klan rally, a pogrom, a neo-Nazi gathering. A UN-sponsored World Conference on Racism would not have immediately jumped to my mind—until the grotesque carnival of hatred we witnessed 8 years ago.

Of course, the UN had passed the illogical and hateful Zionism is Racism resolution in 1975—but they revoked that resolution in 1991 by a vote of 111 to 25, 10 years before the conference.

And yet, the warning signs were present.

At the pre-Conference it became clear that the full conference would be dominated by chants of 'Zionism equals racism,' accusations that Israel is an apartheid state and other outrageous slanders. Israel and the United States walked out—as they should have done.

The real irony is that anti-semitism, a form of racism, should be so prevalent at a conference that was supposed to combat racism.

The hate literature distributed during the NGO conference included caricatures of Jews with hooked noses, surrounded by money, and Israelis wearing Nazi emblems.

At the government conference, states such as Syria and Iran objected to the inclusion of Anti-Semitism or the Holocaust in the final report. They argued that any reference to the Holocaust would be 'favoritism.'

Anti-semitism is like the canary in the coal mine. It has always come before a hatred that spreads through many sectors of society.

At the first conference Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister sent a statement in which he asserted: 'antisemitism goes far beyond hatred of Jews. It has arisen where Jews have never lived, and survives where only Jewish cemeteries remain. And while Jews may be the first to suffer from its influence, they have rarely been the last.'

Instead of learning from history, Durban I and II seek to deny what happened, and then to twist its lessons beyond all recognition. Talking about an actual example of racism isn't favoritism, it's reality. Pretending it didn't happen or isn't important just encourages racists. After all, Hitler learned a great lesson from the Turkish attacks on the Armenians—'who remembers the Armenians?' he asked as he prepared plans for the final solution.

If we forget the Holocaust, or hesitate to bring it up, it emboldens the murderers. That's why I have been sponsoring a bill—the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act to make sure our young people learn about the Holocaust and what happened when hatred and intolerance was allowed free reign.

I also authored and passed that Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, which opened up long-sealed US government records from World War II, so that all of us would know what our government knew about the Holocaust and the Nazis who scrambled to hide their past in the aftermath of the war. Eight million documents were unclassified as a result. The newly unsealed records have been fascinating—they showed that we knew a lot about Nazi collaborators who had murdered Jews, and even include a report from Hitler's psychiatrist.

Six months after Durban I, as the world struggled to comprehend the terrorist attack on New York on 9/11, which occurred just two days after Durban I's closing ceremonies, Deputy Minister Melchior gave a speech in which he juxtaposed the two events, and struggled to make sense of the senseless. He said: 'In an irony of epic proportions, this Conference against Racism itself hosted the most racist speeches and proposals to be heard in an international forum since the second World War. While doing nothing to help the millions of slaves, of impoverished and oppressed, this Conference became the mouthpiece for a new and venal form of antisemitism.'

The United Nations can do great work, but Israel often gets scapegoated by its many enemies. But as much as the UN can do wrong, it's important to remember that it can also do right. Just last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international equivalent of the bill of rights. It was the crowning achievement of Eleanor Roosevelt, who chaired the committee responsible for drafting it. It was written in the aftermath of World War II, as the world struggled to lift itself out of the ashes and deal with Hitler's devastation. The world understood what could happen when a truly evil man who controlled a vast store of weapons was able to give free reign to his desire to conquer and destroy. They believed a body that defended human rights would surely prevent such evil from rising up in the future.

Despite the good will of a newly liberated Europe, Eleanor Roosevelt had a long and difficult struggle to get the member nations to agree on one document. She had to persuade them to put aside their own narrow national interests and to agree to a strong affirmation of individual rights. It took her three years. When she was done, we had a document that affirmed that: 'it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.'

Instead of Eleanor Roosevelt, today we have a representative of Libya's Muhamar Khadafi chairing the planning committee for Durban II. This planning committee includes such noted defenders of human rights as Iran and Cuba.

Human Rights Watch, a leading human rights NGO, pointed out the irony of Libya's position by sending a Palestinian, Ashraf Ahmed El-Hojouj, to testify before the committee. He was a medical intern who had been detained by Libya's government and accused of spreading AIDS, when he had been providing medical care. He and five Bulgarian nurses were held in dreadful conditions while the international community struggled to free them and avert a death sentence.

Madam Chair,' he said. 'I don't know if you recognize me. I am the Palestinian medical intern who was scapegoated by your country, Libya, in the HIV case in the Benghazi hospital, together with five Bulgarian nurses.

Starting in 1999, as you know, the five nurses and I were falsely arrested, prosecuted, imprisoned, brutally tortured, convicted, and sentenced to death. All of this, which lasted for nearly a decade, was for only one reason: because the Libyan government was looking to scapegoat foreigners.

Madam Chair, if that is not discrimination, then what is?'

When I began drafting this speech, it was three days before the Conference opened, and it still wasn't clear which Western countries would be attending Durban II. The U.S., Israel, Italy, Germany, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Poland, Sweden and Holland have stated that they won't go.

Some other EU members have also indicated that they may walk out—particularly if language to 'never forget' the Holocaust is taken out. But what does it say that the conference will be opened with an address by the notorious Holocaust denier Mahmoud Ahmadinejad?

The Bush Administration had been an early opponent of Durban II and in December, the U.S. cast a symbolic vote against the UN's budget because it included funding for this conference.

The Obama Administration, in the spirit in which he was elected, made an effort to reach out and to try to make the conference's report better. They figured that if we weren't at the table, we could be sure that we would object to the final document. If we were at the table, we had a tiny chance of making it palatable.

Unfortunately, in a conference chaired by Libya, our odds of success were limited. And, it seems clear that our worst expectations have been fulfilled. Human rights are being used as a weapon of political interests antithetical to human rights protection.

Was the Obama Administration right to participate in the pre-conference negotiations? Some would argue that it wasn't worth the time, the expense or the frustration. I've always believed that you're doomed to fail if you never try. You can always reject a bad bargain—but you'll never get what you want if you don't ask for it—and you can't ask for anything if you storm out at the beginning. So, I believe President Obama was right to try change the document in the lead up to this conference. And as it became clear that the United States could never endorse the final report, he was right to decide not to send a delegation to the actual conference.

I think most of the Western nations were more than a little embarrassed by Durban I, and that Europe's enthusiasm for this type of spectacle has been tempered by the explosion of terrorism that the entire world has experienced since Durban I. I am pleased the United States had the company of many other nations in boycotting Durban II.

Eleanor Roosevelt believed that our greatest asset is the conviction that our actions accord with justice and humanity. I am delighted to be here at the counter-conference, where justice and humanity can be the focus. There is so much work that could be done at a real conference on racism—exploring ways to bring justice in Darfur, looking at the discrimination against the Baha'i, exploring why the world has tolerated a return to clan rule in failed states like Somalia and parts of Pakistan, looking at ways to combat xenophobia and intolerance.

Once upon a time, we dreamed that the United Nations could be a forum to address those issues. Perhaps in time it could be—but not when states led by the worst abusers of human rights get to chair human rights panels, and not when narrow political interests are allowed to dominate. I hope, if there ever is a Durban III, it will be convened in an earnest effort to achieve equality.''

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing AAJLJ and Jewish Week's Durban II Counterconference.

HONORING RABBI SHOLOM STERN, TALI DAHARI, KENNETH S. FINK, DR. JACQUELINE H. SIMONS, MRS. SUSAN SACHS AND THE BRANDEIS SCHOOL

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Rabbi Sholom Stern, Tali Dahari, Kenneth S. Fink, Dr. Jacqueline H. Simons, Mrs. Susan Sachs and the Brandeis School for their remarkable contributions to both education and community. The 79th Brandeis School Campaign Celebration will honor each of these dedicated and selfless individuals, commemorating their tireless work toward educating our youth. In helping students become well-informed and responsible community members and citizens, both the Brandeis School and these talented honorees are deserving of recognition.

Rabbi Sholom Stern will receive the Lion of Judah Award for his continued commitment to meaningful Judaic studies. Rabbi Stern's sustained and sturdy efforts help the congregation, community and school flourish. Mrs. Dahari will receive the Etz Chaim Tree of Life Award for her tireless efforts in connection with the Brandeis School, where for over 15 years she has persistently been a guiding light to students and parents alike. Mrs. Dahari's contribution as Publicity Chair has made an especially positive impact on the school as a whole and is proud to be a parent of the school as well. Mr. Fink and Dr. Simons will both receive the L'Dor Va'Dor Parents of the Year Award for their noble commitment to both the Brandeis School's mission and to its student body. From generation to generation, these alumni parents and their families have given selflessly to the school as both Mr. Fink and Dr. Simons are now proud to send their own children to the Brandeis School as well. Mrs. Susan Sachs will receive the Aishet Chayil Award for her determined devotion to both the Brandeis School and its Parent's Association. Mrs. Sachs has certainly been a woman of valor, serving the school in multiple fashions including her work as the Parent's Association President. Mrs. Sachs is also proud to send her children to the Brandeis School. All of these individuals help to foster an environment in which students at the Brandeis School can learn and prosper, toward those efforts they are especially deserving of recognition.

In guiding a student body of 350 students in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, these honorees give of their time and abilities to a cause greater than themselves. The education of our youth will forever be a central and vital aspect of our society. Giving to children the opportunity to learn and achieve will continue to encourage our youth to explore their own gifts, talents and abilities in a safe, supportive learning environment. Toward this end, these esteemed individuals have continuously given of themselves in a selfless, fruitful manner.

The work of these honorees is surely inspiring to us all, and I am immensely grateful to them for all that they have accomplished. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for their extensive contributions to society.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN'S DAY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Sovereignty and Children's Day, an event that is celebrated in the nation of Turkey every April 23rd. While this important holiday traces its origins all the way back to Turkey's capital, Ankara, in 1923, it has gradually taken on tremendous meaning and significance for children throughout the world.

On April 23, 1920, during Turkey's War of Independence, a body of Turkish lawmakers known as the Grand National Assembly met in Ankara to lay the foundation for a government that was to be a modern, parliamentary democracy. They drew upon their already emerging status as a liberal and secular Republic to guide them in the creation of their vision. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder and eventual first President of the Republic of Turkey, designated that day as National Sovereignty and Children's Day, in recognition of the important role that children would play in shaping the country's future. Ataturk was the first world leader to take so momentous a step in recognizing the contributions of children to their nation.

In Turkey, National Sovereignty and Children's Day is an official public holiday marked by student celebrations that span the entire week of April 23rd. Children 'govern' Turkey by sending their own 'representatives' to replace state officials and high ranking bureaucrats in their offices. The President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and provincial governors all turn over their positions to children's representatives. The children assume some of the real responsibilities of legislators by signing executive orders relating to educational and environmental policies. Children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss children's issues. These symbolic gestures demonstrate for children how they are the future leaders of Turkey, and remind current leaders that they are responsible for the well being of these children and the nation that they will inherit.

On April 27, 1986, a tradition that began in Turkey was brought to the entire world when the UN General Assembly was opened to children for the first celebration of World Children's Day. Later that same year, the World Children's Day Foundation (WCDF) was established to oversee World Children's Day activities. The program's goals were to equip children to make a difference in their own lives and the future of their communities and nations; bring children of different nationalities, races, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds together and to show them that, in spite of these factors, all people have much in common; and establish the fourth Sunday in April as the internationally celebrated World Children's Day to recognize the capability and potential of children everywhere to shape the future.

Madam Speaker, our children are our most precious resource, and I believe we all should join together in commemorating this important date dedicated to them. We also should commend Turkey for leading the way in being the first government to set aside one day each year to honor its children some eighty-six years ago.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUNG MARINES

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Young Marines. I am honored to represent the proud and patriotic City of Waterbury, Connecticut where the first Young Marines Unit was founded in 1959 by members of the Brass City Memorial Detachment of the Marine Corps League. Just three years later, the ranks of Waterbury's Young Marines had swelled to 1,500 and spread to 9 other cities all because of the fine young men from Waterbury.

In 1974, Waterbury's own Young Marine program was chartered as a subsidiary organization of the Marine Corps League, whose mission is to preserve the traditions and promote the interests of one of our very finest institutions, the United States Marine Corps.

The Young Marines embody our core values as Americans—honesty, fairness, courage, respect, loyalty, and love of country. These principles are instilled on the Young Marines by the steady hand of hundreds of volunteers from communities all over the country, many of whom are former, retired, Active Duty, or Reservist Marines who believe passionately in the values they learned during their service. I can think of no better mentors for these youngsters.

Many of my district's finest and most involved citizens are products of the Young Marines; some went on to join our nation's Armed Forces, others found another way to serve their community. In 1960, a young man named Sam Beamon joined the Young Marines with his brothers. After graduating from high school, he went on to serve honorably in the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam. Sam is now active in many veterans' organizations and is the State Commandant of the Marine Corps League, Department of Connecticut.

Since its inception, the Young Marines have sponsored many initiatives to improve their communities. I stand here honored to represent those seminal Young Marines from Waterbury, Connecticut whose organization went on to take a leadership role in the U.S. Marine Youth Drug Demand Reduction Program in 1993. This community-based program sought to reduce the impact of harmful drugs on our communities and encouraged other youths to live a drug-free lifestyle. The values of this program are perfectly aligned with those of the Young Marines, and communities around the country are lucky to have such respected advocates for clean and healthy living.

In 2006, the Young Marines, now a nationally respected organization, conducted the Veterans Appreciation Week campaign, which sought to challenge Young Marines throughout the country to dedicate some of their time to honor our nation's veterans and to demonstrate, through their actions, their sincere appreciation for our veterans' service to our country. In a time when fewer Americans seem to be aware of the sacrifices that our veterans made, I am glad that we can look to the Young Marines to provide leadership on how we should honor those who have served.

Here, on this the 50th Anniversary of this vital and impressive organization, we are reminded of its mission statement: the Young Marines' mission is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurture and develop its members into responsible citizens who enjoy, and promote, a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. On Saturday April 25th, Young Marines and former Young Marines from across the nation came to the organization's birthplace to join several of the members of the Marine Corps League Brass City Memorial Detachment who established the Young Marines. I would like to congratulate Ray Bozzuto, Art Corcoran, Roland Hamel, Tony Szantyr, Ed Zuraitis, and the other founding members on the legacy of patriotism and civic

involvement that their idea produced. With a half century of overwhelming success, I think it's safe to say, "job well done."

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD L. GARDNER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Edward L. Gardner for his lifetime of philanthropic service, most notably with Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City. On Tuesday, April 28, 2009, Mr. Gardner will be honored by Big Brothers Big Sisters at their 2009 Sidewalks of New York Annual Awards dinner.

Inspired by his experience as a Big Brother in 1963, Ed Gardner's involvement with Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City spans nearly a half century. In 1965, Mr. Gardner joined the organization's Board of Directors and has since served as President and Chairman.

Founded in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City has evolved into a far-reaching one-to-one mentorship program that reaches over 4,000 young people every year. By providing mentors to children who need caring adult role models, the organization helps New York City's youth to realize their potential and lead enriching lives.

Over the past forty-four years, Ed Gardner has helped ensure the longevity and success of Big Brothers Big Sisters by single-handedly raising over $20 million for this worthy cause. However, Mr. Gardner's philanthropic efforts are not limited to his work with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Over the years he has dedicated his time and considerable talents to aiding other notable organizations in the arts, health and education.

Mr. Gardner has served on the boards of the Health Care Chaplaincy, PS #1, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. He is a Council Member at The Rockefeller University, an Honorary Chairman of The New York Public Library's Conservator Council, and former Chairman of the Bank of New York Hamilton Funds.

A graduate of the City College of New York, Mr. Gardner has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Industrial Solvents Corporation since 1980.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize my friend Edward L. Gardner for his remarkable service with Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City and his lifelong commitment to enriching the lives of others. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring his tremendous accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMED FORCES FOR D-DAY JUNE 6, 1944

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the brave acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France.

I want to commend them for their leadership and valor in an operation that helped to bring an end to Word War II.

I would like to draw special attention to the 201 Missouri men who died aboard LST 496 during the Battle of Exercise Tiger, a 1944 naval battle that had been originally planned as a practice mission for the D-Day Invasion of Normandy.

Nearly 750 United States soldiers and sailors, a large number of whom were from Missouri's 3206th Quarter Master Service Company, died in the exercise on April 28, 1944, after a number of their ships were sunk by German forces.

These soldiers and sailors sacrificed everything they had in service to America and will serve as a permanent reminder of bravery, loyal patriotism, and love of country.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in a wishing all the members of the Armed Forces our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their heroic mission.

ADDITIONAL CALIFORNIA 49TH DISTRICT PROJECTS FUNDED IN THE FY2009 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, in an extension of remarks on the House floor regarding H.R. 105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, I stated that Members need to think of the future of this Nation, rise above their own self-interests, and advocate for the removal of all earmarks from all present and future appropriations bills until we get the federal deficit under control. It is a shame that the Speaker and the Democratic leadership have not been willing to take the initiative and do this on their own.

The Democratic leadership has made no significant effort to perform real earmark reform during this economic crisis. Rather than eliminating costly earmarks, and excess spending, under the leadership of President Obama, the Speaker and Democrats push to implement the largest budget in our nation's history; a $3.55 trillion budget that will dramatically increase the deficit and likely bankrupt our children's children. The American people are asking that the member's of this body lead us out of this crisis, but it is apparent that the President and the majority leadership can do nothing more than throw money at the wrong problems and tax and lambast those that can create the right solutions. The majority leadership needs to understand that unbridled government spending is not the answer to this crisis, and that earmarks continue to be a problem that plagues this body and not a solution.

Since being reelected to Congress last November, I have not made any earmark project requests. The projects that were included in H.R. 1105 were not done so at my behest in this Congress. As I stated before, I am highly disappointed that, faced with the enormity of the current federal deficit and the unprecedented amount of federal spending that has occurred, the House and Senate majority leadership and Appropriators did not take the opportunity to start showing fiscal restraint by removing Congressional Earmarks from the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act. Had I been approached by the appropriations committee prior to the passage of this bill, I would have asked for the removal of the listed projects.

This bill is another example of a missed opportunity to begin the real reform that the American public truly seeks. Members must realize that we have an obligation to the public to work to eliminate earmarks from future appropriations bills until we get deficit spending under control.

Below are two requests that were made in the 110th Congress that the Democratic majority decided to include in this spending bill. While they are projects of merit, I did not seek out support for their inclusion in this Congress.

Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources

Rancho California Water District

$50,000

The bill included funding through the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee for the Rancho California Water District, which will provide for additional recycled water reuse of 16,000 acre feet (AF) per year by converting water district's west side agriculture area to recycled water systems (1 AF equates to approximately 326,000 gallons or enough water to supply two families for one year). It will also increase use of annual seasonal storage in Vail Lake reservoir by 10,000 AF per year by constructing 48-inch pipeline to transport raw water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to store in Vail Lake. It will also convert majority of agricultural delivery system from treated water potable system to recycled and raw water non-potable system by building delivery system for raw water relieving 5,000 AF/year of treated water demands

GSA

San Diego Courthouse, California

$110,362,000

The bill also included funding through the Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee for the San Diego, California Courthouse Construction Project. Construction funds for the San Diego courthouse project were originally appropriated, as requested by the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Judicial Conference of the United States, in FY 2006. The San Diego Courthouse is a critical project for the region considering that the existing courthouse is an extremely busy border court, which processes hundreds of prisoners on a daily basis. The additional funds would be used to expedite completion of this project.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, I inadvertently voted "aye" on roll No. 198—Motion to Instruct conferees regarding S. Con. Res. 13. I had meant for my vote to be recorded as "no."

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JANE KLEIN, LENEXA, KS, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Jane Klein, a member of the Lenexa, Kansas, city council, who died on April 5th.

As the District Attorney for Johnson County for twelve years and as U.S. Representative for the Third District of Kansas since 1999, I came to know Jane Klein well. A dedicated public servant and community volunteer, she made the city of Lenexa and Johnson County a better place to live for her friends, neighbors and family members. I am placing in the RECORD an article published in the Kansas City Star that announced her untimely death and reviewed her achievements as a public servant and concerned citizen. The Star obituary also captures her sense of enthusiasm and effervescent personality, which will be sorely missed by all who knew her. I join with the leaders of the Lenexa community in paying tribute to this energetic, active leader, and with her many friends and family in mourning her loss.

[From The Kansas City Star, Apr. 7, 2009]

LENEXA CITY COUNCILWOMAN JANE KLEIN DIES AT 70

(By Dawn Bormann)

When the forecast called for heavy snow, Lenexa City Councilwoman Jane Klein usually had a crock of chili simmering and cinnamon rolls rising for the street crews.

On other days she baked cookies for police officers and often dropped goodies off with firefighters, her children said.

Klein—hailed as a Lenexa cheerleader by constituents, political insiders and the rank and file—died Sunday. She was 70.

Her death came days before Klein was expected to sail through Election Day unopposed. Instead, supporters, family and friends planned a Tuesday night victory party at a Lenexa watering hole.

Klein was a mother to five children, grandmother to nine and great-grandmother to two children. The Irish Catholic woman saw to it that her children knew the importance of giving back to the community.

It was easy to learn from the stalwart public servant. She was elected to the council in 2001 and 2005 by the residents of Ward 1 for consecutive four-year terms. She had previously served on the council from 1983 to 1995. Klein had lived in Lenexa for more than 40 years and devoted 20 years to public service as a councilwoman.

''We are deeply saddened by the news of Jane's passing,'' Mayor Mike Boehm said. ''Our community has lost a dear friend and long-time leader. Jane's passion for this city and our citizens was extraordinary; she always had the community's interests at heart in all that she did. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane's family.''

Klein was diagnosed with gall bladder cancer about six weeks ago. So when the council woman sent word that she wouldn't make it to the city's March 17 meeting some might have assumed that she was too sick. Good friends knew better.

''The heck with the cancer—she was not going to miss St. Patrick's Day,'' said fellow City Councilwoman and friend Diane Linver. ''She was 100 percent Irish and boy you knew it.''

During Klein's tenure, the city moved forward on several projects including City Center, ''rain to recreation'' and road projects like the 87th Street.

Knowing public safety was of utmost importance in the suburbs, Klein was an unabashed supporter of the fire and police forces.

The councilwoman might have been a strong Irish woman, but she would not engage in divisive politics, Linver said.

''She was never a negative force. You would never hear a negative word come out of her mouth about another city council member,'' Linver said. ''She would find a way to give her opinion but still be the kind and gentle and decent person that she was. We should all emulate that.''

Linver suspects her gentle nature and genuine love of the city were among the reasons that few challengers stepped up to run against Klein.

''People respected her and they knew that she cared about her constituents and she knew so many of them,'' Linver said.

Klein was active in many clubs all over town. She volunteered again and again to be the VFW Post 7397 Auxiliary president. She stepped up for church committees and was a Kiwanis Club member.

Klein instilled a strong sense of public service in her children, too. As youngsters, they helped sell poppies and often accompanied her on trips to the veterans hospital in Leavenworth.

At the holidays they knew there was always room for another. Anyone without family or a place to go for the holidays was instructed to show up at the Klein household.

''We always had an orphan clause,'' said Klein's daughter Susan German. Her work in the community did not go unnoticed.

In 2006 Klein received the coveted ''spirit of the chamber'' award from the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce. It was an award she held dear.

''Mom loved Lenexa. She loved serving the people of Lenexa,'' her son, Doug Klein said. ''She loved seeing the city grow.''

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. with rosary at 8 p.m. Monday at Holy Trinity, 9150 Pflumm Road. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Holy Trinity.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIDALGO COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AS THEY ACCEPT THE 2009 COLLEGE BOARD INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hidalgo County Independent School District for their outstanding achievements this past year. Today, the Hidalgo school district will be presented with the 2009 College Board Inspiration Award. This prestigious award is presented to only 3 secondary schools in the country which have exhibited outstanding college preparatory programs and partnerships among teachers, parents and community leaders.

Earlier this month, Hidalgo Early College High School was named one of the countries three secondary schools to receive this year's Inspiration Award. As one of the most improved secondary schools in the country, Hidalgo Early College High has shown its desire to provide quality programs for its students. This award shows the commitment that these educators in Hidalgo County have for their community, state, and nation as they help prepare and educate tomorrow's leaders.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Hidalgo County Independent School District for their extraordinary accomplishment in having one of the selected schools to receive the 2009 College Board Inspiration Award. Hidalgo Early College High School's students, staff and administrators truly deserve our recognition today for setting such a fine example to the rest of the state and the nation as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO THIRD DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, in the fall of 2004, I created the Congressional Youth Advisory Council to engage high school students living in the Third District. Back then, I guessed that perhaps 10 to 20 students would apply. Little did I know that this program would grow into a popular program for the area's best and brightest students from across the Third District. For good reason, many associate the Congressional Youth Advisory Council with excellence and one of the highest standards of civic pride for young people in North Texas.

This year 45 students representing 21 area high schools make up the elite group. The Council's goal is two-fold. First, the group provides me with greater student perspective and insight on issues that directly impact younger Americans. Second, Council activities educate students on government policies relevant to young people.

The students boast impressive credentials: honors society, student leadership, school athletics, community philanthropy, language clubs, and musical backgrounds. These students have things to say about the future of this great country and long to be heard. They represent their generation as servant leaders and make their community and their country a better place.

I commend the students for volunteering their time on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council and I wish each one continued success in all of their endeavors. Without a doubt, every student will continue to play an important role in our community for decades to come, and that America and North Texas, will continue to benefit from their dedication, smarts, and service.

You know, a lot of people hope to make a difference sometime in their lives. To the members of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, you just did. Thank you. I salute you; God Bless You and God Bless America.

The names of the students serving on the 2008–2009 CYAC follow:

Jonathan Alston; Logan Borgsmiller; Amy Boykin; Nicholas Brush; Jennifer Bundren; Matt Burnham; Anita Chandrahas; John Clark; Ally Crutcher*; Christian Cummings; Trevor Ede*; Josh Eldridge; Luke Franz; Jennifer Goebel; Anna Gu; Stephen Hayes*; Lisa Hu*;

Richard Hung; David Jacobs; Sravanthi Kadali; Sibel Kayaalp*; Amber Khan; Nolan Killingsworth; Lauren Kraut; Tyler LeCocq; Kenny Lee; Amanda Lu*; Mark Macmanus*; Ryan Martinez; Alexandra Meyers; Ashley Newton*; Cody Painter; Kioumars Abboss Rezaie; Corbin Ringley*; Evan Rosenfield*; Natalie Shanklin; Rena Sheng*; Bryan Sims; Cameron Sprock; Eann Tuan; Jonathan Unger; Tyler Unger; Eric Womboldt; Joshua Womboldt*; and Caitlyn Woolum.

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR GIDDON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arthur Giddon of Bloomfield, Connecticut. Over the past century, Art has cultivated a distinguished law career, serving as a notable trial lawyer as well as a chief public defender. He has a wonderful and devoted wife, Harriet, to whom he has been married to for over 60 years. Together they have raised a beautiful family. On April, 26, 2009, Art will celebrate his 100th birthday with friends and family in Connecticut.

In 1922, at the age of 13, Art joined the Boston Braves as a batboy. He fetched pop bottles, ran errands for players, polished equipment, and conversed with baseball legends. First baseman, Walter Holke, often walked him home after games and taught him how to make kites, a skill that he would pass on to grandchildren. His chance meeting with baseball's commissioner, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and a suggestion to become a lawyer would portend a legal profession matched by few. Decades later after Mr. Landis' suggestion, he would study at Harvard Law and become a notable lawyer in Connecticut. In 1985, he retired as the chief public defender of the Harford Judicial District, after decades of public service.

This past week, Art's unique experience as a batboy has gained national media attention. On Saturday, Art will join the Boston Red Sox, the team he passionately cheers for, as an honorary batboy in recognition of his experience as a young boy decades ago. He will make his debut in a jersey crafted by his daughter, adorned with "No. 100, Big Pappy".

Few individuals experience as much and contribute as much as over the course of their lifetime as Arthur has. Madame Speaker, I can personally attest to this. As a young law student, I worked in Art's office for two years as a legal intern and learned a lifelong lesson in the law, as well as a balanced passion for justice. He has lived an extraordinary life, filled with personal and professional vigor and I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in celebrating his 100th birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO MINA H. PHINNEY

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to celebrate the 100th birthday of a native daughter of the State of Maine. Her unwavering dedication as an educator in Dennysville and other local communities will be cherished for years to come.

Mina Phinney graduated from Dennysville High School and went on to continue her education at Colby College in Waterville, ME. Returning to Dennysville High School in 1931, Mina taught English and French until 1938 and then returned to resume teaching from 1952 until the school closed in 1961. Her career as a dedicated educator continued through the 1960s and 1970s at Washington Academy in East Machias. In 2000, she received the school's Distinguished Educator Award from the Washington Academy Board of Trustees.

During her earlier years, Mina served as an organist at the Dennysville-Edmunds Congregational Church. She is an avid Boston Red Sox fan and has always maintained a keen interest in local, state and national happenings and always keeps up with current events. Mina has been a lifelong member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She contributed to the war effort as an Air Craft Spotter during World War II.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 100th birthday of Mina H. Phinney.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIABLO THEATRE COMPANY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Diablo Theatre Company, founded in 1959 as the Diablo Light Opera Company. For five decades, Diablo Theatre Company has brought San Francisco Bay Area audiences "the music and magic of Broadway."

The company grew from modest beginnings. It was founded in 1959 as the Diablo Light Opera Company, a name that endured until May of this year. The founders were two Walnut Creek couples who were inspired by singing with the 120-member Glee Club and Treble Clef at UC Berkeley. Their last show on campus was, prophetically, "Of Thee I Sing."

The Diablo Light Opera Company's first offering was Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance," staged in the multipurpose room of Walnut Creek's Las Lomas High School.

A few years later, the new company presented "Brigadoon," marking a major turning point for the arts in Walnut Creek. Ron Caya, Walnut Creek's first cultural services director, attended a performance. Since seats at the Las Lomas multipurpose room were not on an incline, his view was obstructed and he could not see the famous sword dance in the show. He subsequently complained to the Walnut Creek City Council, telling members that, "This group needs a real theater."

He got the council's attention and plans were made to buy an old walnut warehouse, which occupied what is now the site of the Lesher Center for the Arts. The warehouse was transformed into a makeshift theater, the Walnut Creek Civic Arts Center which became affectionately known as the "Nut House." It opened in December 1965 with Diablo Light Opera Company's production of "The Sound of Music." The audience came in black tie and, because of no heating in the building, blankets.

Years and many performances later, "Nut House" was demolished. A new performing arts venue, the Lesher Center for the Arts, was constructed and opened 19 years ago. Diablo Light Opera Company has performed at the Lesher Center ever since in addition to other venues, including the recently restored El Campanil Theatre in Antioch in eastern Contra Costa County.

Beginning in June of 2009, Diablo Light Opera Company will assume its new name, Diablo Theatre Company while celebrating its colorful past and focusing on the future.

Today, the Diablo Light Opera Company is celebrated and honored for enriching the cultural atmosphere through their craft and commitment to providing theatrical productions to the Bay Area.

RECOGNIZING JUSTINA CASSAVELL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Justina Cassavell, daughter of Jeanne and Michael Doyle of Upper Black Eddy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and someone who is helping to shape the next generation of Americans.

Justina's dedication as head coach of her girls cross country team has allowed her student athletes to excel both on and off the field. She was recently named the Express-Times Newspaper 2008 Cross Country Coach of the Year. This is the sixth time she has received this honor in eight seasons.

Justina was also inducted into the NJ Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on March 29th of this year. As head coach of the Voorhees High School girls cross country team since 1997, Justina has led her team to numerous victories, including its seventh straight Hunterdon-Warren NJ championship, third straight North 2 Group 3 sectional title, fifth NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association Group 3 state title, and second Meet of Champions crown.

The recognition and appreciation that Ms. Cassavell has been shown is no small feat, considering she is a part-time coach. Present and past students alike have called her the "inspiration" in their lives, as she teaches them to believe in themselves and to strive to be great in all that they do.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Justina Cassavell for her hard work and dedication to her student athletes—she sets an example for students and teachers everywhere and that is something we should be encouraging more and more.

IN HONOR OF CENTRACARE LABORATORY SERVICES OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CentraCare Laboratory Services in St. Cloud, Minnesota as the second runner up for the Medical Laboratory Observer's Medical Laboratory of the Year Award. Laboratories across the nation were judged on achievement in nine areas with the winners and two runners up, including CentraCare, being featured in the Medical Laboratory Observer, a peer-reviewed journal resource that has been used by laboratory professionals since 1969.

Today's medical care relies heavily on laboratory services that provide fast and high-quality answers to doctors. CentraCare has demonstrated excellence in many ways. They achieved standardization of the equipment in all their labs to eliminate confusion by physicians ordering tests from different labs. They also implemented new labeling guidelines to ensure patient safety and have reduced specimen collection errors to practically zero through an automated pneumatic collection system. These improvements were also acknowledged by the Quality Resources Patient Safety Committee of St. Cloud Hospital.

When it comes to healthcare and the medical community, CentraCare Laboratory Services has been a beacon for quality and patient safety. They are a great resource not only for their patients, but for other laboratories that can learn from their example.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all of CentraCare's employees for their attention to efficiency and high standards of excellence that has resulted in this prestigious accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON STATE HISTORIC SITE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this moment to recognize the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. For 50 years this state park has captured and commemorated a pivotal battle of the Civil War in the city of Lexington, which I proudly represent.

On January 1, 1959, the site was donated to the State of Missouri to be designated as a state historic park. Received in a preserved and quality condition, the State Park has since provided visitors with information, reenactments, and guided tours to this historic site. In 1991, the visitor center was completed and opened for the public. In 2000, a monument was established which tells the Confederate's side of the story. Later this year, a second monument will be put up to tell the Union side of the story.

The Battle of Lexington State Historic Site teaches visitors how Missouri played an important strategic role in the Civil War. Not quite in the south, yet a slave state nonetheless, Missourians were sharply divided over what side of the conflict their state should enter. In addition, its position along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers was critical to controlling the West, and as a result, many battles erupted between Confederate sympathizers and Unionists.

Though Missouri eventually cast its lot with the Union, by September 1861, it could have gone either way. It was then that Union Colonel J.A. Mulligan found himself and his troops surrounded by General Sterling Price, leader of the Confederate Missouri State Guard. Price had just led his troops to victory at Wilson's creek the previous month, and was looking to expand on his success with the capture of Lexington, a small but strategic town located near the Missouri River. Capturing the town would allow Confederate recruits from Northern Missouri to cross over the river.

Though the battle of Lexington was one of the longest, most fiercely contested engagements in Missouri during the Civil War, the casualties were surprisingly light. The Union lost only 40 dead and 120 wounded; the State Guard lost only 25 dead and 72 wounded. In addition, Price's triumph was short-lived. Shortly after the defeat at Lexington, General John C. Fremont, the Union commander in Missouri, organized a large force with the purpose of driving out Price's State Guard. Faced with this threat, Price retreated back to Southwest Missouri, and the Missouri River was returned to Union control.

Madam Speaker, the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site has been an important landmark in this country. I know the members of the House will join me in recognizing the site on its 50 years of success and in expressing hope that it will continue to provide a quality experience to the thousands of visitors who come every year.

TRIBUTE TO NATALIE WEAVER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstandingly gifted student from my district, Natalie Weaver of Madison, Connecticut. On March 10, 2009, Natalie was named champion of Connecticut's fourth annual Poetry Out Loud competition held at the Carol Autorino Center in West Hartford, Connecticut. On April 28, she will represent Connecticut in the national finals held in Washington, DC.

Poetry Out Loud is a national program that encourages high school students to engage in the written and spoken word through memorization and performance of modern and classic poetry. As part of the program in Connecticut, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCT) assisted participating teachers with professional development and placed teaching artists in participating schools. The CCT also established an all-day workshop for champions, first runner-ups, and their teachers. In Connecticut, the state competition was hosted by the CCT and the State Department of Education, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation.

This year, more than 3,800 students participated in the program in Connecticut, which began with competitions at the classroom level and progressed to school-wide competitions, and eventually the state finals. In the state finals, Natalie beat 15 other contestants to win the state champion title. State finalists recited poems selected from an anthology that included over 400 classic and modern works. On April 28, she will compete against other state finalists in the national competition, which will award over $50,000 in the form of scholarships and school stipends.

Madam Speaker, poetry has long been an essential component of the human expression, serving as an accessible venue to explore and preserve universal themes such as love, beauty, nature, tragedy, and mortality. I commend the efforts of Poetry Out Loud program with engaging students in poetry and applaud Natalie on her big win. I ask my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing these contributions and cheering Natalie on in the national Poetry Out Loud competition.

COMMENDING RICHARDSON PARKS AND RECREATION FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the Richardson area was first settled in the 1840s and 1850s as a pioneer community called Breckinridge. The town of Richardson was founded in 1873 next to the Houston & Texas Central Railway tracks, was named for the railroad contractor E. H. Richardson, and became a thriving community of farms, stores, cotton gins and churches. Richardson remained a sleepy farming community until the 1950s.

With the arrival of Collins Radio and Texas Instruments, Richardson became a popular location for college-educated professionals. Known as the "Electronic City" and later the "Telecom Corridor", Richardson continues to grow and prosper, with many diverse cultures, faiths and populations adding to its vibrant mix of high-tech business and educational opportunities.

In Richardson's rich history, citizens have enjoyed the finest offerings a community can have with exemplary schools, first class parks, excellent library, sophisticated transportation, all managed by a well run local government. Many people who lived in Richardson chose this community because of its quality of life.

In 2009, Richardson proudly celebrates 50 years of Parks and Recreation Services that has served its citizenry with the finest of trails, parks, festivals, recreation programs, senior citizen activities, and tourist attractions all wrapped in a well manicured city. During its 50 years the Richardson Parks and Recreation Department has provided families greater quality of life through first class programs that have become a tradition, and a source of pride within the community.

This is evidenced by greater real estate values and first class economic development proving that Richardson is not only a great host to a business and industry, but a great place to call home.

Congratulations are in order as Richardson Parks and Recreation marks 50 years of service to the community.

GREEN ENERGY EDUCATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 957, the Green Energy Education Act of 2009.

This bill authorizes the Department of Energy to partner with the National Science Foundation to help universities to develop the next generation of engineers and architects. These students will be trained to work effectively together to produce buildings that incorporate the latest in energy efficient technologies.

Especially in this economy, we need to train our workforce in the latest, most relevant technologies in the green energy job sector in order to help us realize many of our energy policy goals.

In the 110th Congress, I was able to add a provision to the Energy Independence and Security Act that allows colleges and university to research woody biomass, a new form of alternative fuel that shows promise in meeting our energy needs.

We should also continue to support legislation that takes advantage of the growing opportunities to educate and train our college and university students to develop new technologies and find jobs in the green energy economy.

Along with my place on the House Science and Technology Committee, I am also a member of the Education and Labor Committee, and co-chair of the Congressional Community College Caucus. I know that good sustainability practices are a vital component of the effort to move toward a clean, energy independent future. Because community colleges and universities are often at the forefront of this movement, they are a natural place to focus such efforts.

By training students in the latest technologies, we are helping guarantee that companies will have the educated workforce necessary to grow and prosper in coming decades.

I am happy to support this bill, and I am committed to continuing to advocate for policy, partnerships, and projects that will keep universities and community colleges at the forefront of our nation's burgeoning green energy economy.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I want to clearly explain the sources of the data I have used to compare the strength of the economy during President Clinton's time in office as compared to the economy during the Bush administration. During the Bush administration, an average of 2,000 private sector jobs were created per month. For purposes of comparison, 217,000 private sector jobs were created per month under President Clinton. These statistics are drawn from Bureau of Labor Statistics data. To provide further evidence for the relative success of Presidents Clinton and Bush, it is helpful to look at economic growth during their Presidencies. President Clinton created $1.68 in economic growth for every dollar of economic growth created under the Bush administration. These numbers are taken directly from research by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Finally, and perhaps most convincing, is the stark difference between the change in purchasing power, for the median household, between the Clinton and the Bush years. Under President Bush, the median household had $500 less purchasing power as of 2007 as compared to the beginning of Bush's Presidency. Under President Clinton the purchasing power of the median household rose by over $5,000. These numbers were drawn from data compiled by the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. My friends on the other side of the aisle may prefer to ignore these comparisons; however, I am of the opinion that we must learn from our past to better prepare for the future. As we work to create jobs and get the economy back on track, it is useful to keep in mind the lessons of the past two decades.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RON TUPPER FOR HIS CONTINUOUS WORK IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH CARE IN THE BORDER REGIONS OF TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ron Tupper for his 25 years of service to the health care field through his work in health care development and consultation, health education, and hospital and clinic management. He has done so much over the years for the border region and he truly deserves to be recognized today.

Mr. Tupper holds a master's of science degree in health management and health education from Texas State University, as well as a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska. He also served our country proudly for 7 years as a U.S. Air Force Medical Serviceman until he was honorably discharged in 1970.

Ron Tupper has been instrumental over the years to bringing quality health services to citizens in the border regions of Texas. He started in 1974 with his first assignment on the Texas-Mexico border and soon afterwards he was elected one of the youngest CEOs to serve an accredited rural hospital in Texas. Later he would help secure a marketing plan and matching funds to develop a rural public health academic training program on the border.

At the University of Texas Health Science Center, Mr. Tupper was responsible for coordinating medical education opportunities in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Over the past few years he has worked with the city of McAllen and the clinic board to secure a site for the community clinic which treats 130 working poverty stricken Hidalgo County residents daily. The facility, which started out as a 3-examination-room clinic, is now a 25,000 square foot facility that operates with 48 examination rooms.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Ron Tupper for his dedicated service to the field of health care in the State of Texas. He has committed so much through the years to advance his cause and I am honored to have the privilege of recognizing him today.

HONORING BARACK OBAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students, faculty and staff of the Barack Obama Elementary School for the official renaming of the former Ludlum Elementary School. I am pleased to see that the first school in the Nation to bear the name of our 44th President is in my Congressional District.

The Nation faces a monumental moment in history with the election of our country's first African-American President. At the request of the students and to honor this milestone, on November 20, 2008, Ludlow Elementary School was officially renamed Barack Obama Elementary School. I commend the students for their foresight to honor an historic achievement.

As a member of the House Committee on Education and Labor, I have the great privilege of learning about schools both locally and nationally. The future of this country depends on the hopes and dreams of its children. I look forward to working with the students and faculty as the Barack Obama Elementary School enters this new part of its history.

Madam Speaker, it is with pride and admiration I offer my best wishes and recognition to Barack Obama Elementary School.

HAMAS'S BLOODY HANDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, from time-to-time Members insert into this RECORD articles which are of particular relevance to current policy debates, and we often add a commentary. Today I do not add any words because this compelling, insightful column by Richard Cohen on the willingness of far too many in the world to give a pass to Hamas while being harshly critical of Israel needs no gloss.

Madam Speaker, I add only that I am in very strong agreement with virtually everything Mr. Cohen has to say in this piece and I hope it will be read and reflected upon.

HAMAS'S BLOODY HANDS

(By Richard Cohen)

Some residents of Gaza were taken from their homes and shot in the legs or feet. Some were brutally beaten, and some were simply murdered, sometimes after hideous torture. If you are expecting—based on everything that has happened—tha the awful Israelis did this, guess again. It was Hamas, the authentic and genuine government of Gaza. Well, no one's perfect.

The information about the shootings is taken from a report issued yesterday by Human Rights Watch and available on its Web site. It says that ''Hamas security forces or masked gunmen believed to be with Hamas'' executed 18 people, most of whom were accused of collaborating with Israel, sparing the expense and bother of a trial. Others were shot, maimed or beaten, not for allegedly collaborating with the enemy—or, as is often the case, having a house or woman that a snitch covets—but for belonging to the opposition political party, Fatah.

Many of these murders and assaults took place during Israel's recent pummeling of Gaza. Yet, as Human Rights Watch goes to some pains to document, at no time did Hamas's security forces lose control of Gaza, so the murders and maimings were not a consequence of chaos but of government policy. Whatever the case, the murders, shootings and beatings continued even after the hostilities ended. Since then, at least 14 more people have been executed extrajudicially, which is to say murdered. Some were also tortured.

You can only imagine what would happen if Israel dealt with its internal political enemies or dissenters in such a fashion. Last month, for instance, Israel got a heap of criticism and abuse when it was reported in the Israeli media that some Gaza civilian had been unjustifiably shot by Israeli soldiers. The report was widely cited, not just for its shocking allegations but also because it was supposedly indicative of the sort of place Israel has become. The government said the allegations were based on hearsay. We shall see.

No doubt the Human Rights Watch report will be ignored or dismissed in the greater cause of demonizing Israel. This has been the trend of late. No doubt, too, some will excuse Humas's criminality as the inevitable result of Israeli actions—the Officer Krupke School of Behavior made famous by the singing gang members of ''West Side Story.'' But as much as some would like to criticize Israel—and I have done so myself—they still have a minimal obligation to acknowledge the difference in core values between Israel and its enemies.

This does not mean that Israel is above criticism. After all, it has made life unbearable for some Palestinians, supported illegal settlements in the West Bank, been too harsh in squeezing Gaza, and, maybe most important, it ought to get out of the West Bank—for reasons of justice and for its own sake. Still, it remains unimaginable that Israel would murder its domestic critics or silence dissent with the occasional kneecapping. These are the tactics of thugs.

Read the Hamas charter. It is not some uplifting cry of a downtrodden people seeking its freedom but a repellent anti-Semitic screed. It sees the Jews behind every major world event since the storming of the Bastille: ''They were behind the French revolution, the communist revolution and most of the revolutions we heard and hear about, here and there. With their money they formed secret societies, such as Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, the Lions . . . for the purpose of sabotaging societies and achieving Zionist interests.'' The Rotary? The Lions? Why not Welcome Wagon?

When Israelis talk of the practical difficulties of pulling out of the West Bank, they mean the likelihood that Hamas will oust Fatah and launch rockets into Israel. They are both concerned and appalled by a Hamas charter that, in part, reads like it could have been written by Hitler. Withdrawal is necessary and right, but it cannot be done naively and without the participation of the United States. It's going to take American peace-keepers. It is that simple. No Israeli can trust Hamas to keep the peace.

Human Rights Watch is to be commended. It does not have one standard for Israel and another for Hamas, Hezbollah or the other despotic regimes of the Arab world. That is more than can be said, though, for critics who vilify Israel, romanticize Hamas and clearly have never had the inexpressible pleasure of living in a place where a chance remark can get your legs riddled with lead. Say what you will, but that place could never be Israel.

IN RECOGNIZING OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MALCOLM X

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize that February 21, 2009, as the 44th anniversary of the assassination of EL-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, better known as Malcolm X. I find it only fitting that we take this time to reflect and celebrate the life of this courageous advocate for the civil rights of African Americans.

Born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 1925, the early portion of young Malcolm's life was filled turmoil and change. By the age of 13, his father had passed away and his mother had been committed to a mental hospital. He spent a great portion of his formative years in foster homes. He then became involved in the criminal underworld in both Boston and New York. Little was arrested and sentenced to eight to ten years in prison. It was during his incarceration that Little become a member of the Nation of Islam, changing his name to Malcolm X. Following his parole, he quickly became the Nation's chief spokesman and served as its public face for almost 12 years. After his departure from the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X went on to found Muslim Mosque, Inc. and continued championing the cause of Black America. Tragically, the life of Malcolm X was cut short by gunfire on February 21, 1965 in Manhattan's Audubon Ballroom. The most poignant description of Malcolm was during his eulogy by Actor Ossie Davis who called him, ''our shining black prince''.

Malcolm X once said, ''The future belongs to those who prepare for it today''. We must heed these words and be evermore dutiful in our commitment to ensure that our children and their children are able to enjoy those three noble principals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Malcolm X remains an inspiration to millions of people around the world, inspiring others to build on his vision of a nation that recognizes the strengths of all peoples.

HONORING A.M.E. PRESIDING ELDER JOSEPH D. PATTERSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, one of Philadelphia's most distinguished and influential clergymen, Presiding Elder Joseph D. Patterson, Sr. of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, will be honored and feted on May 2, 2009, as he moves from decades of service to his God, his church and the people of Philadelphia into well-deserved retirement.

Presiding Elder Patterson has served the A.M.E. in its ''itinerant ministry'' for 45 years, pastoring and overseeing churches in Philadelphia, the western Main Line, southern New Jersey and Atlantic City.

Presiding Elder Patterson is perhaps best known for his 22 years as Pastor of Hickman Temple A.M.E. Church, where he directed an era of significant growth at Hickman as both a spiritual home and community resource for Southwest Philadelphia. His impact on the community is still felt to this day. He facilitated the building of the Samuel J. Patterson Mercy Wellness Center at 50th Street and Baltimore Avenue, which bears his father's name. He was founder and president of the Baltimore Avenue Redevelopment Corporation and past chairman of the $41 million West Philadelphia Empowerment Zone. He was a member of the Council of Trustees at Cheyney University, serving the school he had attended as both an undergraduate and graduate student.

Presiding Elder Patterson has demonstrated strong leadership both within his own A.M.E. denomination and in the broader community of faith. He served as President of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity from 1995–1997, and in numerous other capacities. He is past president of the A.M.E. Preachers Meeting. Since his appointment as Presiding Elder in 2001, he has served two years as Elder of the Philadelphia District and almost six years as Elder of the West/Mainline District—the post from which he is retiring.

And all along he has been blessed by the love and support of his wife Joyce, mother Ida, and children Joseph D. Jr., Jewell D. and Jocelyn D. Patterson.

Presiding Elder Joseph D. Patterson Sr. will be honored with a special Retirement Service, May 2, 2009, at Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church, 428 N. 41st Street, Philadelphia, with A.M.E. Presiding Bishop Richard F. Norris of the First District as Guest Preacher. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saluting the career of this great man of God and preacher of the Gospel, and to wish him Godspeed upon his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S RELAY FOR LIFE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life that will occur on Saturday,

April 25th at Marcos de Niza High School in Tempe.

The Relay for Life fundraiser is taking place all over the country, bringing over three million Americans together in the battle against cancer. This event not only raises money for cancer research, but it connects cancer survivors with those who have lost a loved one to the disease with those who want to show their support for the cause. This extensive network is an extremely valuable resource to those whose lives have been affected by cancer.

One in every three people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. The American Cancer Society is the largest source of nonprofit cancer research funding in the United States, and thanks to their efforts, cancer survival rates have consistently increased over the last 15 years. Fundraisers like Relay for Life allow the ACS to continue to contribute to this significant and often life-changing research.

I want to congratulate the Relay for Life on its 25th year as the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser, and express my continued support for cancer research initiatives. I am proud that my home town of Tempe has the opportunity to host this event.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, and those participating in the fight against cancer.

HONORING THE LUNAR ORBITER IMAGE RECOVERY PROJECT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project and all those who have contributed their time and effort to ensure that historic images and vital data from the Lunar Orbiter missions of the 1960s are not lost to future generations.

In 1965, Charles Byrne, an engineer with Bellcomm, Inc., had the foresight to propose that NASA record data from the Lunar Orbiter missions onto tape recorders. NASA agreed and the images returned from the Lunar Orbiters were backed up on AMPEX FR-900 tape drives. To date, these images are some of highest resolution images we have of the Moon. Those images include a high-resolution version of ''Earthrise,'' the first picture of the Earth from the Moon's vantage point. Time Magazine has called this image ''the photo of the century.'' The tapes also contain the first stereo imagery of the Moon's surface. Indeed, these are some of the best images of the Moon ever taken, far superior from those received from the Hubble telescope.

Astonishingly, all of the images stored on the 1,500 14-inch diameter tape reels were nearly destroyed. With its focus turned to the Apollo mission, NASA saw little further use for the tapes. Fortunately, Nancy Evans, cofounder of NASA Planetary Data Systems, convinced her superiors at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to retain the tapes. Evans also salvaged three refrigerator-sized FR-900 tape drives, which she stored in her own garage for two decades. Evans and Mark Nelson, of Caltech, managed to get a few tape drives running but their project ultimately folded. NASA turned down her requests for assistance after placing an estimate of $6 million on the cost to restore the data.

Fortunately, Evans' efforts caught the attention of Dennis Wingo and Keith Cowing, both of whom have been focused on space exploration for many years. They arranged to move the tapes and drives to NASA's Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. Ames' director, Peter Worden, arranged for them to store the equipment in an old abandoned McDonalds, which they jokingly referred to as ''McMoon's.'' Wingo and Cowing began working with Ken Zin, an army veteran, to get the drives up and running. NASA contributed $100,000 to the efforts. Cowing invested his own money in the project and the team enlisted the support of local students to recover the images.

There is still a long way to go to complete this project but the public's interest in it is more than just a matter of historical record. The images have the potential to push NASA's climate data back a full decade. And just as the Lunar Orbiter images provided data crucial to safely landing our first astronauts on the moon, those same images will assist the current efforts of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission by providing a baseline for understanding the changes to the Moon between the 1960s and present day.

As with the Lunar Orbiter's images themselves, the efforts of those who have devoted themselves to this project should not go unnoticed or unrecorded. Although space exploration is a vast, complicated enterprise, it ultimately relies on individuals who have the vision and imagination to move us forward. The Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project is an example of that kind of vision and imagination, and those who have contributed to the Project and to preceding efforts surely deserve our gratitude.

REMEMBERING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S (CCP) PERSECUTION OF THE FALUN GONG

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, sadly, 2009 marks the tenth year of the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) persecution of the Falun Gong. After a 10,000 person silent, peaceful protest in front of CCP offices in Beijing, then-General Secretary Jiang Zemin designated the Falun Gong an ''evil cult'' and in July 1999, began a brutal crackdown on Falun Gong practitioners. Since then, communist Chinese authorities have imprisoned roughly 6,000 Falun Gong practitioners and brutally killed more than 3,000. Following death, communist Chinese authorities have routinely harvested organs from executed Falun Gong prisoners.

Recently, on February 1, 2009, communist Chinese authorities arrested 61-year-old Zhu Lijin from Tianjin for distributing leaflets about the Falun Gong. On February 16, 2009, Ms. Lijin's family was notified she was sentenced to one year and three months imprisonment in Banqiao Women's ''Re-education Through Labor'' camp. While the imprisonment of a 61-year-old woman demonstrates the communist Chinese regime's paranoia, her arrest remains a grave injustice and Ms. Lijin must be immediately set free.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS OF FAIRFAX COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and the contributions that its volunteers make to our community. Fairfax CASA serves as an advocate for best interest of every abused and neglected child referred by the county juvenile system. CASA volunteers perform critical services to ensure the very best care and home environment for each child. Each year Fairfax CASA honors the most outstanding volunteers for their noble devotion.

Fairfax CASA presented its May Cook ''Heart of Gold'' Award to John Nelson. Mr. Nelson personifies the truly dedicated CASA volunteer. Over the past six years, he has advocated tirelessly on behalf of 19 children, fully committing his efforts to each child until a safe and permanent home is secured. John digs deep below the surface for information; he often interviews every single person interfacing with a child in order to gain a complete picture of what is going on in the child's world. For this dedication, Fairfax CASA acknowledged his efforts with its highest volunteer honor.

Eight individuals are recognized by Fairfax CASA for their outstanding volunteer commitment based on a variety of quantitative measurements. Those individuals receiving the Special Achievement Award are: Connie Jaiswal, Pam Jones, Mark Knopf, Marie Mader, Frank Murphy, Shirley Readyhough, Bob Steward, and Lisa Walsh.

A number of volunteers with Fairfax CASA are recognized for achieving significant milestones of longevity with the program. The following volunteers were recognized for five years of service: Glenn MacKinnon, Barbara McLaughlin, Terry Nelson, Todd Skipper, and Phyllis Surrett; for ten years of service: Nancy Hall; and, for fifteen years of service: Sandy Summers.

The outstanding efforts of the above-mentioned individuals merit special recognition but one must acknowledge the impact of all 165 volunteers who contributed their time to protect and support children through Fairfax CASA in 2008. These volunteers served 484 abused and neglected children including 214 newly referred by the Court. In serving these individuals, volunteers contributed more than 19,000 hours on their court assigned cases including completing 3,004 face-to-face visits and submitting 207 comprehensive and objective reports to the courts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in expressing our gratitude for the efforts of these volunteers and their colleagues at Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates. The selfless commitment of these individuals provides enumerable benefits to

Northern Virginia and life-changing services to the children and families being served.

HONORING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 320, a resolution that honors the life and accomplishments of one of the most prolific and well-respected chroniclers of America's torturous racial odyssey, John Hope Franklin who passed away on March 25, 2009, at the age of 94.

Born in 1915, in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, Dr. Franklin came from a humble and equally tragic background. His grandfather had been a slave, and his family lost everything in the Tulsa race riot of 1921. However, it was his background of having faced racial horrors firsthand that brought his academic work to the forefront and cemented his reputation among academics, politicians and civil rights figures as an inestimable historian.

John Hope Franklin attended Fisk University and received his master's and doctoral degrees in history from Harvard University. Shortly after graduating from Harvard, Dr. Franklin became widely known as a pioneer in the field of African American history. He published his first book in 1943 entitled, The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790–1860.

Dr. Franklin enjoyed an academic career full of highlights, fellowships, research publications, and honorary degrees. In fact, Dr. Franklin would publish another 20 books in his lifetime and his research helped future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall win the landmark ruling in Brown vs. Board of Education. It is these accomplishments that helped pave the way both for other Blacks and for the field of African American studies, which began to blossom on American campuses in the 1960s.

I join President Barack Obama in his insightful observation about the impact of Dr. Franklin's life: ''Because of the life John Hope Franklin lived, the public service he rendered, and the scholarship that was the mark of his distinguished career, we all have a richer understanding of who we are as Americans and our journey as a people.''

In closing, we are reminded that, in addition to his commitment to academics, Dr. Franklin was a dedicated family man. He was married to Aurelia Whittington, his college sweetheart for nearly 60 years before she passed away in 1999.

To their son, John Whittington Franklin, may the special memories that you created together and the many words of wisdom Dr. Franklin gave you be sources of comfort and strength, now and in the days to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize March 20 as the 44th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches. These historic marches had a profound affect on the voting rights of African Americans throughout the Nation. It is only fitting that the brave individuals who endured brutal physical violence, mental anguish, and often public humiliation in order to secure their voting rights be recognized by this body.

From the pulpit of Brown Chapel, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., issued a call to action after numerous attempts to enfranchise the black citizens of Selma came to a halt. Over the next several weeks, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Coalition and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference expanded their operations to register black voters in Selma and the surrounding area. At a voting rights protest on February 18th, Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot while attempting to protect his mother and grandfather. Jackson's death prompted Mr. James Bevels of the SCLC to call for a march from Selma to Montgomery. This demonstration of character and faith took place on March 7, 1965. As the peaceful protestors approached the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were greeted by the Sheriff Department and their clubs, tear gas and bull whips. We remember this day as Bloody Sunday.

Local photographers and television crews captured the brutality of Bloody Sunday, casting the issue into the national spotlight. Their images of cruelty rallied popular support for the cause of the protestors and set the stage for the second march, which was to occur on March 9th. However, protesters hit a stumbling block, when a restraining order was issued preventing the march. Dr. King led a group of 2500 protesters to the Edmond Pettus Bridge where he held a short prayer; before turning the crowd back, so as to respect the rule of law. It is on March 21, 1965 that we see a successful unimpeded march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama. Under the protection of Federal and State soldiers, FBI agents, and U.S. Marshals, a group of near 8,000 protesters set out from Selma to march for 5 days and 4 nights down Jefferson Davis Highway until they reached the Alabama state capitol. Upon their arrival, the number of protestors swelled to 25,000. This march had a profound impact on public opinion and just 5 months after its conclusion, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I am confident that there will always be those who boldly defy oppression and rebuke tyranny at all costs. One March day, Dr. Martin Luther King asked, ''How long will prejudice blind the visions of men, darken their understanding and, drive bright-eyed wisdom from her sacred throne?'' Dr. King answered his question, saying, ''. . . Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but is bends toward justice.'' It is this spirit that we must cherish. Those who decided to command their own destiny in Selma, Alabama in March of 1965 embody this spirit, and it is my great honor to commemorate their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS: KIWANIS CLUB OF GORHAM, MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Gorham, Maine for acknowledging the courage and sacrifices of the children of Maine's military families through their program entitled ''Operation Tribute''.

Kiwanis is an organization dedicated to service to children and youth through initiatives intended to improve the quality of life of children in communities around the world. Currently, Kiwanis has over 500,000 members internationally, representing 96 countries with 34 clubs in Maine.

On July 17, 2007, the Kiwanis Club of Gorham, later joined by the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine, launched Operation Holiday Cheer, a program to provide a holiday gift to each participating child of Maine's military families, including, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard. Over 9,000 children in Maine have a parent serving in the military.

In 2007, the Kiwanis acquired, wrapped, and distributed over 8,000 gifts to children in 140 cities and towns throughout the state of Maine. Included with each gift was a handwritten note thanking the child and his or her family which read, ''On behalf of the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine and the people of the State of Maine, we would like to offer you this token of our appreciation for your sacrifice. You are the child of a Maine military family and the bravery that you show every day by sharing your parent to help protect our country is being recognized and honored. You should be extremely proud of your service to our country and you should know that we, the Kiwanis and the people of Maine, stand proudly and beside you. We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season.''

In 2008, the Kiwanis built on the incredible success of Operation Holiday Cheer and expanded the program throughout New England and New York. Their efforts—and once again their success—were astounding. Operation Holiday Cheer raised over $650,000 and distributed over 23,000 holiday gifts to children of military families.

In January 2009, Operation Holiday Cheer renamed itself ''Operation Tribute'' to better reflect its mission of providing tribute to the children of military families.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine for their thoughtfulness in paying tribute—and bringing cheer—to the lives of thousands of children in Maine, New York and all of New England.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ALLEN ''ALI'' CAYIR

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate Mr. Allen ''Ali'' Cayir of Chino Hills, California for being awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, Inc. (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. This medal is awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage.

A native of Turkey with an engineering degree from Istanbul Technical University, Mr. Cayir arrived in New York in 1980 with plans to begin a new life in Southern California. In 1989, he founded Transtech Engineering, Inc., which today is a multi-million dollar enterprise that provides professional and technical expertise to governmental agencies, educational institutions and the private development sector.

In addition to Mr. Cayir's professional success, he is an extremely active part of his community. His philanthropic contributions include diverse organizations such as Tools for Education at California State University, restoration work at Mission San Juan Capistrano and United Way.

Throughout his life, Mr. Cayir has demonstrated his commitment to community service as well as a passion to preserve and celebrate ethnic diversity. I am proud to honor Mr. Cayir's achievements and congratulate him on his receiving this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BERNICE MCGRAIL FOR HER SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bernice McGrail, an extraordinary woman who has devoted fully thirty-six years to the children of the Clinton, Massachusetts Public School System as a member of the School Committee. Today, a reception is being held in Bernice's honor so that the legions of former students, faculty, administrators and local officials can offer her their good wishes as she ends a remarkable record of public service to her beloved hometown. I regret that I am not able to attend today's reception to personally express my profound gratitude, respect and admiration to Bernice. However, I did want to submit these heartfelt words of appreciation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that her immeasurable contributions to the development of generations of young people will be forever remembered in the annals of this great institution.

Bernice McGrail's tenure on the Clinton School Committee is not only noteworthy for its longevity but also for the quality of the service she rendered. For Bernice, the job of serving on the school committee did not begin and end with the weekly public meetings. In painstaking detail, she reviewed all of the school department correspondence, meeting minutes, curriculum proposals and staffing recommendations. Bernice's knowledge of the school department budget is unrivaled and when combined with her dogged determination she was an especially effective advocate for the programs she vigorously supported. In addition to doing the difficult committee work, Bernice was also a constant presence at all of the numerous school social functions and activities. From graduations, to football games, to school plays and dances, Bernice never missed an opportunity to show her pride in the achievements of the school children. Her warmth and sense of humor have endeared her to so many people over the course of nearly four decades in elected office that Bernice is widely regarded as a political force of nature. Her support for any local initiative is prized and her endorsement of any candidate for elected office is coveted. I, for one, am eternally grateful for the loyal friendship, unwavering support and thoughtful advice Bernice has provided me during my career in Congress.

After thirty-six years of tireless dedication, Bernice McGrail is leaving a legacy of selfless public service that will not soon be equaled. She has made an indelible imprint on the Clinton Public School System and helped shape a promising future for an untold number of its students. Madam Speaker, there is no greater gift than that. I wish Bernice and her family continued good health and happiness and kindly ask that the United States Congress publicly acknowledge her exceptional service to the Town of Clinton, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize the month of March as Women's History Month. In our not-so-distant past, women could not vote, own property or maintain wages. Women were not expected to think independently of their husbands, and their work was limited to the household. But even when considered second class citizens, it was our mothers, daughters and sisters who prepared the next generation of Americans for the challenges that lay ahead. As Kofi Annan famously said, ''When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life.''

Without the American woman's devotion to society, our nation would not be the same. Countless women disguised themselves as men during the Revolutionary War to join the fight for independence. While their husbands, brothers and fathers fought the war abroad, women answered the call by working in factories, sending the allied forces to victory in WWII. Today, American women of every color and background protect our nation at home and abroad by serving in our Armed Forces. Parents tell their children that women can be anything they dream of—soldiers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, and mothers—without doubt or hesitation.

Chicago's own women have contributed to their communities in significant ways. Carol Moseley-Braun, the first black female senator, attended the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Chicago Law School. Ms. Moseley-Braun was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992 where she introduced several bills that influenced education policy. Prior to becoming senator, she served as a member of the House of Representatives for ten years. Carol Moseley-Braun is recognized for her efforts in education reform and the years she dedicated to serving the state of Illinois. She is truly an example for our young women.

Michelle Obama, our first black First Lady, has contributed greatly to the city of Chicago and to her country. Mrs. Obama, a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law, is an extraordinary example of grace and success for all women. She proves that women can do it all—have a high-powered career, be a devoted mother and wife, contribute to her community, and even campaign. As an advocate for national service and helping working women balance family and career, the First Lady continues to show that there is no limit to what a woman can do.

I salute the women who have sacrificed so much to serve our country. Each woman benefits our society in her own way, and whether an artist or a doctor, a teacher or a lawyer, a mother or a soldier every woman's success encourages future generations of young girls and women to follow their dreams. I am proud to recognize March as Women's History Month in our great nation.

IN HONOR OF 307TH BOMB GROUP/WING MACDILL/KADENA ERA (1946–1954)

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 307th Bomb Group/Wing (1946–1954), which is holding its 14th reunion this week in Tampa, Florida.

The 307th Bombardment Group rose from the reorganization of the U.S. Army Air Forces after World War II and the deactivation on August 6, 1946, of the 498th Bombardment Group.

As the initial SAC Bomb Group, the 307th was first tasked with developing tactics, operating procedures and training requirements to engage in anti-submarine and sea search operations. The high priority given their task also gave them priority in recruiting personnel, training and equipment. As a result, while the 307th was assigned 13 B–29 aircraft when it was instituted, it had 30 B–29s a month later.

The 307th was busy for the next few years but it was the outbreak of the Korean War that tested its mettle. In the summer of 1950, the 307th with 31 B–29s deployed from Florida's MacDill Air Force Base to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa and on August 8 began bombing runs on North Korea.

The B–29s bombed the enemy's transportation system and industrial facilities throughout North Korea. Following a November campaign against the bridges over the Yalu River into Manchuria, the B–29s bombed interdiction targets, communication and supply centers, and supported United Nations ground forces by hitting gun emplacements and troop concentrations.

For the next few months the wing's bombers participated in FEAF's bridge-busting campaign, flying numerous missions against key bridge spans, and helped U.N. ground forces blunt a communist spring offensive. On May 23rd, the 307th provided nighttime close-in support, shredding enemy positions along the entire battlefront with Loran Radar guided and aimed fragmentation bombs.

The 307th was integral in the war effort until the truce was signed in July 1953. As the truce talks were concluding, the 307th helped disrupt and spoil an enemy ground offensive, earning it a Distinguished Unit Citation. At the end of the hostilities, the 307th had flown more than 5,800 combat missions.

In 1954, the wing returned to the United States and was assigned to Lincoln Air Force Base in Nebraska. The B–29s were retired and the unit became a B–47 wing, ending an era.

Madam Speaker, most of the surviving veterans of the 307th Bomb Group/Wing who flew over Korea are in their 80s—including my friend Cy Johnson of Camarillo—and every reunion brings fewer of them together. I believe my colleagues will agree, however, that it's important to remember the 307th's role in bringing peace to the Korean Peninsula and fighting back the initial push of communist aggression. I therefore ask my colleagues to join with them and with me in commemorating their earned and rightful place in our American history.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE HOSPITAL CENTER FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100 years of quality health care provided by Lawrence Hospital Center in Bronxville, New York.

Lawrence Hospital Center first opened its doors in 1909 to care for residents of Southern Westchester County and beyond, and it continues providing high-quality health care today. It was founded by William Van Duzer Lawrence, who recognized the need for high-quality and timely care for residents of New York City suburbs after his son, Dudley, nearly died en route to a hospital in New York City.

In its first year of operation, Lawrence had thirty beds and treated a total of 278 patients. Today, Lawrence Hospital Center has grown into a 291 bed acute-care facility that treats thousands of patients annually.

Lawrence has a strong history of leadership in health care and local medical excellence. In 2006 Lawrence became a leader in stroke care when the hospital became a designated New York State Stroke Center. Lawrence's Cancer Care program has also been accredited by the American College of Surgeons with Commendation.

Employing more than 400 physicians, Lawrence Hospital Center provides expertise in virtually every area of medical specialty. It is recognized for its professional excellence in bariatric surgery, cardiology, obstetrics, orthopedics, and oncology.

Committed to health care excellence, Lawrence Hospital Center has recently expanded and renovated its facilities in order to continue serving the growing population of Westchester County and surrounding areas. Recently, the hospital opened a state-of-the-art maternity center, expanded and improved its emergency department, and finalized plans for a future sleep center.

I am proud to recognize and thank Lawrence Hospital Center for providing 100 years of outstanding health care to residents of the New York Metropolitan Area, and I look forward to working with Lawrence Hospital Center to strengthen the health care system in the lower Hudson Valley.

A TRIBUTE TO ATHLETIC DIRECTOR RONNIE CHAVIS

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, as co-chairman and co-founder of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, I rise today to extend my most sincere congratulations to Robeson County Athletic Director Ronnie Chavis, who was honored by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) as 2009 National Athletic Director of the Year. Mr. Chavis, who has served the Public Schools of Robeson County for over 17 years as director of athletics, driver education, health, and physical education, was honored as Southern District Athletic Director of the Year on January 5, 2009. It was at the organization's national convention in Tampa, Florida, held during the first week of April, that Mr. Chavis was named NASPE's 34th Athletic Director of the Year.

Mr. Chavis is a long-time resident of Robeson County, which is my home county. He graduated from Prospect High School in 1968 and attended the University of North Carolina at Pembroke where, as pitcher, he led his baseball team to the College World Series with a 9–3 record. Mr. Chavis graduated from UNC—Pembroke with a degree in education in 1972, and began teaching and coaching at a local high school. Mr. Chavis later earned two master's of education degrees from Campbell University, one in physical education, and the other in administration and supervision. In 1989, he was named Athletic Director of the Public Schools of Robeson County.

Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Chavis used funds from a physical education grant to build fitness centers, complete with new conditioning and physical education equipment, for each of the seven high schools within his district. Furthermore, Mr. Chavis ensured that all 35 elementary and middle schools were furnished with adequate physical education supplies, equipment, and software. Mr. Chavis also partnered with the Public Schools of Robeson County to provide funds for the lighting of all baseball and softball fields, and two football fields. Finally, Mr. Chavis established the Robeson County Coaches Golf Tournament, which has raised over $15,000 to assist coaches and athletes that have experienced hardships.

Mr. Chavis is recognized by his colleagues as a highly dedicated professional who is able to motivate both students and coaches. His impact on the children of Robeson County and its youth sports community is evident. While a number of Robeson County athletes have gone on to play at the collegiate and/or professional level, many of Mr. Chavis' former students have emerged as doctors, lawyers, and coaches. Teaching discipline and perseverance, Mr. Chavis continues to inspire the lives of our children, molding individuals who will make many useful contributions to society. On behalf of the U.S. Congress, I extend congratulations to Mr. Chavis for his recognition as 2009 National Athletic Director of the Year.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BIRTH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I Wish to take a moment to honor Abraham Lincoln's legacy as we commemorate the bicentennial of his birth this year. President Lincoln had a tremendous impact on the progression of our nation. The 16th President of the United States successfully led the country through its greatest internal crisis, the American Civil War, preserving the Union and ending slavery with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. As a young man, Abraham Lincoln feared not achieving anything that would make men remember him. With hard work, dedication, and determination, today, Abraham Lincoln tops the list, for many, as one of the most influential—and most revered—Americans.

The spirit that guided him was clearly that of his Second Inaugural Address, now inscribed on one wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds . . ." Indeed, Lincoln's legacy is most alive in our continuous search for freedom, equality, and opportunity. I feel that it is only right for my fellow colleagues and I to pay homage to a great leader who helped pave the way for so many and who continues to inspire people today, two hundred years later.

As our newly elected 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, also from Illinois, begins his first term in office, the wounds of the nation and the world will begin to heal as he is guided and inspired by the former President Lincoln. Illinois is the state where Lincoln spent more than a quarter century of his life, serving as a lawyer and politician, leaving his mark in many towns and cities throughout the state. Long before being elected president in 1860, he served four terms in the state legislature and one in Congress. The state of Illinois honors Lincoln's legacy in a variety of ways including: The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, the Lincoln

Memorial Garden, Lincoln's Journey of Remembrance, The Lincoln Home National Historic site, and the city of Lincoln. In addition, The U.S. Mint will introduce four newly-designed Lincoln pennies throughout 2009, the first being released on his birthday. A Lincoln commemorative silver dollar will also be released later this year.

We have come a long way since the Lincoln days, but we still have a long way to go. The bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln is a great time to honor his legacy, as well as re-examine the American Dream and what it means to be an American today. It is a time of opportunity to bring together a divided nation in order to work together to fulfill Lincoln's goal of finding unity in our diversity. With a newly-elected President who shares many of the same ideals as Lincoln, there is not a better time to start this transformation, create change, and finish the work that we started so long ago. President Obama, similar to Lincoln, faces many great challenges ahead, but with hard work, dedication and determination these challenges we shall too, overcome.

HONORING THE LOUISIANA HONORAIR VETERANS

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special group from Northwest Louisiana.

On April 11, 2009 a group of 104 veterans and their guardians flew to Washington with a very special program. Louisiana HonorAir is providing the opportunity for these Louisiana veterans to visit Washington, DC on a chartered flight, free of charge. For many, this will be the first and only opportunity to visit the memorials created in their honor. These brave men and women, from my home state of Louisiana, deserve the thanks of a grateful nation for everything they have sacrificed for our freedom.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thank them for their unselfish service.

Maurice E. Alston, Sr., Albert S. Austin, Norman W. Bale, Kenneth R. Barns, Paul Bauer, James W. Beck, Wayne Belshe, Clyde W. Benson, Chet J. Boudreaux, Wilfred Boullion, William E. Brashear, William O. Budwah, Pleasant Nathaniel Burns, James L. Bush, James H. Butler, William T. Cagle, Richard H. Canterbury, Lamore J. Carter, William H. Carter, Lundy E. Cavender, Marcus R. Chapman, Jr., Allen G. Clements, William Y. Cobb, Rollin H. Cochran, Addison A. Daigle, Arthur J. DeLaune, Jr., Steven L. dePyssler, Homer C. Doty, Jr., James C. Epps, Clyde Lee Estes, Jesse Fenton, Carl D. Ferguson, Jr., Joe E. Floyd, Frank H. Ford, Jr., Lucian W. Furr; William Gately, Ellsworth Gauntz, Jack E. Giles, Wesley D. Glassell, Hersey Goodwin, James B. Grant, James D. Guffey, Ralph A. Hair, Adron W. Hallman, John E. Hamburn, John W. Hamilton, Jesse W. Hammett, Raymond E. Harper, Harold B. Hayden, John Allen Head, Raymond L. Heck, James A. Holdcroft, William J. Hood, Verle L. Hulse, John B. Humphrey, Robert P. Hunter, Richard L. Ingram, Taylor P. Isom, Dewey W. Jenkins, Sr., Edwin E. Jones, George V. Keith, Charles M. Kendrick, James F. King, Stanley F. Kolniak, John J. Langdon, Powell A. Layton, Harry A. Lazarus, Jr., Darion D. Leach, Rosa R. LeJeune, Sam F. Loeb, George A. Love, Charles W. Luther, Joseph F. Lytle, Joseph A. Malec, Floyd L. Marlatt, Joseph A. Marsala, Frank H. McArdle, Jefferson P. McBride, Jr., Joe H. McDaniel, William R. McDaniel, Sam W. McDonald, John Ivy Miles, Mitchell S. Miletello, Jesse W. Moore, Jr., Calvin W. Morgan, Franklin P. Moritz, Alfred J. Procell, John H. Pruett, Jr., Kearney L. Pruett, Earl L. Raley, Robert V. Rayner, Robert Bruce Rivet, Thomas O. Roberts, Billy B. Robertson, James E. Robison, Mike Romanos, Charles H. Rose, Jr., Gerald J. Roussel, E.H. Scoggins, James E. Still, Charles W. Tebow, Ralph D. Tinsley, Loyd H. Wilkins, and Lawrence R. Yeager.

WE MUST ENSURE SAFE ROADS AND BRIDGES!

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safety, Efficiency and Accountability in Transportation Projects through Public Inspection Act of 2009 (H.R. 2104).

This bill would require public employees to perform the inspection and related essential public functions on all state and local transportation projects. My bill is intended to ensure that public safety is protected, transportation funds are not wasted and projects are delivered in a timely manner.

On transportation projects, the construction inspector is the eyes, ears and voice of the public. Inspectors ensure that construction and seismic standards are met, that projects meet safety requirements and that the materials used will stand the test of time. In short, inspectors are there to ensure that the motoring public gets what they pay for and public safety and the public interest are protected.

When the construction inspection function is outsourced to a private company, there is no longer a representative of the public on the job site. In this circumstance, one private company is charged with the task of inspecting the work of another private company. This creates multiple conflicts for the private inspector. First, the private inspectors' primary obligation and responsibility is not to the public, but to the success and profitability of his company. Because the private construction company whose work they are inspecting on one project may be a business partner on a future project, private inspectors may also feel pressure from the private contractor to take steps that ensure larger profits for both firms. I am concerned that these conflicts have led private inspectors to cut corners and overlook problems that threaten public safety, increase costs and delay projects.

There are many examples in which public safety has been threatened by the use of private inspectors, including Boston's ''Big Dig'' (where a concrete slab from a tunnel ceiling fell and killed a woman), the L.A. Redline subway (Hollywood Blvd. collapsed), the 8–805 Interchange in San Diego (10,000 defective welds on a seismic retrofit), the Connecticut I–84 project (hundreds of drains that lead nowhere).

Contracting out public inspection work also does not save money! Defective work requires extensive repairs, and inevitably, the taxpayer gets stuck with the bill. Comparative studies have also found that contracting-out engineering, design, and inspection costs more than to do this work in-house, and none of these studies found that consultant engineers were less expensive. Factors that contribute to consultants' excessive costs include the lack of competitive bidding, cost-plus provisions in contracts, salary differentials between the private and public sectors, profit margins of from 10 percent to 15 percent, and additional costs connected with selecting and supervising consultants.

Failure to have public construction inspectors has also delayed projects in the past and will undoubtedly do so in the future. One such example is the privately inspected $12 million carpool bridge connecting the San Diego (405) and the Costa Mesa (55) Freeways. The project was to have been completed in April 2003. However, work was halted in August 2002 when chunks of concrete were falling from the structure and many cracks were noticed. Contractor and private inspector errors were later discovered and the carpool ramp did not open until January 2005.

The Public and the federal government understand what's at stake. In a 2006 California public opinion poll, 71% of those surveyed said they want state engineers to inspect the construction of state highways; and 20% found private firms acceptable for the task. David M. Walker, the Comptroller General of the United States, said in a recent interview: ''There's something civil servants have that the private sector doesn't, and that is the duty of loyalty to the greater good—the duty of loyalty to the collective best interest of all rather than the interest of a few. Companies have duties of loyalty to their shareholders, not to the country.''

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Johnnie Carson, of Illinois, to

be Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, and Luis C. de Baca, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, both of the Department of State.
SD–419

Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine pending benefits related legislation.
SR–418

10 a.m.
Judiciary
Crime and Drugs Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine restoring fairness to federal sentencing, focusing on addressing the crack-powder disparity.
SD–226

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine swine flu, focusing on coordinating the federal response.
SD–342

2 p.m.
Aging
To hold hearings to examine the life settlement market, focusing on what is at stake for seniors.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the federal government's role in empowering Americans to make informed financial decisions.
SD–342

Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the implementation of Wounded Warrior policies and programs.
SH–216

APRIL 30

Time to be announced
Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Yvette Roubideaux, of Arizona, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.
SD–628

9:15 a.m.
Appropriations
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Transportation's implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).
SD–138

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Secretary of Defense's 2010 budget recommendations.
SH–216

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the United States strategy toward Pakistan.
SD–419

10 a.m.
Appropriations
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2010 for the War Supplemental.
SD–106

Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William V. Corr, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Alan B. Krueger, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy.
SD–215

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine primary health care access reform, focusing on community health centers and the national health service corps.
SD–430

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ivan K. Fong, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Timothy W. Manning, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.
SD–342

Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 417, to enact a safe, fair, and responsible state secrets privilege Act, S. 257, to amend title 11, United States Code, to disallow certain claims resulting from high cost credit debts, S. 448 and H.R. 985, bills to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, S. 327, to amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve assistance to domestic and sexual violence victims and provide for technical corrections.
SD–226

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the economic outlook.
210–CHOB

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the current and future roles, missions, and capabilities of United States military air power.
SR–222

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD–430

Judiciary
Immigration, Refugees and Border Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine comprehensive immigration reform in 2009.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Kristina M. Johnson, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary, Steven Elliot Koonin, of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Ines R. Triay, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, and Scott Blake Harris, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Energy, Hilary Chandler Tompkins, of New Mexico, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and pending legislation on Renewable Electricity Standard and Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Facilities.
SD–366

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine national security reform, focusing on implementing a national security service workforce.
SD–342

Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
S–407, Capitol

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Roger W. Baker, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, William A. Gunn, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Jose D. Riojas, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security, and Preparedness, and John U. Sepulveda, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Human Resources, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
SR–418

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Communications and Technology Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the future of journalism.
SR–253

Judiciary
Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the passport insurance process, focusing on ending fraud.
SD–226

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to markup pending legislation.
SR–418

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4725–S4763

Measures Introduced: Four bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 899–902, and S. Res. 114. **Page S4755**

Measures Passed:

Statutory Time-Periods Technical Amendments Act: Senate passed H.R. 1626, to make technical amendments to laws containing time periods affecting judicial proceedings, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S4763**

Measures Considered:

Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act: Senate resumed consideration of S. 386, to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S4735–41**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 84 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. 170), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S4740**

Chair sustained a point of order under Rule XXII, that the following amendments were not germane, and the amendments thus fell:

Reid Amendment No. 984, to increase funding for certain HUD programs to assist individuals to better withstand the current mortgage crisis. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Inhofe Amendment No. 996 (to Amendment No. 984), to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the national language of the Government of the Untied States. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Vitter Amendment No. 991, to authorize and remove impediments to the repayment of funds received under the Troubled Asset Relief Program. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Boxer Modified Amendment No. 1000, to authorize monies for the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program to audit and investigate recipients of non-recourse Federal loans under the Public Private Investment Program and the Term Asset Loan Facility. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Coburn Amendment No. 982, to authorize the use of TARP funds to cover the costs of the bill. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Thune Amendment No. 1002, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to use any amounts repaid by a financial institution that is a recipient of assistance under the Troubled Assets Relief Program for debt reduction. **Pages S4735, S4740**

DeMint Amendment No. 994, to prohibit the use of Troubled Asset Relief Program funds for the purchase of common stock. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Coburn Amendment No. 983, to require the Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency to investigate and report on the activities of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that may have contributed to the current mortgage crisis. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Kohl Amendment No. 990, to protect older Americans from misleading and fraudulent marketing practices, with the goal of increasing retirement security. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Ensign Amendment No. 1004, to impose certain requirements on public-private investment fund programs. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Ensign Amendment No. 1003 (to Amendment No. 1000), to impose certain requirements on public-private investment fund programs. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Hatch Amendment No. 1007, to prohibit the Department of Labor from expending Federal funds to withdraw a rule pertaining to the filing by labor organizations of an annual financial report required by the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959. **Pages S4735, S4740**

Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 12 noon, on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, Senate return to Legislative Session to resume consideration of S. 386, Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act, and that upon passage of the bill, Senate

then return to Executive Session to resume consideration of the nomination of Kathleen Sebelius, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. **Page S4763**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Pearlie S. Reed, of Arkansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Thomas R. Lamont, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

John D. Porcari, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Catherine Radford Zoi, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy, Efficiency, and Renewable Energy).

William F. Brinkman, of New Jersey, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

Anne Castle, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Kurt M. Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Daniel Benjamin, of the District of Columbia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Robert Orris Blake, Jr., of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs.

Phyllis Corrine Borzi, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

David Heyman, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security. **Page S4763**

Messages from the House: **Page S4752**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S4725, S4752**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4752–54**

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Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4755–56**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4756–63**

Additional Statements: **Page S4751**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4763**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—170) **Page S4740**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:34 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4763.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of William Craig Fugate, of Florida, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and John Morton, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, both of the Department of Homeland Security.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 2100–2131; and 8 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 109–110; and H. Res. 364, 366–370, were introduced. **Pages H4838–40**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H4840**

Report Filed: A report was filed on April 22, 2009 as follows:

H.R. 1679, to provide for the replacement of lost income for employees of the House of Representatives who are members of a reserve component of the armed forces who are on active duty for a period of more than 30 days (H. Rept. 111–85, Pt. 1).

Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1913, to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–86);

H. Res. 365, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 111–87);

H.R. 627, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–88); and

Conference report on S. Con. Res. 13, a resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United

States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014. (H. Rept. 111–89)

Pages H4774–H4836, H4838

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Carnahan to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H4737**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:34 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H4738**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Recognizing the anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana: H. Res. 329, amended, to recognize the anniversary of the tragic accident of the steamboat ship SS Sultana, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 393 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 207; **Pages H4739–41, H4751**

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week: H. Res. 335, to support the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week, by a ⅔ recorded vote of 396 ayes with none voting "no", Roll No. 209; **Pages H4741–42, H4752–53**

Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day: H. Con. Res. 99, to support the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day; **Pages H4744–45**

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Act of 2009: H.R. 1746, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 339 yeas to 56 nays, Roll No. 208; and

Pages H4747–49, H4751–52

Great Lakes Icebreaker Replacement Act: H.R. 1747, to authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes. **Pages H4749–50**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H4750**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rule. Further proceedings were postponed:

Commending the University of Connecticut Huskies: H. Res. 344, to commend the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament and

Pages H4742–44

Supporting the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month: H. Res. 337, to support the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. **Pages H4745–47**

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4738.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4751, H4751–52, and H4752. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 11:37 p.m.

Committee Meetings

U.S.-CUBA TRADE STATUS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection held a hearing on Examining the Status of U.S. Trade with Cuba and Its Impact on Economic Growth. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Commerce: Walter M. Bastian, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Western Hemisphere, International Trade Administration; and Matthew S. Borman, Acting Assistant Secretary, Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security; and public witnesses.

WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any resolution reported on the legislative day of April 28, 2009, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 13) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2010, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Raymond Edwin Mabus, Jr., of Mississippi, to be Secretary, and Robert O. Work, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of the Navy, Elizabeth Lee King, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Michael Nacht, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Global Strategic Affairs, and Wallace C. Gregson, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, all of the Department of Defense, Donald Michael Remy, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, and Jo-Ellen Darcy, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, both of the Department of the Army, and Ines R. Triay, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management, 9 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Ronald C. Sims, of Washington, to be Deputy Secretary, Peter A. Kovar, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Helen R. Kanovsky, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, David H. Stevens, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal Housing Commission, and John D. Trasvina, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, all of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, David S. Cohen, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing, and Fred P. Hochberg, of New York, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance, to hold hearings to examine formaldehyde in textiles and consumer products, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine, to hold hearings to examine the future of national surface transportation policy, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine financing for deployment of clean energy and energy efficiency technologies and to enhance United States' competitiveness in this market through the creation of a Clean Energy Deployment Administration within the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michelle DePass, of New York, and Cynthia J. Giles, of Rhode Island, both to be Assistant Administrators, and Mathy Stanislaus, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Administrator for Office of Solid Waste, all of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine war powers in the 21st Century, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Harold Hongju Koh, of Connecticut, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, 2:15 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, to hold hearings to examine introducing meaningful incentives for safe workplaces and meaningful roles for victims and their families, 10:30 a.m., SD–430.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine individual state experiences with health care reform coverage initiatives in the context of national reform, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine cyber security, focusing on developing a national strategy, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine advancing America into the 21st Century and a digital future, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the Victims of Crime Act, focusing on 25 years of protecting and supporting victims, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., S–407, Capitol.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, on the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services, General Government and Related Agencies, on Member Requests, 10 a.m., 2362–B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Public Witnesses, 9:30 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on GAO, Office of Compliance, and GPO, 1 p.m., H–144 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on the Acquisition Workforce: Merely a Business Expense or a Force Multiplier for the Warfighter? 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, hearing on OSHA's Penalties Adequate to Deter Health and Safety Violations, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, to consider the following measures: H.R. 1327, Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009; and H.R. 1728, Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 1748, Fight Fraud Act of 2009; H.R. 1788, False Claims Act Correction Act of 2009; H.R. 1676, PACT Act, H.R. 1667, War Profiteering Prevention Act of 2009; and H.R. 1741, Witness Security and Protection Grant Program Act of 2009, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy, hearing on Bye Bye Bargains? Retail Price Fixing, the Leegin Decision, and Its Impact on Consumer Prices, 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water and Power, oversight hearing entitled ''American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Water Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey (USGS), 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement, oversight hearing on U.S. Agency for International Development: Management Challenges and Strategic Objectives, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, to consider the following: H.R. 1913, Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009; and a General Debate Rule on H.R. 627, Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2009, General Debate Rule, 1 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on Pushing the Efficiency Envelope: R&D for High-Performance Buildings, Industries and Consumers, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on Keeping the Space Environment Safe for Civil and Commercial Users, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing on High Priority Project Program, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Leaving No One Behind: Is the Federal Recovery Coordination Program Working? 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security, oversight hearing on the Social Security Administration's provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, 2 p.m., B–318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on Funding Intelligence Priorities, 1:30 p.m., 304–HVC.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine new evidence on the persistence of the gender pay gap, 10 a.m., 2172–RHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Kathleen Sebelius, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, and after a period of debate, vote on the confirmation thereon. Also, Senate will continue consideration of S. 386, Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act, and vote on the bill thereon at 12:00 noon.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 28

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H. Res. 340—Expressing sympathy to the victims, families, and friends of the tragic act of violence at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York; (2) H. Res. 341—Expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama, on March 10, 2009; (3) H.R. 1595—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the ''Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building''; (4) H. Res. 342—Expressing support for designation of May 2, 2009, as ''Vietnamese Refugees Day''; (5) H. Res. 357—Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month 2009; (6) H.R. 1243—To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Arnold Palmer in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship in golf; (7) H.R. 46—Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 2009; (8) H. Con. Res. 36—Calling on the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity; (9) H. Res. 76—Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities; (10) S. 735—Protecting Incentives for the Adoption of Children with Special Needs Act of 2009; (11) H. Res. 109—Supporting the mission and goals of 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights; and (12) H. Con. Res. 104—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

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