

have 5 legislative days within which to discuss and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

On behalf of the Oversight Committee, I now present House Resolution 734 for consideration. This resolution expresses support for the goals and ideals embodied in Constitution Day. House Resolution 734 was introduced on September 10, 2009, by my colleague, Representative ROBERT LATTA of Ohio, and favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee on September 24, 2009. In addition, this resolution enjoys the support of over 60 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 734 expresses our support for Constitution Day, which is routinely celebrated on September 17. Eleven years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 55 delegates from the first American States came together in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to create a Constitution for a Federal Republic. After much hard work and careful deliberation, the Constitution of the United States was signed on September 17, 1787, by 39 delegates from 12 States.

As the supreme law of the United States, the Constitution provides the basic structure for the organization of the American Government. It is no exaggeration to say that the United States Constitution is one of the most important documents in history, often referred to as a living document. This framework from our representative and democratic system of government has served the American people for over 200 years, making it the oldest Federal Constitution still in use in the world. With its separation of powers, its checks and balances and preservation of rights, the Constitution is a worthy example to burgeoning democracies everywhere.

Furthermore, the values and principles it enshrines continue to be central to our Nation's identity. I am sure my colleagues share my pride in serving, protecting and defending the United States Constitution, and I am pleased that we are taking the opportunity today to honor this most treasured document of our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 734.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Ohio, the author of H. Res. 734, Mr. LATTA.

Mr. LATTA. I thank my colleague.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 734, which I introduced on September 10, honoring and supporting Constitution Day. I have always been grateful that so many of our country's greatest leaders and statesmen were able to be on Earth at the

same time and place to draft the Constitution. Within this document are the fundamental principles of the American system of liberty. Our Constitution has been that beacon upon the hill, that guiding star at night in that shining city that millions of people around the world have long been guided by within their own countries.

The Constitution took 4 hard, acrimonious months from May to September 1787 to actually bring it to fruition through their hard labor. Again, the citizens that attended the convention in Philadelphia were some of our greatest leaders and scholars of government and history: Madison, Franklin, Hamilton, Morris, and Washington. Many different ideas were brought to the convention. Were they only empowered to amend the Articles of Confederation? There is great debate about that. Could they go farther and start from scratch? Many a discussion was held in Philadelphia's boarding houses and taverns.

These members began debates on creating three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial. James Madison, the Father of our Constitution, was one of the first to arrive in Philadelphia, and he brought with him his specifically researched ideas while others had theirs. You know, it turned out to be a very hot summer that year. There was no air conditioning. Secrecy was enforced. The proceedings mandated that all windows and doors be shut. Tempers flared, but through it all they worked because these men knew that they were creating a document that would be there for a Nation and for the ages.

The birth of a new Nation was being watched by the powers around the world. As mentioned, 55 delegates attended the Constitution Convention with 39 of them signing the document. What emerged was a document containing 4,400 words. The story goes that when asked what kind of new government was formed, Benjamin Franklin replied, "A Republic, if you can keep it." The Constitution is both the oldest and shortest written constitution of any form of government in the world.

Again, personally I marvel at what these individuals did and what they could accomplish in 4 months. Today, citizens should look to guidance from our Forefathers. All Americans should read this great document because, since the Constitution's ratification, it has been the framework for our great Nation. Not only did great men bring forth great ideas, but for 222 years, this great experiment that we call America has been paid for by hundreds of thousands of lives, the lives of our brave military men and women. Let the living always remember to give thanks to our honored dead, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice that the Constitution of the United States remains our guiding light.

Too few citizens today have read this important document and understand its importance. It is short, and it

should be learned, and it should be studied. The preamble of our document states that "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." The words "We the People" affirm that any power of the Federal Government is given to by the people of this great land, and we in Congress must always remember that.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers at this time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the passage of H. Res. 734, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their remarks and support of this resolution. I urge them to support Mr. LATTA and his lead sponsorship of this resolution in support of the goals and ideals of Constitution Day, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 734.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 734, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of 'Constitution Day'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

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:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 29, 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 September 29, 2009, at 11:06 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3614.

That the Senate passed S. 1717.

That the Senate passed with an amendment; requests a conference with the House of Representatives and appointed conferees H.R. 2996.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

SMALL BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3614) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:
Strike sections 2 and 3.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

The legislation before us will ensure that a number of Small Business Administration programs can continue operating through the end of October. The House and the Senate have been working diligently on a comprehensive reauthorization of the SBA's programs. However, as we approach the deadline for when these programs will otherwise expire, this bill is necessary to keep the agency's programs running.

Some minor changes to the programs, which were contained in the extension that the House passed last week, are not in this measure. Although the Senate chose not to address these matters at this time, there is widespread support for these measures. I am hopeful that we can revisit those changes soon in future legislation.

In coming weeks the Small Business Committee will continue working with our Senate counterparts to modernize the SBA's programs, some of which have not been updated in 10 years. While we continue our work, this bill will allow the SBA's programs to continue operating and serving entrepreneurs.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

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

I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3614, as amended. The bill extends until October 31, 2009, the authorization of all programs authorized by the Small Business Act, the Small Business Investment Act, and

any program operated by the Small Business Administration for which Congress has already appropriated funds.

While the goal is to pass comprehensive legislation reauthorizing the SBA for a longer period, this short-term extension ensures that these programs will remain available to small businesses across the country.

Without enactment of this extension, a number of essential programs that the SBA operates would cease to function. Given the importance that small businesses play and will continue to play in the revitalization of the American economy, we cannot allow the SBA authorizations to run out.

Enactment of this legislation will enable the House and Senate to continue to work in a diligent manner to address necessary changes to SBA programs.

I urge all of my colleagues to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3614.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3614 and specifically those provisions which extend the SBIR and STTR programs.

Small businesses grow our economy and they innovate. The SBIR and STTR programs help small companies develop cutting-edge technologies for the marketplace.

However, these programs will expire at the end of this month, and H.R. 3614 temporarily extends the authorization of these programs while we work to finalize reauthorization efforts.

Both the House and the Senate passed legislation earlier this year to reauthorize SBIR and STTR. We have been working to find those areas of common ground on areas where we disagree, and while we have yet to reach a final agreement, we all have the same goal: to reauthorize important programs which drive our economy and drive job creation.

SBIR is a program for small business, and it is also an innovation program. It can and should serve both policy purposes. It should not be a stalking horse for Big Business nor should it become the preserve of only some small businesses while shutting out other small businesses who are frequently very good innovators in and of themselves.

We need to find the common ground that serves these policy objectives and serve them well for the good of our Nation, our economy, and job creation.

With that, I want to recognize the very good work of Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ in this arena.

Mr. TURNER. Again, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3614.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. 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 (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3614.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

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 subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1802

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at 6 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 2997, AGRICULTURE,
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD
AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2997) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Kingston moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2997 be instructed to not record their approval of the final conference agreement (within the meaning of clause 12(a)(4) of House rule XXII) unless the text of such agreement has been available to the managers in an electronic, searchable, and downloadable form for at least 72 hours prior to the time described in such clause.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

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