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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 (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 9, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS 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.

HONORING WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a wonderful organization, the Women of Tomorrow Mentor and Scholarship Program. As a former educator and Florida certified teacher with a doctorate in education from the University of Miami, I know first hand the importance of providing our children every opportunity to succeed. The Women of Tomorrow Program is a local lifeline for at-risk young women. This pioneering program pairs extremely accomplished professional women with small groups of at-risk teenage girls in public high schools for a 4-year mentoring program.

These mentoring women who could be judges, doctors, lawyers, indeed from all walks of life, they are all volunteers who are dedicated to showing teenage girls the possibilities that exist if they stay on the right track.

The Women of Tomorrow Program gives students the hope and inspiration needed to be successful, productive, active adults. The volunteers build self-confidence, assist the girls in achieving academic success, and help students give back to their community in both a constructive and positive manner.

Founded in 1997 by veteran TV journalist Jennifer Valoppi and Telemundo president Don Browne, Women of Tomorrow is an unrivaled positive and growing force within our south Florida community. Dozens of public high schools throughout south Florida have implemented the Women of Tomorrow Program. These schools allow over 2,000 young women to be helped by this program. And the high school graduation rate of students in the program is nearly 90 percent.

The Women of Tomorrow Program is inspiring at-risk young women to achieve their fullest potential through a strong education. And since 2000, the Women of Tomorrow project has presented $2.3 million in scholarship value to over 800 graduates of their program for college. The support offered by the volunteers of Women of Tomorrow give these young women the confidence to pursue a college degree, to realize that they can achieve their goals.

The incredible impact this program has had on south Florida in helping countless troubled youth achieve success is truly phenomenal. It is because of the commitment of dedicated volunteers, mentors, and staff at Women of Tomorrow that this innovative program has been such an immense success.

As a proud grandmother of a beautiful baby girl, I know our girls deserve a program like Women of Tomorrow. I look forward to hearing more about all of the future successes of each young woman that is involved in Women of Tomorrow, and congratulate everyone involved for their everyday victory for our children.

I include for the RECORD the wonderful board of directors that guides the Women of Tomorrow Program.

Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to submit for the RECORD the board of directors for the Women of Tomorrow Mentor & Scholarship Program: Jennifer Valoppi, Television Journalist & Author, Founder & President; Don Browne, President, Telemundo Network, Co-Founder & Vice President; The Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle, Miami-Dade State Attorney, Founding Mentor & Co-Vice President; Betty Amos, President, The Abkey Companies, Founding Mentor, Board Member & Treasurer; Judge Judith Kreeger, Miami-Dade County Circuit Court, Founding Mentor & Secretary; Jamie Byington, Tax Partner, Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, L.L.P., Board Member; Donna Feldman, CPA, PA, Mentor & Board Member; Marisa Toccin, President, Linea Luxe Lifestyle, Board Member; Lisa Stewart Hughes, Vice President, Compliance, Telemundo/NBC Universal, Board Member; Dr. Diane Walder, MD, PA, Founding Mentor & Board Member.

RESTORING AMERICANS' NET WORTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, since it began in 2007, the Great Recession has caused tremendous hardships throughout the Nation. Millions of Americans have lost their jobs, in increasingly larger numbers

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every month, including 741,000 in January 2009 alone. Our economy contracted an astounding 5.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008, and an unbelievable 6.4 percent as this Congress and the Obama administration were taking office in the first quarter of 2009. Foreclosures were skyrocketing, up 81 percent in 2008, with more than 2.3 million homes in default or seized. Our economy was on the brink. Nowhere was that more evident than in the precipitous drop of American households' net worth.

I brought a visual aid today because words alone cannot do this loss justice. From December 2007 through March 2009, Americans lost $17.5 trillion in net worth. That is trillion with a ''t.'' That is larger than the entire economy of the United States. If we dedicated the entire output of the U.S. economy, every penny spent by every single person, it still would not equal that loss. It represented a loss of $56,000 for every single person in our country.

I am not talking about the value of a business, or corporate profit. The net worth of American households is their 401(k) and retirement accounts. It is in the value of their children's education fund. It is their emergency savings and nest eggs. It is the equity in their homes, the single largest asset most Americans have. In fact, foreclosed homes have decreased the equity of existing homeowners by $502 billion alone. American homeowners who always have remained current on their mortgage payments nonetheless have lost more than half a trillion dollars in equity, simply because of those foreclosures. And the broader housing market troubles have only exacerbated that loss.

This long red line represents that loss. It represents $17.5 trillion of lost college payments, $17.5 trillion of delayed retirement, $17.5 trillion lost from the American dream.

This blue line represents the return to growth for that net worth. One of the very first acts this Congress undertook was to pass the Recovery Act. The economy was in free fall, and Americans were literally losing trillions of dollars. And it worked. The first quarter after we passed the Recovery Act, the economy slipped only 0.7 percent, and by the end of last year it had recovered and grown by 5.9 percent, the largest increase in 6 years.

Housing prices had an unprecedented 22 straight months of decline starting in 2007, leaving more than 20 percent of all homeowners underwater with negative equity. Not only are these homeowners unable to access home equity in case of emergencies, they cannot sell their homes without risking bankruptcy if they need to relocate for their jobs. As a result of our actions through the Recovery Act, and the extension and expansion of the first time home buyers tax credit, and overall mortgage refinancing support, housing prices stabilized. And in December 2009, they grew for the seventh consecutive month. While their value has not fully recovered, the average home sale price increased $45,000 from January 2009 through January of this year, restoring tens of thousands of dollars in equity to each homeowner.

The stock market, representing the retirement funds, 401(k)s and life savings of so many Americans, has grown almost 60 percent since its March 2009 low. Although there is still a way to go to fully restore the value, the increases have been steady.

The result of these improvements to the American people is the blue line. It is $5 trillion of value restored to American households. Madam Speaker, I ask you to look at that red line again. The decline was continuous until our interventions. Since our actions, the growth has been continuous.

We are not out of the woods just yet. Households lost value every month for the longest recession since World War II. But we have turned the corner, and Americans today have $5 trillion more in net worth because of our actions. That is why it is vital to stay the course so we can continue to help every homeowner recover their life savings and restore prosperity to every household.

HEALTH CARE REFORM THAT WORKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I came to talk about health reform, but would first note that the gentleman from Virginia fails to mention that the economy began its nose-dive when Democrats took control of Congress in January 2007. For 54 months before that, with a Republican President and Republican control of Congress, the economy was doing very well and growing.

Madam Speaker, the American people have spoken loud and clear: they do not want a government takeover of health care. They want sensible, step by step health care reform that works. But the White House is not listening. Instead, they are proposing expensive new entitlements that will only worsen the Federal Government's finances and North Carolina family budgets. At least there is one thing we agree on: we need to have a bill that will lower the cost of health care in America. But you don't lower the cost of health care in America by creating expensive, new, government-run programs. The best way to lower the cost of health care is by empowering patients, putting patients in charge of their health care, not insurance companies and certainly not the government, is the solution.

While I agree with President Obama that we need to lower the cost of health care, the problem is that his proposals, which are simply retreads of the House and Senate bills, will not really lower costs. They are simply a trillion-dollar expansion of government control.

Lower costs will stem from patients who are empowered in making health care decisions through innovations like expanded health savings accounts and by making sure that the trial lawyers who are driving up the cost of health care with a blizzard of frivolous lawsuits are reined in.

So we should start over. Starting over is the single best way to produce bipartisan legislation that the public can support. We should focus on working step by step to enact commonsense health care reform that will lower costs for families and small businesses and expand access to affordable, high-quality care.

Republicans have been talking about a step-by-step approach for months. This approach would allow individuals to buy health care across State lines, cover people with preexisting conditions, improve access to health savings accounts, as well as enact medical liability reform. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that such a commonsense plan would reduce deficits by $68 billion and reduce private insurance premiums by up to 10 percent. This is a plan that doesn't grow the government, and it is a plan that reduces cost without a government takeover and without breaking the budget or soaking taxpayers. Madam Speaker, it is a plan that will work for the American people.

BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Madam Speaker, for too many years the Mexican drug cartels have taken advantage of our unsecured borders, smuggling drugs and people into our country in exchange for the illegal weapons and cash they use to keep their supply routes open.

For too many years, failed policies from the Federal Government allowed these violent gangs to grow and thrive. Politicians in Washington fought each other rather than dealing with the problem. As a result, crime is spilling over into Arizona and throughout the entire Southwest.

While our State, local, and tribal law enforcement do a great job with the resources they have, they cannot do this job alone. Securing our borders is the responsibility of the Federal Government, and the Federal Government has to live up to that responsibility. This government has begun to give this danger the attention it deserves, but there is so much more that has to be done to make up for years of neglect.

I am fighting for the folks in my district who have to live with the consequences of Washington's mistakes, and I am continuing to push for the support that our border agents need. I will not let up. As a part of my efforts, I am happy to announce that I will be touring the Arizona-Mexico border

later this week. I will be visiting with our border agents on duty, accompanying them on the job and hearing directly from them about how I can help to address the challenges they face. I am ready and eager for this opportunity to make sure that the voice of our law enforcement on the front lines is heard and not the voice of politicians playing games in Washington.

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 44 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 at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Wake the world with song. Let the whole day be filled with blessing.

For the Lord of Creation rejoices and is with His people.

May all the peoples of the Earth turn to their Redeemer and seek justice for the most forsaken.

Lord, grant healing to the sick and freedom to the addicted.

May today be a new beginning of goodness and lead to peace.

Such is our prayer and our hope in You, O Lord, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU) laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 5, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I write to inform you that as of 5 p.m. Monday, March 8th, I will resign my position as the Federal Representative for the 29th Congressional District.

Sincerely,

ERIC J.J. MASSA,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from New York (Mr. MASSA), the whole number of the House is 431.

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, March 5, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, 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 March 5, 2010 at 3:03 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 2961.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 236.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 239.

Appointments: (2)

Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM OFFICE MANAGER, THE HONORABLE CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Andrea Bragg, Office Manager, the Honorable CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 1, 2010.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

After consultation with the Office of the General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

ANDREA BRAGG,
Office Manager.

JOINT REAPPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1381), as amended by Public Law 111–114, the Chair announces on behalf of the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate their joint reappointment of the following individuals on March 5, 2010, each to a 5-year term on the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance:

Alan V. Friedman, California

Susan S. Robfogel, New York

Barbara Childs Wallace, Mississippi

and, in addition, their joint designation of:

Barbara L. Camens, Washington, D.C., Chair

IN MEMORIAM—THE HONORABLE FRANCISCO CASTRO ADA

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who served our country and who served the Northern Mariana Islands with great honor and distinction.

The Honorable Francisco Castro Ada passed away on March 2. His state funeral is on Wednesday.

Mr. Ada pulled himself up by his own efforts, but his efforts always pulled up others as well.

He had to go to Guam to get a high school diploma, but he returned home to teach others. He went to Hawaii to earn a college degree, and again, he returned home to help his community.

He served as district administrator for the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, overseeing the Northern Marianas' transition to a Commonwealth of the United States. Then he was elected as our first Lieutenant Governor. Though a public figure, Mr. Ada never lost touch with his family.

His guidance shows that the Ada family is one of our most distinguished—a doctor, lawyers, public servants—each leaders in their own right and, in many ways, Francisco C. Ada's greatest legacy.

BRITISH MAN DIES OF THIRST IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the United States broke away from our mother country over 200 years ago. The decision to throw off our royal rulers looks even better today.

England has government-run health care, and it's dangerous to one's health.

Recently, the London Daily Mail reported the story of Kane Gorny:

Kane was a 22-year-old man who had hip replacement surgery under England's government-run health care system. Afterwards, reports say he was neglected by hospital staff. He was not even given his medications. Kane was immobile. He couldn't even get a drink of water on his own. So Kane called the police and begged them to bring him some water. When the police showed up, they were turned away by hospital staff, who said Kane was a problem patient.

The next day, Kane died of thirst in that government-run hospital in London. The police are investigating.

Madam Speaker, importing government-run health care into America would be unhealthy for everybody. Just ask the family of Kane Gorny, who died of dehydration in that British-run hospital.

And that's just the way it is.

RECLAIMING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, in 2001 I joined the House in voting for the authorization for the use of military force.

In nearly 9 years, it has become clear that the authorization for the use of military force is being used carte blanche for circumventing Congress' role as a coequal branch of government.

Both the Bush and the Obama administrations have cited that the 2001 authorization of the use of military force is justification for the military escalation in Afghanistan, for holding prisoners indefinitely in Guantanamo or at Bagram Air Force Base, and even for mass domestic spying on U.S. citizens in violation of our most basic constitutional principles.

Tomorrow, the House will consider H. Con. Res. 248, a resolution that would require the President to withdraw U.S. Armed Forces from Afghanistan by December 31, 2010.

As U.S. Armed Forces and our allies begin the first in a series of large military operations in Afghanistan, this House must be heard from. We must reclaim our constitutional responsibility and our responsibility to the American people.

EMPOWERMENT

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, in today's Wall Street Journal, Director of the Congressional Budget Office, Douglas Elmendorf, an appointee of Speaker PELOSI, stated, ''The U.S. Federal budget deficit is on a trajectory that poses significant economic risks.''

According to Mr. Elmendorf, ''the U.S. is entering unfamiliar territory in its level of public debt.'' In fact, a report by the CBO shows that the President's budget drives debt to an alarming 90 percent of our economy by 2020, making the U.S. public debt load one of the highest.

The Federal Government must rein in its spending, and it must cut costs, just as families and businesses all across the 19th Congressional District are doing.

We have two paths on which to set our compass. We can set our path towards empowerment or we can set our path towards entitlement. One offers opportunity and hope; the other offers uncertainties.

America deserves a choice that gets the budget and the economy back on a sustainable path.

THE FIGHT FOR JOBS ON MAIN STREET

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

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, within weeks in my district, we will be upon the summer construction season.

Construction is not a Democrat idea or a Republican idea. It's just something we need to do to rebuild America. In fact, we'd be well on our way if it weren't for the gigantic snowstorms having set back the building season. We have a chance across the aisle, in a short period of time, to address the issue of construction.

For my nieces and nephews, summer may just mean time off from school, but for many of our small businesses around the country, it means a time to gear up. Many have taken losses year after year, quarter after quarter, in the hopes that this year will be the time we can get back on top.

If housing starts are not going to pick up in time, we know we can build other things. We can build infrastructure. We can retrofit existing building stock. These are good jobs that rebuild the competitive advantage of this country.

This town is too paralyzed by partisanship. We have an opportunity to rise above that and to say, We will meet this summer construction season. We will not flirt with a double-dip recession just as we are starting to pull out of it. These are good commonsense ideas that make sense back on Main Street. That's what we need to be fighting for here.

□ 1415

SUPPORT SPENDING LIMIT AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, Federal spending is out of control, and the American people know it. Our Nation is facing a fiscal crisis of epic proportions. In the past 5 years, Federal spending has climbed from a historic average of 20 percent of the American economy to nearly 25 percent today, and it is rising.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the first 5 months of this fiscal year, the Federal Government ran a deficit of $655 billion, keeping the country on track for a record $1.6 trillion deficit this year.

After years of trying to rein in Federal spending under Republican and Democrat administrations, the American people want fiscal discipline and they want new ideas. That is why Congressmen JEB HENSARLING, JOHN CAMPBELL, and I introduced the Spending Limit Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Under our amendment, absent a declaration of war or a two-thirds vote in the Congress, Congress would be required to adhere to its historic percentage of the economy.

For the last 60 years, we have only taken 20 cents on the American dollar out of this economy. It is time we put that limit in the Constitution of the United States. If we fail to act, our children will be less free, less prosperous, and less secure. It is time for a spending limit amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

AMERICANS SAY MEDIA ARE BIASED

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, more than seven in ten Americans say that news sources are biased, according to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center. This opinion is consistent across party lines. Eight in ten Republicans say the news is slanted, as do two-thirds of the Democrats and three-quarters of the Independents. Not surprisingly, this is the fifth recent poll that has found Americans don't trust the media.

The reason is simple: On important issues like job creation, government spending, treatment of terrorists, and the Senate reconciliation procedure, the national media present the news from a liberal point of view.

If the media wants to restore Americans' trust, they should report all the facts, not just one side.

EDITORIALS ACROSS SOUTH CAROLINA CONDEMN PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON YUCCA MOUNTAIN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the President's recent budget proposal to Congress kills funding for Yucca Mountain. Without a safe and secure location like Yucca Mountain, nuclear energy development in America cannot progress.

Newspaper editorials throughout South Carolina have condemned the President's unilateral move. Last year, the Charleston Post and Courier blasted the President's decision as ''breathtakingly irresponsible.''

The Aiken Standard from February 17 says that the ''president's lack of faith in using Yucca Mountain for nuclear waste sends a mixed signal to Americans.''

The Greenville News on February 21 said that ''the Obama administration has broken a long-standing Federal promise to deal with the Nation's nuclear waste.''

And in the Lexington County Chronicle on March 4, Mark Bellune editorialized, ''liberals would stick us with nuclear waste.''

I urge Congress and the administration to put politics aside on this issue that has serious implications for America's energy future and national security from terrorist attacks.

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

NASA STOPPING DREAMS FROM BECOMING A REALITY

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, NASA recently announced and unveiled a new interactive computer simulation that allows kids to pretend to be going to the space station, the Moon, Mars and beyond. They said it would excite young people.

Sometimes, though, our new NASA administrators are too shy. What they failed to announce is that also the preliminary design review on Constellation was finished successfully, which means that after exhaustive scientific and technical review, there are no technical issues that can stop Constellation from doing that for which it was designed, to replace the space shuttle with a flight capacity that is 10 times safer than the space shuttle.

You see, Madam Speaker, it is nice to come up with computer games to inspire kids, but it is also cruel to stop the only programs that can make those dreams a reality. There is nothing technically that can stop Constellation from fulfilling its mission, except politics. Thanks, NASA.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST ALAN N. DIKCIS

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor a true American hero, U.S. Army Specialist Alan N. Dikcis, a native of Wheatfield, New York. Sadly, on March 5, while serving his second tour of duty, Specialist Dikcis lost his life when he was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Specialist Dikcis enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Niagara-Wheatfield High School in 2006 and had hoped to spend his career serving his country.

He enjoyed spending time outside, whether it was going for a hike or riding on his motorcycle or his four-wheeler, and he enjoyed spending time with those he loved, his family and his friends. As Specialist Dikcis' stepmother recently said, ''Alan loved being in the Army. He was proud of his work. He made us proud. He made his daughter proud.''

I ask that the House join me in thanking Specialist Dikcis for his honorable service to our great Nation, and I extend our condolences to his family and friends, who had Alan taken from them far too soon.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the 111th Congress is starting its 10th week of this session, and what have we done to help the American family and our small business men and women? Absolutely nothing, Madam Speaker. Absolutely nothing.

We have not passed any legislation that would create jobs, that would lower health care costs, or jump-start our struggling economy. Instead, congressional leaders continue to show their arrogance, ignorance, and incompetence by ramming through job-killing legislation that will increase taxes and increase uncertainty for families and businesses.

Madam Speaker, 15 million Americans are without jobs. Yet Democratic leaders are still forcing their unpopular and unconstitutional health care mandates, and implementing policies that will actually discourage job growth.

The American people want Washington to start over. It is time for congressional leaders to listen to the American people and work on real issues and real solutions.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T WANT CURRENT HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, Democrats are once again rushing to meet an artificial deadline to pass their government takeover of our Nation's health care system, and it is clear that the majority of the American people don't want this bill.

Republicans have been clear about why reforms being proposed should be scrapped. This proposal will increase costs, decrease quality, and decrease access to care for the vast majority of Americans. I can say this unequivocally as a physician and as a Tennessee resident who has experienced TennCare, our State Medicaid program, firsthand. Small businesses that are dealing with the worst recession in decades will have to lay off workers and cut back on wages to deal with the new mandates.

The end result is what we are dealing with in Tennessee right now: rationed care. To meet its budget, the State is limiting TennCare patients to eight visits per year to a physician and $10,000 paid to providers, no matter what the costs.

While we can't make our State Medicaid program work as is, Democrats in Congress want to expand it. In the end, what is happening in Tennessee will happen to everyone in America, and that is the wrong solution.

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.

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

NATIONAL ROBOTICS WEEK

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1055), supporting the designation of National Robotics Week as an annual event.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1055

Whereas the United States has the largest number of academic and research organizations with dedicated programs focused on the advancement of robotics technology;

Whereas robotics has matured into an all-encompassing and enabling technology that, as a pillar of 21st century American innovation, is positioned to fuel a broad array of next generation products and applications, transform our society, and become as ubiquitous over the next several decades as desktop and mobile computing technology is today;

Whereas the emerging market for service robotics in various sectors, including healthcare, national defense, homeland security, energy, manufacturing, logistics, transportation, agriculture, education, consumer goods, and others, is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of nearly 20 percent over the next few years to become a worldwide $27 billion industry;

Whereas robotics is a critical technology capable in the near term of contributing to the economic recovery by creating new jobs, increasing productivity, improving quality, and increasing worker safety, and equally capable over time of addressing the longer term labor and healthcare issues expected to result from the 40 percent increase in number of the Nation's elderly over the next 20 years;

Whereas robotics technology holds tremendous potential for reducing the cost of healthcare delivery, stimulating the discovery and development of new procedures and treatments for a wide variety of diseases and disorders, improving the standard and accessibility of care, providing individuals with disabilities, especially injured veterans, with greater independence and dignity, and enhancing overall patient health outcomes;

Whereas robotics technology is proving essential to our national defense and homeland security by enabling the ongoing development and fielding of unmanned air, ground, and maritime systems that today help keep our Nation's war-fighters and protectors out of harm's way, and in the long run will serve as a highly effective force multiplier;

Whereas robotics is a key transformative technology that can revolutionize American manufacturing by enabling small and mid-sized companies to cost effectively combine highly skilled workers and highly adaptable, precise, and reliable equipment to create and make high value products in high-stakes industries;

Whereas robotics is rapidly proving to be one of the most effective, compelling, and engaging means for teaching and reinforcing fundamental science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts as well as inspiring the Nation's youth to pursue STEM-related careers thereby helping to create a highly-skilled, 21st century American workforce;

Whereas America's ability to maintain its leadership position and be both globally competitive and cooperative in a wide range of rapidly emerging markets is being currently challenged by other regions, including the European Union, Korea, and Japan, who have committed to making multi-billion dollar, long-term investments in further developing and commercializing robotics technology;

Whereas there is a strong need to recognize America's leadership in robotics technology, educate the public on robotics technology's broad potential, growing importance, and future impact on American society, underscore the need for increased investment in robotics technology research and development, and inspire the Nation's youth to pursue careers in robotics and other STEM-related fields; and

Whereas the second week in April each year is designated as ''National Robotics Week'', recognizing the accomplishments of Isaac Asimov, who immigrated to America, taught science, wrote science books for children and adults, first used the term robotics, developed the Three Laws of Robotics, and died in April, 1992: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Robotics Week (NRW) as an annual event;

(2) encourages institutions of higher education and companies which utilize robotics technology to hold open houses during NRW to help explain the technology and its applications;

(3) encourages science museums to organize events and demonstrations during NRW that help to educate and engage the public on the utility, importance, and impact of robotics technology;

(4) encourages schools, clubs, and organizations to hold open houses, organize local competitions, and demonstrate student activities relating to the field of robotics technology;

(5) encourages activities that advance the use of robotics to revolutionize the way fundamental science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) concepts are taught in the classroom and that highlight the success that robotics competitions organized by groups such as For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) are having at inspiring students to pursue STEM-related careers; and

(6) affirms the growing importance of robotics technology and supports all other efforts to increase national awareness of the technology and its impact on the future of the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1055, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 1055, a resolution supporting the designation of National Robotics Week as an annual event.

National Robotics Week is observed the second week of April. Its purpose is to celebrate the United States as a leader in robotics technology development, to educate the public about how robotics technology impacts our society, and to inspire students of all ages to pursue careers in robotics and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Robotics technology is an increasingly important technology for United States innovation and competitiveness, helping to create new jobs and increase productivity. It has potentially transformative implications for a broad range of sectors, including health care, national defense, homeland security, energy, manufacturing, transportation, and agriculture.

At the same time, as the United States struggles to maintain a highly skilled STEM workforce, robotics technology has the ability to inspire young people and get them excited about science and technology. It is precisely this kind of enthusiasm that robotics technology and robotics competitions offer to our children that will encourage them to consider careers in STEM-related fields.

I particularly want to thank and acknowledge the hard work of Representatives MIKE DOYLE from Pennsylvania and PHIL GINGREY from Georgia for introducing this bipartisan resolution. Representatives DOYLE and GINGREY are the co-chairs of the Congressional Robotics Caucus, and they have made it a priority to educate Members of Congress about robotics technology and the important role that it plays in our competitiveness.

I would urge support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1055, supporting the goals and ideals of National Robotics Week, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

National Robotics Week, which annually occurs during the second full week of April, recognizes the transformative role of robotics technology, the ability of robotics to inspire and educate, and the need to underscore education at all levels. This event celebrates the U.S. as a leader in robotics technology, which becomes more prevalent in our lives with each passing year.

The mission of National Robotics Week is to educate the public about the social and cultural impacts of robotics technology and to inspire students of all ages to pursue careers in robotics and other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related fields.

Events are scheduled around the country for this purpose. For those who cannot attend in person, the National Robotics Week Web site provides other ways for parents and teachers to get involved.

Affecting numerous sectors of our economy, including national defense, robotics will continue to be an emerging market, with substantial growth expected. As such it is important for us to recognize the many aspects of the specialized field.

Despite the projected growth, the United States is facing a shortage of graduates in STEM-related fields. National Robotics Week is yet another tool to help parents and teachers motivate and inspire our children to learn about the exciting role robotics plays in our everyday world. Somewhere out there, the next Isaac Asimov is receiving inspiration. Perhaps it is at a National Robotics Week event.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I would just mention, as my dear friend from Texas pointed out, that anybody who has had the opportunity to visit some of these nationwide competitions and see the enthusiasm of these young people as their robots compete in everything from pushing balls around to try to score goals in robotic soccer to mock combat, what you really see is people who have really put their hearts and minds into something, an enthusiastic learning experience that, as Mr. HALL pointed out, will really inspire these people to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

We need more of these folks, and this legislation helps champion that idea. I again urge its passage.

I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1055, legislation to support the designation of National Robotics Week as an annual event.

I introduced this legislation because the increase in the number of emerging and potential applications for robotics is astounding, and

I believe Americans should know more about the important role the field of robotics will play in our national security and economic health in the coming decades.

Robotics has come a long way in the last 20 years, but most Americans still think of real-life robots as confined to the assembly line. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Recently, we've seen advanced next-generation robotics playing an important role in our military for our national defense. Unmanned aerial vehicles today provide life-saving reconnaissance support for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the rocket-armed Predator UAV is reportedly the most effective tool we have for attacking the Al-Qaeda and Taliban leadership and infrastructure. In addition, our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have benefited greatly from the development and deployment of mobile robots that detect and disarm IEDs—the improvised explosive devices that have posed the greatest threat to our troops on the ground in those countries.

Robotics is growing in economic importance as well. Robots are now being used to perform surgeries, fill prescriptions, and deliver supplies and materials, in addition to the role they've filled for many years working on the assembly line. The Robotics Industry Association estimates that nearly 200,000 robots are now used in the United States, and it's estimated that more than one million robots are being used worldwide. Even during the current economic downturn, orders for robotic technology in the pharmaceutical, biomedical, and food and consumer goods sectors rose significantly.

The emerging market for robotics in various sectors, including health care, national defense, homeland security, energy, manufacturing, logistics, transportation, agriculture, education, and consumer goods, is expected to grow at an annual rate of nearly 20 percent over the next few years to become a $27 billion industry worldwide, and one new study predicts that the personal robotics market for products like the Aibo, the iSobot, the Looj, and the Roomba will be worth $15 billion by 2015.

It's clear to me that robotics technology will drive much of the growth in the world economy in the coming decades, much as computer technology did over the last 30 years, and I want America to be the world leader in this exciting technology.

I'm proud to note that the Congressional District I have the honor of representing is already a world leader in researching and developing robotics technology. In 1999, in fact, the Wall Street Journal nicknamed Pittsburgh ''Roboburgh.''

Carnegie Mellon University has been leading the world in integrating robotic technologies into everyday life for over 30 years. Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute has nearly 350 full and part-time employees conducting research in a number of robotics-related fields, including space robotics, medical robotics, computer vision, and artificial intelligence, to name a few. All told, the Robotics Institute has about 100 research projects and an annual research budget of $55 million. Current projects include a lunar prospector robot for NASA and two USDA programs applying robotic technologies to agricultural production.

Pittsburgh is home to first generation companies like Bombardier Transportation and McKesson; and second generation companies such as RedZone, Seegrid, Aethon and RE Squared.

Pittsburgh is also the long-time home of one of the giants of the robotics industry, Red Whitaker, distinguished professor of robotics at Carnegie Mellon University and the leader of the CMU team that won the 2007 DARPA Grand Challenge, a cross-country long-distance race for robotic cars.

At the state-level, Pennsylvania has a total of 45 robotics companies with over 2,000 employees. Nationwide, the figures are even larger and growing dramatically. That is why the Congressional Robotics Caucus was established—and why we're discussing National Robotics Week here today.

National Robotics Week is the brainchild of a number of universities and companies working to promote the development and adoption of robotics technology. The consortium works closely with the House Robotics Caucus, which Representative GINGREY and I have the honor of co-chairing.

The Robotics Caucus focuses on key issues facing the nation's traditional industrial robotics industry and, perhaps even more importantly, those issues critical to newly forming companies, markets, and industries based on advances in technology that enable robots to perform functions beyond traditional assembly line tasks and operate in environments beyond the factory floor. Our goals include: Increasing general awareness of robotics industry challenges and issues among Members of Congress and policy analysts in federal government; educating Members of Congress and congressional staff on current and future research, development, and utilization initiatives regarding robotics; serving as a forum where robotics-related policy issues can be exchanged, debated, and discussed; and ensuring that our nation remains globally competitive as the robotics industry rapidly expands and begins to exert a profound effect on the way our citizens live their lives.

Representative WAMP and I established the Caucus in 2007. Today, the Caucus has over 30 members from across the country.

About a year ago, the group of universities and businesses that serve on the advisory committee for the Robotics Caucus completed a national ''road map'' to promote robotics technology.

One of the steps contained in the road map was to raise public awareness of the potential robotics holds for our nation's growth in the coming years and encourage young people to pursue science, technology, engineering, and math educations essential for maintaining U.S. leadership in this important field. The road map identified the establishment of an annual national robotics week as a good way to help achieve that goal. The week of April 10th to 18th this year will be the first of these annual events to raise national awareness of robotics technology and its potential impact on the future of the Nation.

Over the course of that week, robotics companies, museums, schools, and universities will hold events to educate the public and get young people interested in pursuing careers in fields associated with robotics. In Pittsburgh, for example, Carnegie Mellon University and the Carnegie Science Center will be holding open houses and other events for the public, and there will be a demonstration of an unmanned helicopter by SkEyes Unlimited, a local robotics company.

I introduced H. Res. 1055 earlier this year to recognize the observation of National Robotics Week. It's my hope that this Congressional resolution will help give National Robotics Week—and the important goals it seeks to promote—a higher profile.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1055, a resolution supporting the designation of the 2nd week of April as National Robotics Week. As co-chair of the Congressional Robotics Caucus and lead Republican sponsor of this resolution, I would like to commend my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, for his leadership in robotics and as the chief author of this legislation.

Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, education is instrumental to our ability to stay at the cutting edge of the global economy. Yet, the United States is falling behind the rest of the world in the number of students that are graduating from STEM fields.

Madam Speaker, according to a 2006 Association of American Universities study, 50 percent of students in China receive their undergraduate degrees in natural science or engineering; in Singapore, that number is 67 percent, and 38 percent of South Korea's graduates fall into these fields. Unfortunately, the United States is lagging behind with a staggering 15 percent of graduates in natural science or engineering.

H. Res. 1055 reflects the support and understanding that the promotion of robotics will help inspire current and future students to pursue careers in robotics and other various STEM-related fields. In addition to simply supporting the designation of National Robotics Week, this resolution encourages schools, universities, and other robotics companies to use that week as a way to demonstrate the impressive and ongoing technological advancements in the field of robotics.

Madam Speaker, as a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in chemistry, STEM education is an issue that is near and dear to me, and I am very happy to see this body consider a resolution that supports National Robotics Week. Robotics technology gives students a ''hands on'' learning experience and can provide them with the tools to keep them engaged in STEM fields with the hope that those students will pursue higher education opportunities and careers in those cutting edge fields.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1055.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1055, ''Supporting the designation of National Robotics Week as an annual event,'' introduced by my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Representative DOYLE.

Robotics was a term first used by Isaac Asimov, who immigrated to America, wrote science books for children and adults and developed the Three Laws of Robotics. Robotics is rapidly proving to be one of the more effective, compelling, and engaging means for teaching and reinforcing fundamental science, technology, engineering, and mathematic, STEM, concepts. It is also a major vehicle for influencing the Nation's youth to pursue STEM-related careers, which is helping to create a highly-skilled 21st century workforce. Robotics is a key transformative technology

that can revolutionize American manufacturing by enabling small and mid-sized companies to cost effectively combine highly skilled workers and highly adaptable, precise, and reliable equipment to create and make high value products in high-stakes industries.

Robotics technology is essential to our national defense and homeland security in that it enables the ongoing development and fielding of unmanned air, ground, and maritime systems that today keep our Nation's war-fighters and protectors out of harm's way, and in the long run will serve as a highly effective force multiplier. Robotics technology holds tremendous potential for reducing the cost of health care delivery, stimulating the discovery and development of new procedures and treatments for a variety of diseases and disorders, improving the standard and accessibility of care, providing individuals with disabilities, especially injured veterans, with greater independence and dignity, thus enhancing overall patient outcomes. Robotics is a critical technology capable in the near term of contributing to the economic recovery by creating new jobs, increasing productivity, improving quality, and increasing worker safety.

The emerging market for service robotics in various sectors, including health care, national defense, homeland security, energy, manufacturing, logistics, transportation, agriculture, education, consumer goods, and others, is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of nearly 20 percent over the next few years, to become a worldwide $27 billion industry. Robotics has matured into an all-encompassing and enabling technology that, as a pillar of 21st century American innovation, is positioned to fuel a broad array of next generation products and applications, transform our society and become as ubiquitous over the next several decades as desktop and mobile computing technology today. The United States has the largest number of academic and research organizations with dedicated programs focused on the advancement of robotics technology.

I believe that supporting the designation of National Robotics Week, NRW, as an annual event will encourage all institutions of higher education and companies which utilize robotics technology to hold open houses during NRW to help explain the technology and its related applications. The week will allow schools, clubs, and organizations to organize local competitions, and demonstrate student activities relating to the field of robotics technology, and provide science museums the opportunity to organize demonstrations that help educate and engage the public. NRW will ultimately increase the national awareness of this particular type of technology and its impact on the future of the Nation. The way that fundamental STEM-concepts are taught in the classroom and how they highlight the success that robotics competitions are organized by groups such as For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, or FIRST, are inspiring students to pursue STEM-related careers.

□ 1430

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. I would urge passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1055.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1069) congratulating Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith for being awarded the Nobel Prize in physics.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1069

Whereas breakthroughs in scientific research are the building blocks of a productive, competitive, and healthy society;

Whereas the Nobel Prize is a prestigious international award administered annually by the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden, and has since 1901 recognized the world's most outstanding achievements in physics;

Whereas, on December 10, 2009, in Stockholm, Sweden, Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith from Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, were awarded the Nobel prize for physics for their invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit, the charge-coupled devise (CCD), in addition to Charles K. Kao from Standard Telecommunication Laboratories in Harlow, United Kingdom, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong, China, for his work concerning the transmission of light in fibers for optical communication;

Whereas Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, is an internationally renowned research organization founded in 1925 by the American Telephone & Telegraph company (AT&T);

Whereas a total of seven Nobel Prizes for physics have been awarded for work completed at Bell Laboratories;

Whereas work at Bell Laboratories has led to the invention or advancement of such groundbreaking technologies as the transistor, photovoltaic cells, the laser, the UNIX operating system, and the CCD sensor;

Whereas scientific leadership in the United States is made possible by robust investments in scientific research programs in both the public and private sectors;

Whereas continued support of science research programs is indispensable to maintaining the Nation's position as the global leader in technology and innovation; and

Whereas the accomplishments of these scientists are significant achievements in the field of scientific research and further promote the United States among the world leaders in science: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith for being awarded the Nobel Prize in physics; and

(2) recognizes Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, as a contributor to leadership in scientific research and innovation in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1069, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I am very pleased today to be honoring the two Nobel Prize-winning physicists on their remarkable achievement. Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith, of Bell Labs, were recipients of the 2009 Nobel Prize in physics, along with Dr. Charles K. Kao. Drs. Boyle and Smith won the prize for their invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit, the charge-coupled device, or CCD. If this sounds familiar, it may be because it is the device that makes digital cameras work. The digital camera is already ubiquitous in consumer usage, but people may not realize the device also has been instrumental to scientific endeavors as well. The field of astronomy was revolutionized by the integration of these devices into telescopes to capture details of the cosmos in even greater detail. CCDs have also greatly aided our ability to look inward at the tiniest particles with their adaptation into microscopes.

Today, we also honor Bell Laboratories of Murray Hill, New Jersey. Bell Labs is a renowned research organization whose name is synonymous with innovation. In addition to CCDs, work at Bell Labs has led to the development of the transistor, photovoltaic cells, the laser, and the UNIX operating system. For all of these accomplishments, a total of seven Nobel Prizes for physics have been awarded for the work done at Bell Labs.

I want to thank the sponsor of this resolution, Mr. LANCE of New Jersey, for recognizing these great scientific achievements. It's vitally important as we work to try and maintain America's competitiveness in the global economy that we celebrate scientific achievement and encourage young people to pursue careers in technical fields. We are quick in this body to recognize sports accomplishments. It is only fitting that we also recognize intellectual accomplishments of this caliber, particularly when they have such a dramatic impact on all of our lives. If we want as a society to do better in these areas of endeavor, it only makes sense for Congress to recognize great intellectual achievement when it happens; and these gentlemen are certainly deserving of that recognition.

So, once again, I want to thank my colleagues, and I urge passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1069, which honors and congratulates Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith for receiving the Nobel Prize in physics on December 10, 2009, for their invention of the imaging semiconductor circuit, the charge-coupled device, or CCD. This accomplishment, achieved by Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith while working at Bell Laboratories, has greatly influenced the way human beings view the world.

The invention of the charge-coupled device allows for the direct capture of images electronically rather than on the basis of film. The CCD has given the power of instantaneous imagery to people worldwide. This image-capturing device is not only more efficient but also is more accurate than conventional photography. It has allowed for the development of high-resolution picture-making and has helped create the ability to process and to develop photographs in a real-time setting.

Their design has gone on to be the core of every digital camera, camcorder, and telescope in existence today. In addition, CCD is used in various surgical cameras, as well as in cameras used by NASA. They have enabled millions of people worldwide to capture images sharply and effectively.

It's with great appreciation that we recognize these men today for their accomplishments and for their achievement in winning the 2009 Nobel Prize in physics. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. I thank the gentleman from Texas and the gentleman from Washington.

I rise today to recognize Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith from Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, in my congressional district. Drs. Boyle and Smith, along with Charles Kao of Standard Telecommunications Laboratories and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, were awarded the Nobel Prize for physics for the invention of the charge-coupled device, an imaging semiconductor circuit.

The work of Drs. Boyle and Smith represents a breakthrough in telecommunications that may bring about revolutionary changes in the near future. Their significant achievements have helped advance the United States as the world leader in scientific research and development.

It should come as no surprise that their work was completed at Bell Laboratories. Founded in 1925 by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Bell Laboratories is an internationally renowned research organization. Work at Bell Labs has led to the invention or advancement of such groundbreaking technologies as the transistor, photovoltaic cells, the laser, the UNIX operating system, and the CCD sensor. In fact, seven Nobel Prizes for physics have been awarded for research conducted at Bell Labs.

I'm very proud to commend Drs. Boyle and Smith on winning the Nobel Prize in physics and in sharing their scientific achievements with colleagues in Congress, with Garden State residents, and indeed with the American people. I also thank my colleague, Congressman RUSH HOLT, also from New Jersey, for his efforts to recognize this remarkable achievement and recognizing Bell Labs.

Mr. BAIRD. I want to, again, commend Mr. LANCE from New Jersey and my colleague and friend, Dr. RUSH HOLT, for his leadership on this, an absolutely fitting acknowledgment.

I again urge passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I congratulate Mr. BAIRD for his leadership.

Having no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1069.

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. BAIRD. 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.

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 935) honoring John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM Corporation for receiving the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 935

Whereas the National Medal of Technology and Innovation (formerly known as the National Medal of Technology) is the highest honor for technological achievement bestowed by the President on leading innovators in the United States;

Whereas the purpose of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation is to recognize individuals, teams, and companies that have made lasting and substantial contributions to the United States' competitiveness and to strengthening the Nation's technological workforce through—

(1) the development and commercialization of technological products, processes, and concepts,

(2) technological innovation, and

(3) development of the Nation's technological manpower;

Whereas by highlighting the national importance of technological innovation, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation seeks to inspire future generations in the United States to prepare for and pursue technical careers to keep the United States at the forefront of global technology and economic leadership;

Whereas, on September 17, 2009, the President named John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM Corporation as the recipients of the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation;

Whereas Dr. John E. Warnock and Dr. Charles M. Geschke, both of San Jose, California, pioneered technological innovations that were central to spurring the revolution in desktop publishing, which had an immense and significant role in changing the way people create and engage with information and entertainment across multiple mediums including print, video, and the Internet; and

Whereas Forrest M. Bird of Sandpoint, Idaho, invented pioneering technologies in cardiopulmonary medicine (including the medical respirator), devices that helped launch modern-day medical evacuation capabilities, and intrapulmonary percussive ventilation (''IPV'') technologies, which have saved the lives of millions of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other conditions;

Whereas Dr. Esther Sans Takeuchi of Buffalo, New York, developed the silver vanadium oxide battery that powers the majority of the world's lifesaving implantable cardiac defibrillators, and other medical battery technologies that improve the health and quality of life of millions of people; and

Whereas IBM Corporation of Yorktown Heights, New York, created the Blue Gene supercomputer and its systems architecture, design, and software, which have delivered fundamental new science, unsurpassed speed, and unparalleled energy efficiency, and have had a profound impact worldwide on the high-performance computing industry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and honors the innovative technological achievements of John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM Corporation; and

(2) congratulates John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM Corporation for receiving the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 935, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 935, honoring John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM Corporation for receiving the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is the highest honor for technological achievement given by the President to the country's leading innovators, and the five recipients honored by this resolution have all made great contributions to technology and innovation in the United States.

These honorees have made contributions in areas including desktop publishing, medical and battery technologies, and supercomputing. Innovation and technological advancements in these areas and others are critical for many reasons, including furthering health care technology for our citizens and increasing the United States' ability to remain economically competitive with other nations.

I want to congratulate the five honorees and thank Representative LOFGREN from California for her leadership in introducing this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Res. 935 honors John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM for being awarded the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation. The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is awarded annually to the Nation's leading innovators. This award recognizes those who have made significant contributions to their country. Additionally, it's intended to also inspire our youth to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related fields of study.

Together, Drs. Warnock and Geschke founded Adobe Systems. Adobe Systems enabled documents to be successfully sent electronically from program to program through technology that's today known as PDF. Since their retirement as software executives, both have contributed generously to programs that help encourage young engineers and innovators.

Dr. Forrest Bird of Idaho served as an aviator during World War II. Following the war, he founded Bird, Inc., which developed amphibian aircraft and innovative breathing equipment to reduce the risks of altitude sickness. Using this same technology, Bird later developed medical respirators, which are still in use around the world, and contributed to lowering breath-related infant mortality rates.

Dr. Esther Sans Takeuchi of New York began her distinguished career as a scientist for Greatbatch, Inc. In her years there, she developed a lithium/silver vanadium oxide battery, which was essential to producing implantable cardiac defibrillators. Today, more than 200,000 of those ICDs are implanted each year, most with batteries originally developed by Takeuchi.

IBM's Blue Gene Server Group represents a new age of American innovation. These supercomputers have enabled business and science to visit new calculations previously unattainable. In addition, these computers have been recognized as the most energy efficient of their type in the world today.

On October 7, 2009, President Obama honored the 2008 recipients of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation during a White House ceremony. I join the President in recognizing these distinguished Americans and urge my colleagues to do so.

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

□ 1445

Mr. BAIRD. Again, I want to commend the sponsor of this bill, Ms. LOFGREN, and, most importantly of all, commend the recipients of this prestigious award and thank them for their contributions to the betterment of our entire society, our economy, and the well-being of our public.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 935.

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. BAIRD. 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.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2010

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3650) to establish a National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program, to develop and coordinate a comprehensive and integrated strategy to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, and to provide for the development and implementation of comprehensive regional action plans to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3650

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 ''Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 1451 note).

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—The Act is amended by inserting after section 602 the following:

''SEC. 602A. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

''(2) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program established under section 603A.

''(3) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, any other territory or possession of the United States, and any Indian tribe.

''(4) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term 'Under Secretary' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 602 the following new item:

''Sec. 602A. Definitions.''.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA PROGRAM.

(a) AMENDMENT.—The Act is amended by inserting after section 603 the following:

''SEC. 603A. NATIONAL HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM AND HYPOXIA PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (d), the Under Secretary, through the Task Force established under section 603(a), shall establish and maintain a National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program pursuant to this section.

''(b) DUTIES.—The Under Secretary, through the Program, shall coordinate the efforts of the Task Force to—

''(1) develop and promote a national strategy to understand, detect, predict, control, mitigate, and respond to marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events;

''(2) integrate the research of all Federal programs, including ocean and Great Lakes science and management programs and centers, that address the chemical, biological, and physical components of marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(3) coordinate and work cooperatively with State, tribal, and local government agencies and programs that address marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(4) identify additional research, development, and demonstration needs and priorities relating to monitoring, prediction, prevention, control, mitigation, and response to marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(5) encourage international information sharing and research efforts on marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, and encourage international mitigation, control, and response activities;

''(6) ensure the development and implementation of methods and technologies to protect the ecosystems affected by marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms;

''(7) integrate, coordinate, and augment existing education programs to improve public understanding and awareness of the causes, impacts, and mitigation efforts for marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(8) assist in regional, State, tribal, and local efforts to develop and implement appropriate marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia response plans, strategies, and tools;

''(9) provide resources for and assist in the training of State, tribal, and local water and coastal resource managers in the methods and technologies for monitoring, controlling, mitigating, and responding to the effects of marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events;

''(10) oversee the development, implementation, review, and periodic updating of the Regional Research and Action Plans under section 603B; and

''(11) administer peer-reviewed, merit-based competitive grant funding to support—

''(A) the projects maintained and established by the Program; and

''(B) the research and management needs and priorities identified in the Regional Research and Action Plans.

''(c) COOPERATIVE EFFORTS.—The Under Secretary shall work cooperatively and avoid duplication of efforts with other offices, centers, and programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other agencies represented on the Task Force established under section 603(a), States, tribes, and nongovernmental organizations concerned with marine and freshwater aquatic issues related to harmful algal blooms and hypoxia.

''(d) FRESHWATER PROGRAM.—With respect to the freshwater aspects of the Program, the Administrator and Under Secretary, through the Task Force, shall carry out the duties otherwise assigned to the Under Secretary under this section and section 603B, including the activities described in subsection (e). The Administrator's participation under this subsection shall include—

''(1) research on the ecology of freshwater harmful algal blooms;

''(2) monitoring and event response of freshwater harmful algal blooms in lakes, rivers, estuaries (including their tributaries), and reservoirs;

''(3) mitigation and control of freshwater harmful algal blooms; and

''(4) an identification in the President's annual budget request to Congress of how much funding is proposed in that request for carrying out the activities described in subsection (e).

''(e) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—As part of the program under this section, the Under Secretary shall—

''(1) maintain and enhance existing competitive grant programs at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration relating to marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(2) carry out marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events response activities; and

''(3) enhance communication and coordination among Federal agencies carrying out marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia activities, and increase the availability to appropriate public and private entities of—

''(A) analytical facilities and technologies;

''(B) operational forecasts; and

''(C) reference and research materials.

''(f) INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM.—All monitoring and observation data collected under this Act shall be collected in compliance with all data standards and protocols developed pursuant to the National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), and such data shall be made available through the System established under that Act.

''(g) ACTION STRATEGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2010, the Under Secretary, through the Task Force established under section 603(a), shall transmit to the Congress an action strategy that identifies—

''(A) the specific activities to be carried out by the Program and the timeline for carrying out such activities; and

''(B) the roles and responsibilities of each Federal agency in the Task Force established under section 603(a) in carrying out Program activities.

''(2) FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Under Secretary shall publish the action strategy in the Federal Register.

''(3) PERIODIC REVISION.—The Under Secretary shall periodically review and revise the action strategy prepared under this subsection as necessary.

''(h) REPORT.—Two years after the submission of the action strategy, the Under Secretary shall prepare and transmit to the Congress a report that describes—

''(1) the activities carried out under the Program and the Regional Research and Action Plans and the budget related to these activities;

''(2) the progress made on implementing the action strategy; and

''(3) the need to revise or terminate activities or projects under the Program.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 603 the following new item:

''Sec. 603A. National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program.''.

SEC. 5. REGIONAL RESEARCH AND ACTION PLANS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—The Act is amended by inserting after section 603A the following:

''SEC. 603B. REGIONAL RESEARCH AND ACTION PLANS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary, through the Task Force established under section 603(a), shall—

''(1) identify the appropriate regions and subregions to be addressed by each Regional Research and Action Plan; and

''(2) oversee the development and implementation of the Regional Research and Action Plans.

''(b) CONTENTS.—The Plans developed under this section shall identify—

''(1) regional priorities for ecological, economic, and social research on issues related to the impacts of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(2) research, development, and demonstration activities needed to develop and advance technologies and techniques for minimizing the occurrence of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia and improving capabilities to prevent, predict, monitor, control, and mitigate harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(3) ways to reduce the duration and intensity of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, including in times of emergency;

''(4) research and methods to address human health dimensions of harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(5) mechanisms, including the potential costs and benefits of those mechanisms, to protect vulnerable ecosystems that could be or have been affected by harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events;

''(6) mechanisms by which data, information, and products are transferred between the Program and State, tribal, and local governments and relevant research entities;

''(7) communication, outreach, and information dissemination methods that State, tribal, and local governments and stakeholder organizations can undertake to educate and inform the public concerning harmful algal blooms and hypoxia; and

''(8) the roles that Federal agencies can play to assist in the implementation of the Plan.

''(c) BUILDING ON AVAILABLE STUDIES AND INFORMATION.—In developing the Plans under this section, the Under Secretary shall—

''(1) utilize and build on existing research, assessments, and reports, including those carried out pursuant to existing law and other relevant sources; and

''(2) consider the impacts, research, and existing program activities of all United States coastlines and fresh and inland waters, including the Great Lakes, the Chesapeake Bay, and estuaries and tributaries.

''(d) DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS.—The Under Secretary shall develop Plans under this section with assistance from the individuals and entities described in subsection (f).

''(e) PLAN TIMELINE AND UPDATES.—The Under Secretary, through the Task Force established under section 603(a), shall ensure that the Plans developed under this section are completed not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2010, and updated once every 5 years thereafter.

''(f) COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.—In developing the Plans under this section, as appropriate, the Under Secretary—

''(1) shall coordinate with State coastal management and planning officials;

''(2) shall coordinate with tribal resource management officials;

''(3) shall coordinate with water management and watershed officials from both coastal States and noncoastal States with water sources that drain into water bodies affected by harmful algal blooms and hypoxia; and

''(4) shall consult with—

''(A) public health officials;

''(B) emergency management officials;

''(C) science and technology development institutions;

''(D) economists;

''(E) industries and businesses affected by marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia;

''(F) scientists, with expertise concerning harmful algal blooms or hypoxia, from academic or research institutions; and

''(G) other stakeholders.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 603A, as added by section 4(b) of this Act, the following new item:

''Sec. 603B. Regional research and action plans.''.

SEC. 6. NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO HYPOXIA.

Section 604 is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 604. NORTHERN GULF OF MEXICO HYPOXIA.

''(a) TASK FORCE INITIAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2010, the Administrator, through the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force, shall complete and transmit to the Congress and the President a report on the progress made by Task Force-directed activities toward attainment of the goals of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008.

''(b) TASK FORCE 2-YEAR PROGRESS REPORTS.—After the initial report required under subsection (a), the Administrator, through the Task Force, shall complete and transmit to Congress and the President a report every 2 years thereafter on the progress made by Task Force-directed activities toward attainment of the coastal goal of the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008.

''(c) CONTENTS.—The reports required by this section shall assess progress made toward nutrient load reductions, the response of the hypoxic zone and water quality throughout the Mississippi/Atchafalaya River Basin, and the economic and social effects. The reports shall—

''(1) include an evaluation of how current policies and programs affect management decisions, including those made by municipalities and industrial and agricultural producers;

''(2) evaluate lessons learned; and

''(3) recommend appropriate actions to continue to implement or, if necessary, revise the strategy set forth in the Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan 2008.''.

SEC. 7. PACIFIC NORTHWEST, ESTUARIES, AND PUGET SOUND HYPOXIA.

(a) AMENDMENT.—The Act is amended by inserting after section 604 the following:

''SEC. 604A. PACIFIC NORTHWEST, ESTUARIES, AND PUGET SOUND HYPOXIA.

''(a) ASSESSMENT REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2010, the Task Force established under section 603 shall complete and submit to Congress and the President an integrated assessment of hypoxia in the coastal and estuarine waters of the Pacific Northwest that examines the status of current research, monitoring, prevention, response, and control efforts.

''(b) PLAN.—The Task Force shall include in the regionally appropriate Regional Research and Action Plan developed under section 603B a plan, based on the integrated assessment submitted under subsection (a), for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia in the coastal and estuarine waters of the Pacific Northwest. In developing such plan, the Task Force shall consult with State, Indian tribe, and local governments, and academic, agricultural, industry, and environmental groups and representatives. Such plan shall include incentive-based partnership approaches. The plan shall also address the social and economic costs and benefits of the measures for reducing, mitigating, and controlling hypoxia.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 2 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 604 the following new item:

''Sec. 604A. Pacific Northwest, estuaries, and Puget Sound hypoxia.''.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 605 is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 605. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated—

''(1) to the Under Secretary to carry out sections 603A and 603B, $34,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015, of which, for each fiscal year—

''(A) $2,000,000 may be used for the development of the Regional Research and Action Plans and the reports required by section 604A;

''(B) $3,000,000 may be used for the research and assessment activities related to marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms at research laboratories of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

''(C) $8,000,000 may be used to carry out the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms Program (ECOHAB);

''(D) $5,500,000 may be used to carry out the Monitoring and Event Response for Harmful Algal Blooms Program (MERHAB);

''(E) $1,500,000 may be used to carry out the Northern Gulf of Mexico Ecosystems and Hypoxia Assessment Program (NGOMEX);

''(F) $5,000,000 may be used to carry out the Coastal Hypoxia Research Program (CHRP);

''(G) $5,000,000 may be used to carry out the Prevention, Control, and Mitigation of Harmful Algal Blooms Program (PCM);

''(H) $1,000,000 may be used to carry out marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events response activities; and

''(I) $3,000,000 may be used for increased availability, communication, and coordination activities; and

''(2) to the Administrator to carry out sections 603A, 603B, and 604, $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015.''.

(b) EXTRAMURAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Under Secretary shall ensure that a substantial portion of funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) that are used for research purposes are allocated to extramural research activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3650, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act. This bill represents a timely and necessary step to address a large and growing problem. The Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and Hypoxia Research and Control Act was first signed into law in 1998 and last reauthorized in 2004. And from the outset, I want to commend my dear friend and colleague, Dr. EHLERS, for his tireless work on this over many years.

I stand in support of these programs because this affects virtually every coastal waterway in America as well as freshwater ecosystems. Let me share with you an example of how serious this problem is.

In a small lake in my own district recently, a person was out with their dog, playing fetch in the water. They threw their favorite tennis ball in the water. The dog jumped into the water, retrieved the tennis ball, swam back up on the shore, and promptly died.

Harmful algal blooms are what we know in the saltwater environment as red tides. In freshwater, it's often blue-green algae. They are deadly in both environments. Estimates suggest the cost may be $82 million a year, the annual economic impact of HABs, according to a 2006 study. This means billions of dollars over decades.

I mentioned already the tragic loss of this animal, but on a human scale, red tides pose a serious neurotoxin that can actually affect your ability to remember things over the long run. So we have a serious problem. It is growing in the case of harmful algal blooms.

We have a parallel and related problem that the bill also addresses, and these are so-called dead zones, or hypoxia, so known because they are areas of lack of oxygen. These are expanding. Perhaps the most well known is in the Gulf of Mexico, areas literally thousands of square miles wide that if virtually any marine organism swims into them, they die very shortly thereafter because they do not have sufficient oxygen to survive. This has impacted not only the Gulf of Mexico, but also my own coast and elsewhere in the country.

Now, within the freshwater system, I want to underscore a particularly important point. From the Great Lakes to small creeks of West Virginia and throughout the country, this is a problem. My friend and colleague, Mr. MOLLOHAN from West Virginia, has been particularly interested in this. We need to understand that these harmful algal blooms in freshwater are particularly toxic for the following reasons:

Most of the mechanisms that we currently use to purify water do not work with harmful algal blooms. If you boil water to kill pathogens, that normally purifies it. If you boil water that has harmful algal blooms in it, you actually increase the toxin and increase its lethality. If you filter water to get out protozoa and other things, as many of us do when we are hiking or climbing, that can purify normal water. It is totally ineffective and may be actually counterproductive in harmful algal blooms because all you do is break up the bodies of the algae, but the toxin survives. Chlorination does not work to stop these things.

So we have a problem that is deadly to organisms ranging from fish to shore birds and to human beings. And again, both harmful algal blooms and hypoxic events are spreading.

I want to also mention that in my own district, which has a coastal area that is very economically benefited by the clamming season, all you need is one red tide to come in, shut down the clamming season, and you literally lose millions of dollars of business. And for many of our hotel owners and restaurateurs and others, that's the season. You lose that because of a harmful algal bloom, you have basically lost your economy for the year. So this bill would expand our ability to study and ultimately to control these harmful algal blooms and hypoxic events.

I appreciate the support of many colleagues.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Harmful algal blooms are those blooms that produce toxins that are hazardous to plants and animals. The

most recognized harmful algal bloom is red tide, since it discolors the water and makes seafood inedible. Such an event causes many States severe economic harm through beach closures and restrictions on seafood.

This bill fosters continued research into the causes of red tide, explores ways to manage the blooms, and sets up mechanisms to potentially predict when they may occur. These are all areas of research that are beneficial to our economy and to human health, and I commend the vice ranking member of our committee, Dr. VERN EHLERS, for his commitment to address this important issue through his cosponsorship of this legislation.

While I'm supportive of the goals of this measure, I do need to convey some concerns that I and several of my Republican colleagues had in committee. The bill addresses a problem that affects nearly every State. However, we want to make sure that the original and the regional research and action plans that are called for are not a top-down mandate but a true collaboration between the Federal Government and the States and local areas directly affected by these blooms. We want to make sure we are not imposing undue burdens on States that they would not voluntarily take on themselves.

Although the onus is currently on the Federal Government, the activities identified in these plans are ones that will most likely be executed by State, tribal, and local governments. As written, the bill does not contain any safeguards against unfunded mandates. During the markup, we offered amendments that would address these concerns.

The first amendment would have prevented any increased financial burden to State, tribal, or local governments as a result of anything in the bill or the law it amends. Despite receiving bipartisan support, the amendment was not accepted.

A second amendment would have required the development and implementation of the plans initiated only at the request of the States, not the Federal Government. Unfortunately, this amendment also failed. State, tribal, and local governments are already shouldering the burden of the effects of harmful algal blooms since these events have a direct impact on local and regional economies. Furthermore, in the current economic climate, these governments are struggling to prioritize and fund the most basic of services. The assurance of the added protection against unfunded mandates at this time should be something all Members favor.

This legislation has gone through a number of changes since it passed out of committee. Some changes were made by the majority after the bill passed out of committee, and I hope that in the future, we can make necessary changes while bills are still in committee so that all Members can weigh in before bills go to the floor.

Finally, I have concerns about the authorization levels in the bill. Given this era of fiscal constraint, we must be mindful of how we spend taxpayers' dollars. This bill authorizes funding that is almost three times the amount that has been appropriated in recent years. The authorization levels are 50 percent higher than the last reauthorization in 2004. The Federal Government did not spend more than $15 million per year when the authorization level was at $26 million per year, so it's hard for me to support raising the level to $41 million per year in 2011.

Harmful algal blooms and hypoxia are growing threats to our economy and to our economic prosperity and impact coastal gulf and even inland States. While I support the overarching goals of research into these issues and the development of technologies and procedures to lessen their harmful consequences, I remain concerned that this bill is too expensive and does not protect against unfunded mandates.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, at this point, I want to acknowledge that, as is so often the case, H.R. 3650 was a collaborative effort, not just with my minority colleagues on the Science and Technology Committee, but also with the Natural Resources Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee as well. I would like, here, to insert a letter of exchanges with those committees into the RECORD, and I want to also thank both Chairmen RAHALL and OBERSTAR for their efforts on this legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, November 12, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Rayburn H.O.B., Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009, which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Because of the continued cooperation and consideration that you have afforded me and my staff in developing these provisions, and knowing of your interest in expediting this legislation, I am willing to waive further consideration of H.R. 3650 by the Committee on Natural Resources at this time. Of course, this waiver is not intended to prejudice any future jurisdictional claims over the provisions of this legislation or similar language. I also reserve the right to seek to have conferees named from the Committee on Natural Resources on these provisions, and request your support if such a request is made.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 3650 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

With warm regards, I am
Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, November 12, 2009.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL, II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments 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 Natural Resources. I acknowledge that by discharging the Committee on Natural Resources from further consideration of 3650, 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 Natural Resources has jurisdiction. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 3650 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.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to you regarding H.R. 3650, the ''Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009''.

H.R. 3650 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. 3650.

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. 3650 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. 3650 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure in the House.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR, M.C.,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, December 14, 2009.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments 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. 3650. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 3650 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.

If I may, at this point, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL).

Mr. KRATOVIL. I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3650 and urge my colleagues to support it.

Maryland's First Congressional District, my district, is a district defined by the water that surrounds it. Healthy water in our district means commerce, recreation, and, most importantly, jobs.

A harmful algal bloom is a rapid overproduction of certain species of algae that produce toxins which are detrimental to plants and animals. These outbreaks are commonly referred to, as you have heard, as red or brown tides and have the potential to kill fish and other aquatic life by decreasing sunlight available to the water and by using up available oxygen in the water.

In recent years, many of the Nation's coastlines, near-shore marine waters and freshwaters have experienced an increase in the number, frequency, duration, and types of HABs. If we continue to allow this problem to persist, bodies of water like the Chesapeake Bay in my district will see a detrimental decline in water quality which will affect the thousands of species that call the bay home.

More importantly, perhaps, the thousands of men and women who rely on the bay to pay their bills will be put out of work. Watermen, commercial fishermen, charter boat captains, and any number of similar professions have been part of the Eastern Shore culture for decades. If gone unchecked, these professions will become less and less prominent, and an entire segment of our local economy will be hurt.

H.R. 3650 is a good bill that takes important steps in the fight against red tides and other harmful algae by creating a coordinated national strategy to deal with HABs while at the same time allowing for flexibility so that different regions can best address their unique concerns.

I am also pleased, again, as was mentioned, that funding will actually be directed to control and prevention of this problem in addition to, simply, research. This will no doubt limit the severity and frequency of this dangerous environmental concern.

Madam Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland. He has been a tireless champion of this. The watermen in his district and the others who depend on this great natural resource owe him, I am certain, a great debt of gratitude.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), who has also been a tireless champion of clean water and of this issue.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. BAIRD from Washington for his leadership. He has been a real champion on behalf of clean water and clean beaches. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Science and Technology Committee for their terrific work on what I call the ''red tide bill.''

This is a jobs bill because, let me tell you, coming from the great State of Florida, the Sunshine State, we depend on folks from all across the country coming to vacation in Florida, to swim and to fish. There is nothing like a vacation in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. And I see my friend and colleague here who represents the Florida Keys. There is nothing like a vacation there where you can spend time unwinding on our beautiful beaches.

But there is a real threat to our tourism economy and jobs in the State of Florida, like there is in other parts of the country, and it's these very harmful algal blooms that cause red tide. In a State that employs over 1 million Floridians and where tourism has a $65 billion impact on our State's economy, when the red tide rolls in, it's a serious threat, because what the red tide does is it causes you difficulty breathing. It burns your eyes. Dead fish will roll up on the beaches. It's really bad news.

The problem is we don't know what causes it, and that's why this bill is so important. And it's tied to jobs because, if we can do a little bit of research and determine what the causes are, we will be able to protect our tourism economy and make sure that we have clean and healthy beaches for folks who need that vacation.

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By some estimates, red tide outbreaks cost coastal communities $82 million a year. We have got to find out what is happening here. I also want to recognize my colleague and good friend Congressman CONNIE MACK, who represents some of the most beautiful beaches in the country down in Naples and Sanibel Island. Two years ago we were able to authorize $90 million for a 3-year period for peer-reviewed science research on red tide.

But today's legislation builds on that bipartisan effort. And Representative BAIRD's bill, which I cosponsored, creates a new initiative on red tide, and will dedicate some monies to over 5 years of finding a solution that will give our Federal and State agencies a real leg up.

Like I said, red tide is a significant threat to jobs, our tourism economy, our health, and our environment. So I am pleased to urge that we all join together to protect our coastal resources and the tourism-related jobs that come with having healthy beaches by learning more about harmful algal blooms and adopting H.R. 3650.

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I want to commend Ms. CASTOR for her comments, and join her in acknowledgement of the incredible leadership of CONNIE MACK from Florida. We talk about the costs of this legislation. Consider the costs to Florida's economy, to the Gulf economy if a red tide comes in at the height of tourist season. You can't swim in this; it's toxic. You can't fish in it, you can't collect shellfish. The fishing industry out in the coast when a hypoxic zone comes in, it kills hundreds of thousands of fish overnight. Shore birds are affected. And on and on the list goes.

As Ms. CASTOR pointed out and as Mr. MACK has pointed out in our discussions, making sure that we understand what causes this and finding ways to remediate it and prevent it is not only in the interests of human health, it is in the interests of our economy as well.

I am particularly pleased also that the Puget Sound area, which is near and dear to my heart and near to my home, has received recognition. We have got a serious problem off the coast in terms of red tide. But within the Puget Sound region, particularly Hood Canal, there is a growing annual development of a dead zone. And these things seem to be developing earlier, lasting longer, and growing in size. This bill will help us understand why.

The bill has support from a broad group of stakeholders, including Ocean Champions and the PURRE Water Coalition. And again, I am pleased that it has been a bipartisan effort. Dr. EHLERS, as I mentioned earlier, has been instrumental for many years on this. And of course CONNIE MACK has been as well. I thank the gentlemen for their input. Mr. HALL has offered some constructive suggestions. And of course as we move this forward and work with the Senate, we will try to make sure

we incorporate as many of those as we can. Finally, I would also like to recognize the staff who worked so diligently on this bill: Shimere Williams and Katrina Lassiter on the majority side, and Tara Rothschild on the minority side.

Ongoing research, development, and implementation of an action strategy are key components to addressing this environmental challenge, and H.R. 3650 helps move us forward in each of these areas. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3650.

One last thing I will say. Understanding the impact of harmful algal blooms in freshwater is absolutely critical. If a major metropolitan area develops a toxic algal bloom, as I mentioned earlier, it will be extraordinarily difficult to remove the toxins from the waterway. It has happened in some smaller communities. It is extremely costly, and can present an urgent and immediate and hugely expensive health crisis. We need to understand how to prevent this, and we need to understand how to treat it. This legislation will help us do that both in the saltwater and in the freshwater environment. I urge its passage, and thank my colleagues.

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act. I would like to thank Congressman BAIRD who took the lead this Congress, along with Congresswoman KATHY CASTOR and Congressman ALLEN BOYD, for their work on this important issue. Passing this important piece of legislation is the first step in increasing research for harmful algal blooms while ensuring that scientists and experts in the field, and not politicians, determine where research money is spent.

Last Congress, I introduced the Save Our Shores Act to increase our commitment to researching harmful algal blooms. Since then, my colleagues and I have worked together to tackle red tide and other harmful algal blooms. The committee has crafted new language to improve the legislation by including freshwater harmful algal blooms and instituting regional action plans.

These are important efforts and it is time we recognize that although harmful algal blooms affect our entire Nation, they are different throughout the country. I represent the coastal areas of southwest Florida. If you haven't been there, it's a beautiful part of the country, with miles and miles of white sandy beaches. For southwest Florida, like many communities, a healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand-in-hand. As a kid growing up in Cape Coral red tide blooms were short-lived nuisances that lasted just a few days. Today, however, these blooms continue for months at a time, and they have long-lasting implications that threaten the environment, people's health, and our overall quality of life. It is imperative that we do more to understand and combat this problem.

These blooms cause dangerous respiratory distress and burning eyes, as well as the potential for severe food poisoning from contaminated shellfish. Harmful algal blooms not only affect our personal health, they also affect the health of our economy. Red tide and other toxic blooms cost approximately $80 million annually to communities across the United States of America. From New England to the Great Lakes, from California to South Carolina, these toxic blooms affect us all.

Madam Speaker, by passing this legislation today, the House of Representatives is giving this important issue the attention it deserves. I salute Congressman BAIRD and all the other Members who cosponsored this legislation for bringing this matter to the forefront and making this research a priority. I urge all of my colleagues to support this vital legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3650, the "Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2010".

This legislation, which is an amendment to the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, provides additional focus on Federal efforts to understand, detect, predict, control, mitigate, and respond to both marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events.

I applaud the work of the principal sponsors of this legislation, my colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the gentleman from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, and the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. EHLERS, and their bipartisan efforts to improve the overall understanding and control of harmful algal blooms and hypoxic conditions.

Over the past two Congresses, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has held numerous hearings on the impact of excessive nutrients on water quality—most notably in connection with nonpoint sources of pollution, coastal water quality protection, under the BEACH Act, and in the Great Lakes.

These hearings highlighted the strong scientific evidence that excessive discharges of nitrogen and phosphorous can result in the growth of harmful algal blooms and hypoxic, low-oxygen, conditions in receiving waters. According to testimony from the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, the most significant sources of nutrients come from agricultural runoff, as well as commercial or residential fertilizers, animal waste, sewage treatment plants, and air deposition from utilities and vehicles. As is evident from the ongoing "dead-zone" in the Gulf of Mexico and the emergence of a similar "dead-zone" in Lake Erie, additional efforts are warranted to reduce the adverse impacts of excessive nutrients on national water quality.

EPA has statutory authority under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, more commonly known as the Clean Water Act, as well as other Federal authorities, to implement programs designed to provide protections for oceans, coastal waters, and freshwater lakes, rivers, and streams.

Through the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, NPDES, permitting program under section 402, the establishment of water quality standards by individual States, and other Clean Water Act authorities, both EPA and the States have statutory tools available to target ongoing sources of nitrogen and phosphorous and to minimize the potential for harmful algal bloom outbreaks or the creation of hypoxic conditions in the Nation's waters. Unfortunately, there has been mixed success in equally addressing both point sources, e.g., publicly owned treatment works and urban stormwater, and nonpoint sources, e.g., runoff from urban lawns, construction sites, and agricultural areas.

I believe that more needs to be done to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act "to restore and protect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters." We should not be complacent with the fact that one-third of the Nation's assessed waters still do not meet "fishable and swimmable" standards—as called for almost 40 years ago in the 1972 Clean Water Act.

I believe that the authorities contained in H.R. 3650 can complement ongoing efforts by the Environmental Protection Agency and other Federal partners, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, to address these remaining water quality challenges. However, this legislation should not be interpreted as allowing other Federal agencies to overtake or otherwise supplant ongoing efforts by EPA, including efforts pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

I thank the Chairman of the Committee on Science, the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. GORDON, and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Science, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. HALL, for their commitment to continue to work with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to enhance the implementation of the Federal harmful algal bloom program.

As this legislation goes to conference with the Other Body, I will continue to work with the chairman and ranking member to ensure that this legislation complements, not supplants, ongoing efforts by EPA to control harmful algal blooms and hypoxic conditions in the Nation's waters.

Increased Federal attention and accountability to harmful algal bloom and hypoxic condition control efforts is important. This legislation provides an opportunity for increased coordination between various Federal agencies, States, and other stakeholders, while building on the strong foundation of Federal efforts to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxic conditions to date.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009. As a cosponsor of this bill I strongly support the development of a national strategy to address and respond to marine and freshwater harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events.

Coastal regions across the country are reporting increases in the occurrence of devastating harmful algal blooms. It is believed that excess nutrients from upstream cause what are normally naturally occurring algae in our coastal waters to rapidly increase in number causing a bloom.

These increased levels of algae have devastating environmental, economic, and human health impacts along our coastlines.

Harmful algal blooms produce powerful toxins that kill fish, shellfish, mammals and birds. In 2007, a devastating harmful algal bloom along the California coastline—from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles—resulted in hundreds of marine mammal and seabird deaths.

Toxins from harmful algae also accumulate in shellfish causing commercial shellfish industries to close during blooms, which in turn leads to significant economic losses to fishing

families. Decreased tourism and recreation during a bloom event can also result in the loss of millions of dollars to local coastal economies. Even worse, if contaminated shellfish are consumed it could result in paralysis or even death. Increased cases of respiratory distress, especially among seniors and children, have been reported in areas affected by these blooms.

Madam Speaker, I support the directive in H.R. 3650, which establishes a Federal task force that would develop regional action plans to address and respond to harmful algal bloom and hypoxia events around the country. Currently, hypoxic areas, or dead zones, have been recurring over large areas of the Pacific Northwest coastline for the last several years.

H.R. 3650 is a critical first step for developing strategies to mitigate the impacts of harmful algal blooms on regional coastal water quality, marine mammals and harvestable shellfish.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3650 to protect human health and coastal economies.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 3650, the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2009, which recognizes the growing problem of harmful algal blooms in coastal and freshwater environments.

Unfortunately, I know all too well the need for this legislation. In September of 2009, a fish kill occurred in Dunkard Creek, a 38–mile creek on the border of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. According to news reports, this massive fish kill eliminated more than 160 species of fish, salamanders and endangered mussels from one of the most biologically-diverse streams in either State. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection determined that golden algae caused the kill, but much remains unknown. How did the algae arrive in West Virginia? What factors contributed to the bloom? How can blooms be contained from moving throughout the watershed? More information is needed to develop a thoughtful process to mitigate and control the growth and spread of harmful algae.

Fortunately, the legislation under consideration today recognizes the increasing number of freshwater algal blooms, and establishes a partnership between NOAA and EPA to research, monitor and respond to those freshwater blooms. Ultimately, this legislation will put West Virginia in a better position to address existing blooms in the State and prevent further spread of golden algae.

For West Virginia, this is an ecological and economic issue. Our rivers, creeks and watersheds are recreation destinations, modes of transportation, and are critical to local economies. I am pleased to support this measure, and look forward to its enactment.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3650, ''The Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendment Act of 2009.'' This bill requires the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to utilize the resources of the Inter Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Task Force to establish and maintain a National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program. This program will help to develop and promote a national strategy to address and respond to one of the major problems facing our marine and freshwater ecosystems: algae blooms.

The need to address the ongoing harmful blooms and hypoxic events that increase daily, in our oceans, lakes, rivers and waterways, is long overdue. I applaud the fact that this bill allows for closer coordination between state and federal agencies through the use of innovative demonstration projects. Similarly, I also support provisions in this legislation that focus our efforts to educate our citizens about the causes and harmful environmental effects of pollution and algal blooms in our oceans, rivers, lakes, and waterways.

Water is our most critical natural resource and this legislation will improve our Nation's ability to provide safe water to all. As we continue to experience climate change, the threat posed by algal blooms will be a continuing challenge. This legislation addresses this threat in a measured, scientific manner and will improve our ability to address this issue in the future. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3650, 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. BAIRD. 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.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO CHILE EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1144) expressing condolences to the families of the victims of the February 27, 2010, earthquake in Chile, as well as solidarity with and support for the people of Chile as they plan for recovery and reconstruction.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1144

Whereas, on February 27, 2010, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake, one of the largest ever recorded, struck off the coast of Chile;

Whereas casualty estimates, which number in the hundreds and continue to grow, as well as the destruction of entire coastal villages and extensive damage to highways, bridges, apartments, and infrastructure, have led to the Government of Chile's declaration of a ''state of catastrophe'';

Whereas an estimated 2,000,000 people, including upwards of 1,500,000 displaced persons, have been directly affected by the earthquake, the tsunami, and its aftermath;

Whereas aftershocks numbering over 100, including 8 aftershocks registering above a 6.0 magnitude, continue to affect the coast and the rest of the country after the initial 120-second tremor, the strongest and most damaging earthquake in Chile in the last 50 years;

Whereas Chile had already overcome the trials of more than a dozen previous 7.0-magnitude or greater earthquakes since the 1960 Valdivia 9.5-magnitude quake, the largest ever measured, which left thousands dead;

Whereas the tsunami caused by the earthquake, which came shortly after, with waves measuring over 19 feet, slammed 124 miles of Chile's coast and accounted for a significant percentage of the casualties and missing;

Whereas the threat of potential tsunamis across the ''Ring of Fire'' earthquake area prompted warnings and advisories issued from Hawaii to as far as the California coast and Alaska;

Whereas according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Concepcion, Chile's second largest city, was 70 miles from the earthquake's epicenter and suffered some of the worst damage, and its hundreds of thousands of residents initially remained largely cut off from the remainder of the country without many basic necessities, including running water and electricity;

Whereas the coastal town of Dichato and its 4,000 residents were among the hardest hit, and is reportedly 80 percent destroyed;

Whereas 80 percent of Talcahuano's 180,000 residents living on the Chilean coast were left homeless by the earthquake;

Whereas initial estimates of the damage costs range from $15,000,000,000 to $30,000,000,000;

Whereas basic necessities across the country, including electricity, clean water access, telephone access, and communication systems, continue to be restored on a progressive basis in many zones;

Whereas the Government of Chile continues to deliver aid to affected citizens to the best of its ability, including airlifting supplies to remote towns;

Whereas the Government of Chile has taken significant measures to maintain order and public security in the streets to prevent more widespread panic and chaos as damage assessments are made and relief is delivered;

Whereas Chile is a political and economic leader and a close ally of the United States in Latin America;

Whereas the people and Government of Chile have stood resolute and steadfast in the face of a long history of destructive earthquakes;

Whereas Chile's stringent building codes, which one local architect called ''our proud building standards'', as well as the Government of Chile's ability to implement them, greatly mitigated the impact of this catastrophic natural event both in terms of casualties and physical damage to the infrastructure of the country;

Whereas Chile showed its deep generosity and responsibility as a regional ally when it deployed Chilean earthquake rescue teams, which Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has described as among the best in the world, to Haiti following its devastating earthquake earlier this year;

Whereas these search and rescue teams continue to work tirelessly to save more lives from collapsed buildings and neighborhoods struck by the earthquake in Chile;

Whereas several international urban search and rescue teams remain prepared to deploy to Chile if the need arises;

Whereas sitting Chilean President Michelle Bachelet declared the natural disaster ''a catastrophe of such unthinkable magnitude that it will require a giant effort to recover'';

Whereas incoming Chilean President Sebastian Pinera, to be sworn in March 11, 2010, expressed that ''The future government is working tirelessly and will continue to confront the emergency that Pres. Bachelet is facing, because the emergency will not be

over in five days. We are set to tackle something even more difficult, which is to lift Chile up, to reconstruct our country'';

Whereas President Obama declared that the United States ''stands ready to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts and we have resources that are positioned to deploy should the Chilean government ask for our help.'';

Whereas Secretary Clinton visited Chile on March 2, 2010, delivering crucial communication equipment, and vowed that ''We'll be here to help when others leave because we are committed to this partnership and this friendship with Chile.''; and

Whereas the world stands ready to swiftly aid those affected by this epic natural disaster: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the significant loss of life, as well as the physical damage, caused by the February 27, 2010, earthquake and resulting tsunami in Chile;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of this horrific tragedy, and solidarity with the millions of affected Chileans;

(3) recognizes that Chile is and remains a close ally and friend of the United States;

(4) recognizes that Chile's embrace of democratic ideals and the Government of Chile's ability to implement strict building standards due to its strong governance structure greatly mitigated the impact of this natural disaster;

(5) commends the rescue, relief, and recovery actions, still underway, taken by the Government of Chile;

(6) commends the United States Government, the entire international community, and nongovernmental organizations for their prompt deployment of assistance to Chile;

(7) urges the President to continue to support the Government of Chile, as it assesses its relief and recovery needs; and

(8) pays tribute to the resilience, strength, and courage of the people of Chile as they begin the recovery and rebuilding process.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This resolution, introduced by my good friend and colleague from Texas, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, marks the tragedy of a second powerful earthquake in as many months to strike a country in the Western Hemisphere, this time our close friend and ally Chile.

On February 27, an 8.8-magnitude tremor struck just 70 miles away from Chile's second largest city, Concepcion, and has left a terrible toll in its wake. The Chilean people have a long history of resolve in the face of past earthquakes. Last month's quake was one of the largest ever recorded, and the worst to hit the country since a 1960 earthquake, the strongest ever measured.

The tsunami and aftershocks from this quake, one of which measured 6.3 this past Friday, led to the declaration of a state of catastrophe for this economic and political leader in Latin America. The Chilean people are now faced with an unprecedented challenge to recover and rebuild, and they deserve our support.

Official casualty estimates number in the hundreds, while another 2 million people, including as many as 1.5 million displaced persons, were directly affected by the temblor and the crashing 19-foot waves that soon followed. In addition to the human toll, estimates of the cost of physical damage range from $15 to $30 billion, including the destruction of entire coastal villages, damages to roads, bridges, residences, and other infrastructure.

The international community rallied behind Chile with financial contributions, donations of telecommunications equipment, and offers of expert technical help in the immediate aftermath of this 120-second quake, which was 500 times more powerful than the 7.0-magnitude tremor that hit Haiti just over 6 weeks prior. In this context, it is important to highlight Chile's generosity in dispatching some of its own outstanding earthquake rescue teams to Haiti in that country's time of desperate need just weeks before.

It is also worth noting that Chile's embrace of good governance, and specifically its ability to create, implement, and enforce strict building codes played a major role in mitigating the effects of this terrible event, which could have had so much more by way of loss of lives.

In spite of this epic natural disaster, the Chilean people and their government remain committed to the principles of unity and rebuilding their lives and restoring their country. This resolution makes it clear that as they go about this critical task, the United States stands with them.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today as a proud original cosponsor of the bill before us, House Resolution 1144, and join my colleagues in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to all of those impacted by the devastating earthquake in Chile 2 weeks ago. The strength and the magnitude of this quake and its resulting tsunami caused hundreds of lives to be lost and left countless survivors homeless.

As the Government of Chile continues to carry out its immediate relief and recovery efforts and complete its damage assessments, we are just beginning to get a sense of how much this destruction has brought about. Nearly 1.5 million homes are reported to have been damaged, and many historic structures collapsed. An estimated 2 million people in Chile were displaced by the quake and the subsequent tsunamis that swept away entire coastal towns. However, the democratic stability and the strong government structures in place prior to the earthquake will undoubtedly enable Chile to respond responsibly to this disaster. In particular, its commitment to free market principles will allow private sector actors to immediately respond to certain damaged sectors such as water and sanitation. This will help to minimize the tremendous challenges facing the government of Chile in the aftermath of the crisis. It will allow domestic and international assistance to go only where it is absolutely needed.

The U.S. Southern Command, SOUTHCOM, based in my home district of Miami, Florida, has played a vital role in providing necessary assistance to the people of Chile. While we are carrying out important relief efforts in Haiti, here the U.S. military has helped to provide important satellite communications equipment to the emergency operation and response officials in Chile. What an incredible statement that is for our wonderful men and women serving our Nation's Armed Forces.

Our military is also in the process of deploying an Expeditionary Medical Support team, EMEDS unit, to help increase crucial medical capabilities in that country. And we thank them for their prompt action.

I join my colleagues in expressing our condolences to those impacted by this terrible disaster. The United States will continue to stand side by side with the people of Chile as they begin to recover.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I now yield 4 minutes to the chairman of the Higher Education Subcommittee, my friend from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1144. The resolution expresses the House of Representatives' condolences for the families of the victims of the powerful earthquake in Chile, as well as solidarity with and support for the people of Chile.

Let me first thank Chairman BERMAN, Subcommittee Chairman ENGEL, and my friend and colleague Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN for helping bring this resolution to the floor. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, who are unanimously in support of H. Res. 1144.

Chile and the United States have a long-standing and important partnership. It is one of mutual respect and understanding. Both countries understand their democratic and economic prosperity are aligned, and that we need to work together for our mutual benefit. The Congressional Hispanic Caucus has worked to build on this relationship by recognizing the rich cultural heritage both nations share.

As chairman of the CHC's task force on commerce and international relations, I am committed to working with my colleagues to strengthen our relations with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere.

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The devastating disaster that has struck Chile is a humanitarian imperative requiring immediate action. Millions of families have lost their home or been displaced by the gigantic earthquake and the following tsunami and strong aftershocks. Hundreds have died and many are still missing. Hundreds of thousands of families in Chile remain without running water or power.

The United States has been quick to respond to President Bachelet's call for help and is providing much-needed equipment to reestablish communication and has deployed two C–130 cargo planes to help transport humanitarian cargo. The United States stands ready to provide whatever additional aid is necessary to help the victims of this natural disaster. We have seen the generosity of the American people during the recent disaster in Haiti, and I am confident that spirit of generosity will also be extended to the people of Chile.

In closing, I want to say that the resolution recounts the tragic events that have unfolded in Chile so I will not read it again. The resolution reaffirms the House of Representatives' commitment to the people of Chile to aid in their speedy recovery. We applaud the resolve and the resilience of those affected by the earthquake. The people of Chile on other occasions have come together to help their friends and neighbors rebuild. Today we want to assure them that we will stand by their side to help as they recover from this tragedy.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. HINOJOSA for his leadership on this important resolution, and I thank my colleague from Florida.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1144.

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. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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.

SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FIGHT AGAINST DRUG VIOLENCE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1032) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to assist the Mexican Government in fighting the drug cartels and curbing violence against Mexican and United States citizens, both in the United States and abroad, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1032

Whereas Mr. Agustin Roberto ''Bobby'' Salcedo, a United States citizen and resident of California, was senselessly murdered on December 31, 2009, at the young age of 33 while vacationing with his family in the city of Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico;

Whereas Bobby Salcedo was a rising star in the community, had just been elected to his second term as a member of the El Monte City School Board, and served as the vice principal and football coach at his alma mater, Mountain View High School;

Whereas Bobby Salcedo was studying for his doctorate in educational leadership at the University of California, Los Angeles, after having earned his bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree in educational administration from California State University, San Bernardino;

Whereas Bobby Salcedo, the son of immigrant parents, sought to chart a better course for his entire community, serving as a local leader for such organizations as the South El Monte/Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico Sister City Organization;

Whereas, on December 31, 2009, Mr. Salcedo was having dinner in Mexico in a restaurant with family and friends when a group of armed and masked men burst in and forcibly removed Mr. Salcedo and 5 other men;

Whereas Mr. Salcedo was killed execution-style with a single gunshot to the head;

Whereas Bobby Salcedo's body, along with the bodies of the 5 other men, was found several hours later dumped in a field near a canal;

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been asked by the Government of Mexico to assist in investigating the death of Mr. Salcedo;

Whereas innocents are directly impacted by drug-related violence in Mexico;

Whereas the Mexican drug cartels are major producers and suppliers to the United States market for heroin, methamphetamine, and marijuana and the major transit country for 90 percent of the cocaine sold in the United States;

Whereas the National Drug Intelligence Center, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, has identified Mexican drug trafficking organizations as ''the greatest drug trafficking threat to the United States'';

Whereas the illegal trafficking of firearms, including from the United States to Mexico, contributes to drug-related violence, and the United States–Mexico Joint Statement on the Merida Initiative on October 22, 2007, stated that the United States will ''continue to combat trafficking of weapons and bulk currency to Mexico.'';

Whereas the Mexican drug cartels have become increasingly violent, killing at least 5,600 people in 2008 and more than 7,000 people in 2009;

Whereas the Mexican State of Durango, where Bobby Salcedo's execution took place, is one of the most violent with more than 700 recorded gang related killings in 2009;

Whereas the Government of President Felipe Calderon has significantly stepped up Mexico's efforts to confront the drug cartels and end the violence, deploying some 45,000 troops and 5,000 police throughout Mexico; and

Whereas the United States Congress has appropriated over $1,300,000,000 under the Merida Initiative to help Mexico break the power and impunity of the drug cartels, assist the Government of Mexico in strengthening its judicial and law enforcement institutions, curtail gang activity in Mexico, and disrupt demand for and distribution of drugs in the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses sorrow at the death of Mr. Agustin Roberto ''Bobby'' Salcedo;

(2) supports continued cooperation between the United States Government and the Government of Mexico to help identify and convict Mr. Salcedo's killers;

(3) calls on the Governments of the United States and Mexico to increase cooperation to prosecute those responsible for the drug-related killings of innocents in Mexico, be they United States or Mexican citizens; and

(4) reaffirms its continued support for bilateral cooperation with Mexico to break the power of the Mexican drug cartels and turn the tide of violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On December 31, Mr. Agustin Roberto ''Bobby'' Salcedo, a high school vice principal and school board member, and a young leader of several local organizations, was brutally murdered while on a family vacation in Durango state, Mexico, at the hands of violent men with ties to Mexican drug cartels.

While enjoying the company of family and friends at a restaurant in the city of Gomez Palacio, Mr. Salcedo and five other patrons were taken hostage by a group of masked, armed individuals. They were all subsequently killed execution-style, their bodies discovered in a field a few hours later.

This incident is a tragic example of the drug-related violence that is plaguing Mexico today. Reliable estimates suggest that more than 16,000 people have died in drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderon declared a war on drug traffickers in January 2007, including almost 8,000 deaths in 2009 alone and over 1,000 so far this year.

Many of those killed each year are associated with the drug trade, but there has been an alarming increase in the number of innocent bystanders who have become victims of the violence, including Mr. Salcedo. Last year, more than 500 women and children were killed by these cartels. The Department of Justice has identified the Mexican cartels as ''the greatest drug trafficking threat to the United States.'' Indeed, these cartels are major producers and suppliers of heroin, methamphetamine, and marijuana to the United States drug market and the major transit country for 90 percent of the cocaine sold in the United States.

In light of horrific events such as Mr. Salcedo's senseless murder, which the FBI continues to investigate, alongside Mexican authorities, we must continue to seek justice for all American citizens and other innocents harmed by drug-related violence.

Mr. Salcedo was a respected member of his El Monte, California, community, and an inspiration to so many of his students. His friends and family deserve to see that his murderers and their patrons are brought to justice. The United States must continue to work with Mexico to break the grip of the powerful drug cartels, curtail violence, reduce arms trafficking from the United States to Mexico, and diminish the demand for drugs throughout North America.

It is important that we express our solidarity with the Mexican people and government who are on the front lines of the fight against the cartels, and that we work together closely to address the drug-related violence that has had such a devastating effect on both of our countries.

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

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague in supporting the ongoing cooperation between the United States and Mexico to fight the drug cartels and curb the drug-related violence which is increasingly impacting our citizens on both sides of the border. There is no doubt that through the Merida Initiative, significant gains have been made against narcotraffickers and organized crime in Mexico over the past couple of years.

However, as is to be expected, the harder we fight to get them off the streets, the harder they fight to stay there. More than 7,000 people were killed at the hands of drug-related violence in Mexico last year alone. One of those victims is recognized in this resolution, Mr. Agustin Roberto ''Bobby'' Salcedo, a U.S. citizen and resident of California. Mr. Salcedo was in Mexico visiting his family, and was with family on New Year's Eve when, as the resolution states, he was callously abducted and murdered by a group of masked, armed men. His family has yet to learn why.

Unfortunately, Mr. Salcedo's story is one that many of us are becoming all too familiar with. Over 14 months ago, Mr. Felix Batista, a constituent of my congressional district, disappeared in Mexico. He has not been heard from or seen since. I have worked closely with many of my colleagues in the Florida delegation, both in the House and the Senate, especially our Florida Senator BILL NELSON, to try to help his family over the last year. And while it is my understanding that the FBI and Mexican authorities were investigating his case, his family has yet to gain a better understanding of exactly what happened to Mr. Batista on December 10, 2008.

The tragic disappearance of Mr. Batista and so many other Americans who have been victims of violence in Mexico demonstrates that the security challenges facing our neighbor in the south also pose a threat to the safety of our Nation and our citizens. It is critical that we continue to work with Mexico and other democratic partners in the region to present a united front against narcotraffickers in our hemisphere. We especially must not forget our partners in Colombia. While there is no doubt that tremendous advances have been made, the premature reduction in assistance to Colombia would undoubtedly put these great gains at risk. Much hard work remains to be done in Colombia and throughout the region.

Together we can successfully confront the transnational nature of these criminals and their illicit activities.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1032, a resolution to honor Agustin ''Bobby'' Salcedo, an exemplary American citizen who was the victim of a shocking murder in Mexico, and to urge the United States to be resolute in its efforts to help Mexico fight the drug cartels.

This past December, Bobby traveled to Gomez Palacio in the Mexican state of Durango to visit his wife's family for the holidays. On New Year's Eve, he was out with family and friends at a local restaurant when gunmen burst in and dragged Bobby, along with five other men, out of the restaurant at gunpoint. They were then each shot to death execution-style. The next day, all six bodies were found dumped in a ditch. Bobby was only 33 years old.

I met Bobby early in his career. Having grown up in my district, in El Monte, California, he was dedicated to improving the lives of children in his community. He was an elected school board member in the El Monte School District. He returned to his alma mater to become its assistant principal and was studying for his doctorate in education at UCLA. It was clear to everyone who knew him that he was going somewhere. He was a rising star.

After the investigation began, it was confirmed that none of the six murder victims were connected to the drug trade in any way. Bobby and the others were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Their deaths exemplify the growing number of innocent bystanders who are becoming victimized by cartel violence in Mexico. It had seemed as though the situation could not get worse. However, only weeks after Bobby was murdered, the lead state investigator in his case was also shot dead by the drug cartels.

Bobby's murder brings to the forefront two critical issues: the urgency in finding the killers of Bobby Salcedo, and the importance of reducing the violence of the drug cartels in Mexico. There must be justice in the murder of Bobby Salcedo, but the challenges are great. The state of Durango is one of the most violent in Mexico. In 2009, there were 637 cartel-style murders in Durango, and not one of the cases has been solved by the police. State authorities are limited in their resources, and the cartels have successfully corrupted or scared away many officials from interfering in their business.

That is why I have asked the Mexican Government to make every effort to bring the full force of the federal government on the Salcedo murder. The federal government's strong stance against organized crime offers hope in this case. The federal government has greater resources at their disposal, such as forensic equipment, manpower, and training. Although the federal government has yet to federalize Bobby's case, I am hopeful they will realize this case is a symbol for both of our countries and can demonstrate to all parties that progress can be made.

We cannot allow the death of innocent bystanders, of American citizens, to pass without consequence. Until there is true accountability for the violence, there is little incentive for the drug lords to keep peace. But the overall solution is not stopping the violence of the drug cartels. The U.S. must be resolute in supporting Mexico's efforts to combat the drug trade and its violent consequences. There has been progress. President Felipe

Calderon made the combating of drug violence his focal point. He greatly increased efforts on the Federal level to track down the drug kingpins and reduce their supply lines.

□ 1530

In 2007 the United States and Mexico worked together to pass the Merida Initiative. This agreement took Mexican and American cooperation to a whole new level, providing over $1.3 billion to support the Mexican Government in its fight. The funds went to helicopters, surveillance aircraft, interdiction equipment, nonintrusive inspection equipment and improved data collection capabilities, as well as provided for training programs and institution building in Mexico.

But now we are at a critical point. The Merida Initiative will expire at the end of this year, the war has not been won, and the violence grows more disturbing each day. That is why Congress and the administration must decide now how to implement the next phase of this partnership.

In my conversations with law enforcement and state departments, three elements are critical in a new initiative: fighting the massive money laundering of funds out of the U.S., improving the forensic technology available to Mexican law enforcement entities, and helping Mexico rebuild its judicial institutions.

On money laundering: Every year between $8 billion to $10 billion is smuggled out of the U.S. by the drug cartels. Even as our law enforcement agencies are improving their ability to stop these funds from leaving the country, the cartels are finding novel ways to launder money. They are using money service businesses, online services, and even legitimate retail businesses as fronts for their illegal transactions, and they are also using massive bulk cash transfers. Stopping the money laundering gets at the heart of the drug cartel operation.

On technology: Mexican state and local law enforcement agencies are sorely lacking in the appropriate technology to combat these well-armed cartels. We must focus more of our efforts on the local institutions to provide them with 21st-century law enforcement technology.

And on the judiciary: until we have a partner with a strong judiciary and objective law enforcement, the cartels will continue to run free. By providing resources to train law enforcement and rooting out corruption amongst them, drug kingpins will be forced to face the consequences of their actions.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield an additional 30 seconds for my colleague to sum up.

Ms. CHU. Now is the time to pass this resolution. Bobby Salcedo's death is a brutal reminder that this violence is a growing threat not just to Mexicans, but also to Americans. Bringing his killers to justice will vindicate his death, and ending the violence in Mexico will save the lives of thousands of innocent victims in this gruesome war. For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of this resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate our colleague from California (Ms. CHU) for her leadership on this issue.

I was in Mexico just about 1 year ago, and clearly the unfolding violence is something that ought to be of great concern to every American. It is just on the southern part of our border, and frankly it is something that is very alarming in its scope and in its unparalleled violence. I thank our colleague from California for bringing this once again to the attention of the United States Congress.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1032.

H. Res. 1032 not only stresses the need to work with the Mexican law enforcement community in the fight against drug cartels, it also honors the life of El Monte resident, Agustin Roberto "Bobby" Salcedo. El Monte is a great city in the San Gabriel Valley which Congresswoman CHU, the author of this resolution, and I represent. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 1032 and I want to thank Congresswoman CHU for her hard work on this important issue, and her dedication to the Salcedo family and the El Monte community.

Mr. Salcedo was an innocent bystander in the relentless, ongoing drug war that is being waged throughout Mexico. He was viciously murdered, along with five other men, while visiting family in Mexico over the holidays. It is clear that Bobby Salcedo touched the lives of thousands through his work as a teacher, coach and school administrator and I offer my deepest condolences his family and friends. The community of El Monte lost an outstanding family man, friend, colleague and educator.

Unfortunately Mr. Salcedo is not the only innocent victim in this drug war. As noted in H. Res. 1032, there has been an outbreak of violence in Mexico and individuals who have no connection whatsoever to the drug cartels are in danger. I will continue to support efforts in Congress to ensure that our law enforcement have the resources they need to end drug related violence in Mexico and the United States. This will not be an easy task. The cartels are ruthless in their desire to continue the brutality.

The Mexican government and the FBI are working together to solve Mr. Salcedo's murder. It is my hope that with continued cooperation between law enforcement agencies in both the United States and Mexico, the individuals who committed this senseless crime against Mr. Salcedo will soon be brought to justice.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1032, "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to assist the Mexican Government in fighting the drug cartels and curbing violence against Mexican and United States citizens, both in the United States and abroad."

Let me begin by thanking my colleague Representative JUDY CHU for introducing this resolution, as it is vitally important both to our national security and the safety of the American people that we confront the problem of transnational drug trafficking and attempt to reduce the violence associated with the trade of narcotics.

Violence related to the drug trade has hit catastrophic proportions over the last few years. Just across the United States-Mexico border from my home state of Texas a battle is being waged by armed gangs for the control of the illicit transnational drug market. In Mexico alone, drug cartels killed at least 5,600 people in 2008 and that number increased to more than 7,000 people in 2009. I condemn in the strongest possible terms this type of senseless violence and will work to see that violence against civilians in the U.S. and in Mexico is curbed or eliminated.

Unfortunately, execution-style killings and kidnappings have become the norm in many Mexican cities like Ciudad Juárez and Gomez Palacio as drug cartels attempt to extend the reach of their power and institute a sense of fear over the local populations.

In one of the most atrocious acts of violence against an innocent U.S. citizen, Bobby Salcedo was killed execution-style while vacationing in Mexico by a single gunshot to the head after being kidnapped. Mr. Salcedo was kidnapped while at dinner with family and friends in a restaurant and had no apparent connections to the drug or arms trade.

Mr. Salcedo was a pillar of his community in El Monte City, California where he served on the local School Board, and also served as the vice principal and football coach of Mountain View High School. Mr. Salcedo also served as a local leader for such organizations as the South El Monte/Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico Sister City Organization.

Furthermore, Mr. Salcedo was in the process of earning a doctoral degree in educational leadership at the University of California, Los Angeles, and had previously earned his bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree in educational administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

Violence from the drug trade has also created many problems in my home city of Houston, Texas. Houston has one of the highest murder rates among U.S. cities with a population over 1 million. Furthermore, much of this violence likely stems from the fact that Houston is a major hub for drug traffickers, who supply cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine to distributors in other American markets. Many of these issues surrounding violence also stem from the problem of transnational gangs and organized crime cartels.

There are currently at least seven drug cartel organizations operating between the U.S. and Mexico. These groups are not only involved in the illicit transportation of drugs but are also involved in the illicit trade of firearms, execution of public officials and these groups have also terrorized entire local populations.

Many of these gangs and cartel organizations also have vast links and networks within the U.S., some even managing to penetrate American Junior High and High Schools. It is important that we recognize this threat and work towards the dissolution of these groups

and continue to promote legitimate transnational trade and exchange.

I would like to commend the Mexican Government under the leadership of President Felipe Calderon for having significantly increased their efforts to stop the drug cartels and end the violence, deploying some 45,000 troops and 5,000 police throughout Mexico. We in the U.S. will continue to support the Mexican Government as we did in 2008 when over $1,300,000,000 was appropriated to the Mexican Government to fight the illicit drug trade. This money was appropriated under the Merida Initiative to help break the power of the drug cartels, assist the Mexican Government in strengthening its military organizations, to help improve the capacity of its justice system, curtail gang activity in Mexico, and to diminish demand for drugs in the region

It is important that we continue to work vigilantly towards breaking the illicit drug trade links and networks between the U.S. and Mexico while working together to create a bright future through legitimate commercial and financial trade between our two great nations. I am quite confident that through a concerted effort towards increasing transnational trade and creating opportunities in the legitimate sector we can work towards a brighter future for both the U.S. and Mexico.

I ask that my colleagues support this resolution. I also ask my colleagues for their continued support of anti-drug trade measures as well as their support for ending the spate of violence that has become associated with the drug trade.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1032, 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 of the resolution was amended so as to read: ''Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to assist the Government of Mexico in fighting the drug cartels and curbing violence against Mexican and United States citizens, both in the United States and abroad.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE PLIGHT OF PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM IN EAST AFRICA

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1088) recognizing the plight of people with albinism in East Africa and condemning their murder and mutilation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1088

Whereas, in parts of East Africa, most notably Tanzania, shamans promote the reprehensible belief that people with albinism are less than human, and that their body parts can be made into potions to bring wealth or luck;

Whereas over the last 2 years, more than 50 adults and children with albinism have been murdered in East Africa by mercenaries who sell their body parts to shamans;

Whereas countless other people with albinism have survived these attacks, but have been permanently mutilated in the name of profit;

Whereas two mothers of children with albinism were attacked by gangs who were searching for the children in Eastern Tanzania in November 2008;

Whereas a 10-year-old boy with albinism, Gasper Elikana, was beheaded by men who fled with his leg in October 2008;

Whereas a 28-year-old woman with albinism, Mariamu Stanford, was attacked while she slept, losing both of her arms and her unborn child in October 2008;

Whereas a 17-year-old woman with albinism from Kenya, Vumilia Makoye, was killed by 2 men in her home who sawed off her legs in May 2008;

Whereas hundreds of children with albinism are living in fear for their lives in rural areas;

Whereas people with albinism are routinely shunned by their communities and often excluded from East African society;

Whereas a number of government officials in rural areas of East Africa have ignored or even colluded with local shamans in these degradations;

Whereas people with albinism in East Africa generally are not provided with life-saving information about preventing skin cancer, and have no means of protecting themselves from excess sunlight; and

Whereas people with albinism lack access to medical treatment for skin cancer, and the average person in East Africa with albinism dies by age 30 from skin cancer, and only 2 percent of people with albinism in that region live to age 40: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the murder and mutilation of adults and children with albinism for their body parts;

(2) expresses support for people with albinism in East Africa who have been the victims of such attacks;

(3) recognizes that the murder and mutilation of people with albinism in East Africa is a gross violation of human rights;

(4) urges governments in East Africa, particularly the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, to take immediate action to prevent further violence against persons with albinism and to bring to swift justice those who have engaged in such reprehensible practices;

(5) calls upon governments in East Africa, along with international organizations and other donors, including the United States, to actively support the education of people with albinism about the prevention of skin cancer and provide appropriate levels of assistance toward that end;

(6) calls upon governments in East Africa, along with international organizations, to educate populations in East Africa about the realities of albinism, with the purpose of eliminating discrimination and abuses against people with albinism; and

(7) calls upon the United States to work with the governments of East Africa, and international organizations and other donors, to eliminate violence against people with albinism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 1088 shines a light on the untold horrors men and women with albinism have faced and continue to face in East Africa where human beings with albinism are butchered and their body parts sold for profit. These acts of brutal murder are best told through the story of a brave Tanzanian mother, one of the few survivors of the attacks. I had the honor of meeting a survivor of one of these attacks, a young woman from Tanzania named Mariamu Stanford, who epitomizes the essence of bravery.

These horrific acts, like the crime committed against Mariamu, are perpetrated by shamans who believe that the body parts of people with albinism have magical powers and can be mixed in potions to bring the buyer good luck. Rural villages have strong incentive to harvest the limbs of their neighbors with albinism because a single limb can sell for as much as $2,000, a king's ransom in Tanzania's countryside.

Mariamu, who has albinism, is one of the few survivors of these attacks. Her story is one of fear, horror, and unbelievable courage. She told me her story through an interpreter the last day of the first session of this Congress in December.

One night in October of 2008, when Mariamu was sleep with her toddler son, a group of machete-wielding men from her own village broke into her home and attacked her. They cut off both of her arms while she struggled, screamed and shielded her 2-year-old from the blows. It was 6 long hours after the attack before Mariamu, who was 5 months pregnant, was able to receive any medical treatment. In the end, she lost her unborn baby, but she survived; and she is now relaying her story in the hopes that these brutal crimes against people with albinism will come to an end.

Mariamu came to the United States for a visit thanks to the generosity of many, including some of my constituents from northern Virginia with albinism and some who are parents of children with albinism, several of whom are here today in the gallery. While she

was here for nearly 2 weeks in December, Mariamu was fitted with prosthetic arms donated by the Orthotic Prosthetic Center in Fairfax County, Virginia; and she underwent intensive physical therapy.

She is a rare survivor of a horrific and inhumane crime that is of growing concern in East Africa. More than 54 people with albinism have been butchered in the region, most of them women and children. In November of 2008, a 6-year-old girl was shot dead in Burundi's eastern province of Ruyigi, close to the border of Tanzania. Her attackers removed her head and limbs, leaving only her dismembered torso. In January of 2009, three men armed with machetes killed an 8-year-old boy in Burundi and smuggled his limbs into Tanzania. Every one of these stories borders on the unbelievable and, quite frankly, must turn every stomach of those of us who have to hear them.

Not only do people with albinism face violence in parts of the world, but they are also at high risk for medical complications such as skin cancer and poor vision due to the lower melanin levels in their skin. In East Africa's harsh sun, this is a lethal combination, but oftentimes people with albinism have no choice but to expose themselves to the sun with little protection as they must be outside to work, go to school, and attend everyday business.

Unfortunately, the medical issues that people with albinism face are the least of their worries. The threat of brutal violence looms over them at all times. Tanzania Prime Minister Mizengo Peter Pinda has condemned, correctly, this violent crime against people with albinism, but judicial and enforcement barriers remain.

My meeting with Mariamu and local families concerned about her plight, and albinism in general, has moved me to take action. I am contacting President Obama and the State Department to urge them to place diplomatic pressure on Tanzania's federal and local governments to end these crimes now, these crimes against humanity, and to provide education to dispel the myth that body parts of those with albinism have any special properties.

I also believe we must look at providing humanitarian and medical assistance to people with albinism in East Africa, with a focus in Tanzania where most of these crimes have occurred. To this end, I introduced House Resolution 1088, a resolution recognizing the plight of people with albinism in East Africa, condemning these murders and mutilations, and advocating remedies to bring an end to this heinous and misguided behavior.

Specifically, the resolution urges governments in East Africa, particularly the governments of Tanzania and Burundi, to take immediate action to prevent any further violence against persons with albinism and to bring to swift justice those who have engaged in such reprehensible practices. It also calls upon those governments, along with international organizations and other donors, including the United States, to actively support the education of people with albinism about the prevention of skin cancer and provide appropriate levels of assistance toward that end.

Finally, it urges the United States to work with the governments of East Africa and international organizations and other donors to eliminate violence against people with albinism.

I urge my colleagues to join Mariamu Stanford and me in bringing international attention to this horrific abuse of human beings and to bring those who have perpetrated that violence to justice by voting ''yes'' on this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1088.

In 2008, an undercover reporter for the BBC's Swahili Service broke the horrific story of the occult-based killings of albinos in parts of eastern Burundi and northwest Tanzania. Since that time, it has been revealed that albinos have been killed and mutilated by so-called ''hunters'' who sell their victims' body parts to unscrupulous traditional healers. The hunt is driven by the absurd belief that albinos possess mystical powers and that their body parts can be used as talismans to bring wealth and good luck. The market itself is driven by greed. It has been reported that a complete set of body parts can fetch up to $75,000 on the black market.

To be clear, the hunting and mutilation of albinos in East Africa is by no means a common practice. The number of attacks is relatively few in terms of the broader population.

The hunting and mutilation of people simply because they look different is profoundly disturbing and requires us to condemn it. This resolution calls upon the governments in East Africa, particularly in Burundi and Tanzania, to take effective action to end these senseless attacks which constitute gross human rights violations. It also calls upon those governments, with support from international organizations and other donors, to take effective action to educate the general population with a view toward eliminating discrimination and abuse.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for introducing this measure, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

With that, Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I want to thank my friend and colleague from Florida for her cooperation and support and leadership on this issue.

I have to say, just on a personal note, there are many issues I thought I would face when I came here to the United States House of Representatives; this was not one of them. It is an incredible tale, but it is something that we can do something about by bringing pressure to bear on the governments in East Africa. I thank my friend from Florida in helping to make that happen today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1088, ''Recognizing the plight of people with albinism in East Africa and condemning their murder and mutilation.''

Let me begin by thanking my colleague Representative GERRY CONNOLLY for introducing this resolution, as it is important that we recognize the plight of albinos in East Africa.

In recent years, the belief that albino body parts, particularly limbs, have magical powers has driven thousands of Africa's albinos into hiding. According to a report released in November of last year by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the killings of albino people in Burundi and Tanzania, based on occult practices, have triggered a crisis involving almost the entire albino population of the two countries.

The stories of these victims are heart wrenching. I recall an article in the New York Times in 2008 that vividly describes the horror and fear that many Albinos live with on a daily basis.

''In May 2008, Vumilia Makoye, 17, was eating dinner with her family in their hut in western Tanzania when two men showed up with long knives, ''Vumilia was like many other Africans with albinism. She had dropped out of school because of severe near-sightedness, a common problem for albinos, whose eyes develop abnormally and who often have to hold things like books or cell phones two inches away to see them. She could not find a job because no one would hire her. She sold peanuts in the market, making $2 a week while her delicate skin was seared by the sun. When Vumilia's mother, Jeme, saw the men with knives, she tried to barricade the door of their hut. But the men overpowered her and burst in. ''They cut my daughter quickly,'' she said, making hacking motions with her hands. The men sawed off Vumilia's legs above the knee and ran away with the stumps. Vumilia died. Yusuph Malogo, who lives nearby, fears he may be next. He is also an albino and works by himself on a rice farm. He now carries a loud, silver whistle to blow for help. ''I'm on the run,'' he said.''

According to the Red Cross, thousands more albinos across a huge swathe of countryside, are unable to move freely to trade, study or cultivate fields for fear of albino hunters. These albinos fear losing their lives and limbs to unscrupulous dealers who can make up to $75,000 selling a complete dismembered set.

In his New Year's address to the nation, President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania said the nation that the government would step up efforts to stamp out the albino killings. I commend the government of Tanzania for acknowledging the danger posed to albinos in their country, but I hope that Tanzania and Burundi will do more to educate their nations about albinos. The Albino Association of Tanzania says that although just 4,000 albinos are officially registered in the country, they believe

the actual number could be as high as 173,000. A census is now under way to try to verify the figures.

In addition, in 2008, President Kikwete nominated Al-Shymaa Kway-Geer to represent the albino community at the national level. Ms. Kway-Greer is the first Minister of Parliament with albinism.

Yet, despite these improvements, people with albinism still live in fear. As Samuel Mluge, a Tanzania albino remarked to the reporter, "I feel like I am being hunted." No one should live in this state of fear. We must vocally denounce such killings, and do everything we can to prevent them from occurring in the future. I ask that my colleagues support this resolution. I also ask my colleagues for their continued support albinos in East Africa.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1088, 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. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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.

□ 1545

RECOGNIZING THE 189TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1107) recognizing the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1107

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in its original text, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the Greek national anthem (Hymn to Liberty) includes the words, ''Most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land'';

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that ''it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you'';

Whereas the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the Greek people during their struggle for independence;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete, which provided the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding onto our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II;

Whereas, throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested over $20,000,000,000 in the countries of the region, thereby creating over 200,000 new jobs, and having contributed over $750,000,000 in development aid for the region;

Whereas Greece was extraordinarily responsive to requests by the United States during the war in Iraq, as Greece immediately granted unlimited access to its airspace and the base in Souda Bay, and many ships of the United States that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq were refueled in Greece;

Whereas Greece is an active participant in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the European Union (EU), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

Whereas its Chairmanship of OSCE in 2009 underlined Greece's continued commitment to the trans-Atlantic community;

Whereas in August 2004, the Olympic Games came home to Athens, Greece, the land of their ancient birthplace 2,500 years ago and the city of their modern revival in 1896;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympics of over 14,000 athletes and over 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, which it did efficiently, securely, and with its famous Greek hospitality;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas the Government of Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and has been consistently working for rapprochement with Turkey, as most recently demonstrated by Prime Minister George Papandreou's visit to Turkey in October 2009, just days following his election, his first diplomatic trip abroad;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those and similar ideals have forged a close bond between Greece and the United States and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2010, Greek Independence Day, marks the 189th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and celebrates the aspirations for democracy that the peoples of Greece and the United States share; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 189 years ago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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 the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1107.

I would like to begin by thanking my good friend and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership in introducing this important resolution which marks the 189th anniversary of Greek independence.

I am pleased to announce that, moments ago, the administration accepted Greece as a participant in the Visa Waiver Program.

As the birthplace of democracy, Greece stands alone among nations in its influence over our modern American Government. Our Founders fashioned our society based in significant part on the political experience and philosophy of the ancient Greeks.

Today, we stand here in a room surrounded by images of some of the greatest thinkers of world history, many of them Greek. We stand in a building inspired by ancient Greek architectural designs. We continue to legislate today under Greek ideals of democratic governance.

The Greek contribution to world culture is hardly limited to politics. From the ancient works of Homer, Plato, and Aristophanes, to the sculpture of Praxiteles, to the ethical sensibility of Hippocrates, to the mathematical insights of Archimedes and Pythagoras, we are indebted to the Greek nation for its scientific, philosophical, and artistic contributions to the development of the finest aspects of civilization.

The Greek-American bond, inspired by the ancients, remains vibrant today. Throughout the modern era, Greece has been one of the United States'

strongest allies, supporting us in every major international conflict. Today, our two nations express their mutual commitment to safeguarding democracy and freedom through a partnership in NATO and through bilateral defense cooperation.

Situated at the crossroads of three continents, Greece holds a strategic position in the Mediterranean region. Over the past decade, Athens has pursued path-breaking diplomacy that has resulted, for example, in meaningful rapprochement with neighboring Turkey.

In that regard, we especially want to welcome to Washington Prime Minister George Papandreou, who is visiting us this very week. As foreign minister in the 1990s and in the first years of this century, Mr. Papandreou was essentially the architect of that rapprochement with Turkey. Thanks largely to his vision, the threat of war in the Aegean, a near constant for many decades, has now diminished. In a remarkable gesture of friendship and reconciliation, Prime Minister Papandreou, newly elected last fall, made Turkey the site of his very first Prime Ministerial trip abroad.

As we commemorate today the 189th anniversary of Greek independence, we would be remiss if we failed to acknowledge the rich contributions of Greek immigrants and their descendants to the United States. Their accomplishments are a testament to the greatness of their land of origin.

Madam Speaker, I extend anniversary congratulations to Greece, an ancient country of noble traditions. I join with all Americans and democracy lovers throughout the world in celebrating Greek heritage and our thriving Greek-American friendship. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the greatest aspect of Greek influence on our country has its roots in the classical era of ancient Greece—that point in time when the Greek political philosophy of democracy was born. In our political debates today, we can easily see the continuing influence of that classical age in our lives.

How different would the world be today if the Greeks of that day had not stood up to the invading armies of the Persian Empire? Unfortunately, although the ancient Greek political philosophers first conceived of democratic self-government, after their time passed, the Greek nation, itself, in fact, became a part of larger empires.

It was ruled for centuries by men with unquestioned and arbitrary power over life and death—the antithesis of democracy. By the start of the 1800s, however, the signs were clear. The Greek people saw the opportunity and were determined to win back their independence and to live in liberty once again.

The most eloquent advocate for liberty in the nation of Greece in the early 19th century was a freedom fighter and a poet, who, before perishing in the struggle, penned the immortal line, ''Better 1 hour of free life than 40 years of slavery and prison.'' After the Greek Revolution was declared on March 25, 1821, this poem became a patriotic call for liberty and the motto for the freedom fighters of Greece.

Our Founding Fathers shared that same passion for liberty, as evidenced by Patrick Henry's famous statement just a few decades earlier, ''Give me liberty or give me death''—a brave statement which is so familiar and so similar to the rallying cry of the Greek people during their historic struggle.

Such are the shared ideals, the common values upon which the friendship between Greece and America was founded, and that friendship has, indeed, become a formal alliance.

During the 20th century, in every major international conflict, Greek soldiers stood beside American soldiers in the fight for freedom and liberty.

To this day, Greece supports our reconstruction and stabilization missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Greece has deployed an operational mentor and liaison team to assist NATO efforts to train the Afghan army. Further, the Souda Bay naval base on Crete has been a valuable support for the coalition forces in Iraq. During the brutal fighting in 2005 alone, this Greek base supported over 11,000 U.S. military ships and planes on their way to Iraq.

Greece has also contributed significant financial and diplomatic support to continuing stabilization efforts in the Balkan region, and it has effectively promoted such efforts in that region during the 2009 chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

I was honored to have met with the Greek Prime Minister earlier today to discuss these issues and to discuss ways to continue strengthening our bilateral relationship.

Greece continues today as a valued partner and as a strong friend of the United States. It is my pleasure to offer this resolution which recognizes the 189th anniversary of the independence of that great nation.

With that, Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the 189th anniversary of Greek Independence Day. We are also celebrating today Greece's entry into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, which is a strong affirmation of the close ties between our two nations.

The American people and the people of Greece have been united by common values from the very beginning. Democracy, liberty, freedom, and the idea that the individual should have a say in the workings of society are the values we share and are the foundations upon which both of our great nations have been built and have prospered.

It is no coincidence, therefore, that Greece and the United States have stood by each other's side in every major struggle. After all, our two great nations are the historical pillars of democracy: Greece as creator and America as promoter.

By passing this resolution today, we commemorate the struggle of the Greek people to secure their freedom and to establish the modern Hellenic Republic.

Today, as we know, Greece is facing particularly difficult challenges. Yesterday, as part of his 4-day visit to the United States, the Prime Minister of Greece, George Papandreou, delivered an address at the Brookings Institution in which he described those challenges and emphasized the important role the United States can play in ensuring that global speculators do not take further advantage of what remains a very fluid situation.

America and Greece must stand together to ensure that the global economic system is restored, to support European democracy, and to foster peace and prosperity around the globe. We are strong allies and are up to the task. In that spirit, our country today congratulates Greece on the celebration of its independence, and we look forward to strengthening our mutual ties in the days to come.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you, my dear friend, for your leadership and for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 1107 and as co-chair and cofounder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today to celebrate the entrance of Greece into the Visa Waiver Program and to celebrate the 189th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Against incredibly difficult odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history to win their independence. Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavra, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army.

The bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel's announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child. Bishop Germanos' message was clear: A new spirit was about to be born in Greece.

The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside of Greece

and Cyprus. Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called ''Little Athens'' because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood. New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue, along with many cultural events and private gatherings. These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic American community's many contributions to our Nation's history and culture.

I am also pleased that President Obama is continuing the tradition of holding a White House celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day.

Relations between the United States and Greece remain strong with a shared commitment to ensuring stability in southeastern Europe.

I hope permanent solutions can be found for ending the division of Cyprus and for finding a mutually agreeable name for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Additionally, I have reintroduced legislation which urges Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. It is time for this suppression of religious freedom to come to an end and for Turkey to move in the direction of freedom and democracy.

I, along with my colleagues, have worked to ensure that the process for Greece's entry into the Visa Waiver Program has continued to move forward. I have had legislation before this body for well over 6 years.

In September of 2007, Greece was formally nominated for the Visa Waiver Program by the U.S. State Department and was the only member of the original 15 European Union nations not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program. In light of this, I was very, very pleased to learn that, just today, Secretary Napolitano announced the inclusion of Greece into the program. This is a most welcomed and long overdue development for Greece, the birthplace of democracy and one of our Nation's closest allies.

I ask the Nation to join me in celebrating the Greeks' independence. I also join my colleagues in welcoming Prime Minister Papandreou, who is visiting this country for 4 days. It is also my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York's Hellenic American community and to its many contributions to our city and Nation.

Zeto E Eleftheria. Long live freedom.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for their thoughtful comments on this important matter. I want to thank the ranking member, my friend from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for her leadership on this matter.

Before I yield back the balance of my time, I also want to thank both the majority and minority staffs of the committee for their fine work, and I want to thank my own staff member, Hera Abbasi, for her fine work, especially on our albinism resolution.

Mr. MCMAHON. Madam Speaker, today, I congratulate Greece on her 189th anniversary of independence.

Greece has long been a close ally to the United States and rightly so, given that our founding fathers formulated the American political philosophy from the Greek ideals that were first conceptualized in 500 BC.

Today, Greece is a partner in Afghanistan and continues to build bridges between cultures throughout Europe and the greater region.

Greece promotes peaceful dialogue and understanding through its own negotiations, particularly in regards to its divided neighbor, Cyprus.

Ending the occupation of Cyprus has long been a focus of my political career. Greece and Cyprus's steadfast commitment to finding peaceful people to people solutions to ending the occupation have touched and motivated my own work on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. In fact, Secretary Clinton described Cyprus as a strategic focal point in response to my questions on integrating the Island.

Today, thousands of Turkish and Greek Cypriots pass through various passageways between the occupied North and the Republic of Cyprus. There has not been one incidence of violence and many Turkish Cypriots escape the congestion of the occupation and enjoy education and health benefits in the Republic that they do not have in the North.

After over 35 years, it is time to bring peace to this island through a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation driven solely by the joint efforts of all Cypriots and Cypriots, only.

On a similar note, Greece has for years pursued the deserved rights of the leader of the Orthodox Christians, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. I will continue to advocate for the Patriarchate's recognition. I believe that this recognition would not only benefit the Patriarchate's legacy, but Turkey's multi-cultural history, as well.

Finally, I will work to make sure that a mutual agreeable name for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM, is reached. After all, Macedonia is Greek!

Through its great history. Greece has always approached its own matters with grace. I am particularly proud of the Greek-Americans who, through, their advocacy and hard work, today heard the great news that Greece has finally been granted visa waiver status.

I cannot tell you how happy I am that families will finally be comfortably reuniting after years of a discriminatory status.

I thank President Obama and Secretary Napolitano for their decision and once again congratulate Greece on all that it has achieved and of course, all that it will achieve.

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1107, a bill recognizing the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

I am proud to support a bill whose significance is so extensive and which has such great personal meaning to me and my family members.

I am extremely proud to call myself a Greek-American. My paternal grandfather emigrated from the island of Ikaria, Greece in the early 20th century and earned his American citizenship by fighting in World War I for the U.S. yet, he never let go of his roots. My father served in the Marines during the Korean War and instilled in me a deep sense of patriotism and respect for our great country. My family, like so many other Greek-American families, has never forgotten that strong bond that exists between Greece and the United States.

Our Founding Fathers looked to ancient Greece and her political wisdom. They drew on the enlightenment of the ancient texts to build a new representative democracy, deeply rooted in the philosophy and ethos of Greek government. Greece and the U.S. have always been at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability and human rights, and those similarities are what have forged our enduring bond over the centuries.

The solidarity between our two great countries has served us both throughout the years. The Greek people fought alongside American soldiers in the historic battles of World War II and have lent aid to our troops fighting in Iraq and in battlefields around the world. Whether in war, or in peace, the U.S. and Greece have been able to stand strong, firmly anchored by the democratic principles from which both of these two great nations were born.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful nation's independence, it is important that we continue to recognize the significance of Greek contributions to the global society. As an American, and as a Greek, I support H. Res. 1107 and ask my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor of this resolution, and a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I rise today in order to voice my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Greece on the 189th anniversary of their independence.

Massachusetts' Fifth Congressional District has deep roots in the rich Greek-American community, as does my family—my husband Paul's family emigrated from Greece to Lowell, Massachusetts when his father was 3 years old.

Our Nation has benefited tremendously from the contributions of the prominent Greek community that resides, works, and sustains a vibrant Greek heritage here in the United States.

The bond between the United States and the nation of Greece has always been an exceptional alliance, anchored in our common values, traditions, and passion for freedom and democracy.

President Obama has appropriately continued the tradition of holding a White House celebration in honor of Greek Independence Day, and I look forward to joining him this year to celebrate this historic occasion.

This measure expresses the House of Representatives' support for the important partnership and strong relations between Greece and the United States over the past 189 years. To this day, Greece remains one of our greatest allies.

I am proud to join the Greek-Americans of Massachusetts' Fifth District, and across our country, in celebrating the 189th anniversary of their independence day.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. 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 Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1107.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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.

□ 1600

PREVENT DECEPTIVE CENSUS LOOK ALIKE MAILINGS ACT

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4621) to protect the integrity of the constitutionally mandated United States census and prohibit deceptive mail practices that attempt to exploit the decennial census, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4621

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 ''Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act''.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR MAIL BEARING THE TERM "CENSUS" ON THE ENVELOPE OR OUTSIDE COVER OR WRAPPER.

(a) MATTER SOLICITING PURCHASE OF A PRODUCT OR SERVICE.—Section 3001(h) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), ''; or which bears the term 'census' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper'' after ''such matter by the Federal Government'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(4) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(h)''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) In the case of matter bearing the term 'census' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper, in addition to satisfying one of the exceptions contained in paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(B), or (1)(C), such envelope or outside cover or wrapper bears on its face an accurate return address including the name of the entity that sent such matter.''.

(b) MATTER SOLICITING INFORMATION OR CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Section 3001(i) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), ''; or which bears the term 'census' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper'' after ''such matter by the Federal Government'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

(4) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(i)''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) In the case of matter bearing the term 'census' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper, in addition to satisfying one of the exceptions contained in paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(B), or (1)(C), such envelope or outside cover or wrapper bears on its face an accurate return address including the name of the entity that sent such matter.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOYLE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4621, as amended. I would like to thank Chairman TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and Congresswoman MALONEY and Congressman CHAFFETZ for working with me on this legislation. As chairman of the Information Policy, Census, and National Archives Subcommittee, this legislation is of particular importance to me.

This legislation would require certain mailings which have the term ''census'' on the outside of the envelope to also include an accurate return address and the name of the sender on the envelope. H.R. 4621 would also mandate that such mailings follow existing legal requirements to include disclaimers making it clear that the mailing is not from the Federal Government.

H.R. 4621 was introduced on February 9, 2010, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee approved the measure with a manager's amendment by voice vote on March 4, 2010.

In recent months, mailings which have the word ''census'' on the envelope and contents that resemble official census forms have been sent by the Republican National Committee and other nonprofit organizations to citizens in several States. The RNC mailings were marked ''DO NOT DESTROY. OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.'' The envelope used in these mailings did not include a return address or identify the sender. Using these terms on the outside of the envelope without a return address and the name of the sender creates an appearance of an official government document.

Later this month, the Census Bureau will begin conducting the decennial census through the U.S. mail. The decennial census is mandated by article I, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution. This official government function provides an accurate portrait of the American population. The decennial census serves as a basis for the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars for schools, hospitals, job training centers, and transportation projects.

In addition to conducting the decennial census every 10 years, the Census Bureau conducts surveys throughout the decade. For example, under the previous administration, the Bureau started the American Community Survey, which is an annual survey sent to a sample of the public. This survey helps communities understand where and how their population lives and permits the community to allocate resources accordingly.

Because legitimate census mailings are used for such important purposes, it is critical that the Census Bureau is able to receive accurate information and that American citizens continue to have confidence in census mailings. Increased confidence in the census will save taxpayers money by improving the response rate.

The Director of the Census Bureau, Robert Groves, has said that the Bureau will save $85 million for every 1 percent increase in the mail-back response from recipients of the decennial census.

This bill is narrowly tailored to address the specific problems caused by census look-alike mailings. This bill would not prevent the use of the term ''census'' in mailings altogether; H.R. 4621 would merely require the sender to identify itself and include language clarifying that the mailing is not from the Federal Government.

Mailings by private organizations which appear to be from the Census Bureau, without a proper clarification or disclaimer, create a risk of confusion on the part of citizens who will be receiving actual census mailings this year. H.R. 4621 will help to prevent such confusion.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Mrs. MALONEY for her introduction of H.R. 4621, the Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act. What this bill will do is seek to prevent the word ''census'' from appearing on mail that does not pertain directly to the national census.

Currently we do have laws to address sending deceptive or fraudulent mail, and the Postal Inspection Service currently has responsibility for investigating allegations of this nature and determining if a violation has been committed. However, what this bill will do is simply reinforce and reiterate existing law.

This bill would give postal inspectors an additional tool, if you will, in addressing mail sent by those seeking to capitalize on the importance people place on the U.S. census—mail that

may be in a gray area where inspectors are unable to determine whether a violation has been committed or not.

The census is one of the most important functions of the Federal Government, particularly given the role it plays in our representative democracy, so confusion or reduced participation can affect political representation, and also whether a community receives its fair share of Federal dollars. So when a piece of mail says ''census'' on it, we want people to take it seriously, to read it and to respond to it. We must maintain public trust in this process and send the message to citizens that an accurate census is of paramount importance to all Americans.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership in moving this bill to the floor. I also would like to thank Chairman TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA, along with Congressmen CLAY and LYNCH, for their support and cooperation.

The 2010 census is here. Later this week, on March 12, 2010, forms will be hitting the mailboxes. That is why we must act quickly to ensure a fair and accurate count without disruption or confusion.

Many may not realize this, but the constitutionally mandated census is used to determine the distribution of billions of dollars in Federal funding into our States and our communities, in addition to determining the number of congressional seats per State. Participation in the census is essential to ensuring a brighter tomorrow for our communities and a representative government for our country.

It is because of this we must do everything possible to protect the integrity of the United States census and ensure that it is both accurate and cost-effective, and it's why the Congress has appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars to the Census Bureau to encourage participation.

Unfortunately, while the U.S. Government is working to encourage participation, there are some organizations that are causing confusion by sending mailers that resemble official census documents. These deceptive mailings include the words ''census department,'' ''census document,'' and ''official document,'' but are instead letters seeking support for other purposes.

If we allow organizations to send mock census documents or mock look-alikes of the census forms, we stand to confuse people and risk a lower response rate, which ultimately would increase the cost of the entire count. In fact, every percentage decrease in the mail response rate costs approximately $25 million for the additional expense of sending enumerators to the homes of those who do not respond to the mailing. After all, when people simply fill out the form and mail it back, it costs the least to our government.

Former Census Director Dr. Barbara Bryant, who served under President George H.W. Bush, has noted that there are documents that are intentionally made to look like the census in an effort to deceive. That is why I introduced H.R. 4621, the Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act, and why I am grateful that we will pass this bill today with bipartisan support.

H.R. 4621 would require any mailing with an envelope marked ''census'' to clearly indicate the sender and return address. It would also trigger an existing requirement in Federal law to include a disclaimer that the mailing is not from or affiliated with the Federal Government.

The bill would not prohibit the use of the word ''census'' on a mailing if an organization wants to do a census and call it that. That is fine. However, the mailer must be absolutely clear that it is not the United States Government's census.

This bill will serve as an important tool in protecting the integrity of census mailings and save the taxpayer money in fulfilling the constitutionally mandated census by limiting any confusion that a deceptive census look-alike mailer could cause.

Finally, I would like to note that Senator CARPER intends to move this bill to the Senate floor once we pass it in the House. I thank my colleagues for moving swiftly on this issue, and urge my colleagues to vote yes.

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my friends from both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 4621, as amended, and again I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her leadership on this legislation.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, entering its 23rd decade, the U.S. Census is the longest-running national census in the world. Our founders wrote it into the Constitution, because taking a fair count is an essential part of fair government. A comprehensive, accurate Census helps ensure that our common resources are distributed where they are most needed, so that our communities can get the roads, schools, and police protection that they need. There's nothing partisan about that goal.

Unfortunately, some groups have set out to deceive Americans by disguising their own private mailings as Census documents. This month, Americans have received envelopes marked ''Census'' and ''official document,'' when the papers inside are nothing of the kind—and sometimes even political fundraising appeals. Groups that send out such mailings are taking advantage of the Census to unfairly promote their own interests. And even worse, they are interfering with a fair and accurate Census by possibly depressing the response. According to Barbara Everitt Bryant, a former Republican appointee to head the U.S. Census Bureau, ''those who respond may feel they have been good citizens and already answered the census when their real questionnaires arrive next month.''

To stop that kind of cynical manipulation, I urge my colleagues to support the Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act. It would require any mailing with an envelope marked ''Census'' to clearly indicate the sender, reducing the possibility of deception; it would also trigger an existing legal requirement that the mailing include a disclaimer stating that it is not affiliated with the U.S. Census. This bill won't prevent any organization from using the word ''Census''—but it will stop private organizations from disguising themselves as the federal government.

This bill is an important way to ensure an unbiased count of all Americans, and I strongly support its passage.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H.R. 4621, the ''Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act.'' I would like to thank Representative MALONEY for introducing this important piece of legislation.

It is extremely important that we protect the integrity of the constitutionally mandated United States census and prohibit deceptive mail practices that attempt to exploit the decennial census. This legislation is vital because it will set requirements for mail bearing the term ''census'' on the envelope or outside cover or wrapper.

Protecting the integrity of the Census from fraudulent activity will ensure that the U.S. Census Bureau is able to gather more accurate data. Hopefully, this legislation will ease the fears of those afraid to be scammed and therefore do not respond to the Census. It is important that the American people are aware that the questions in the Census survey are used only to produce statistics, and never identify an individual. The Census Bureau never asks for a full social security number, money or a donation, requests on behalf of a political party or requests PIN codes, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

The official U.S. Census is described in Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States. It calls for an actual enumeration of the people every ten years, to be used for apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives among the states. Besides providing the basis for congressional redistricting, Census data are used in many other ways. Since 1975, the Census Bureau has had responsibility to produce small-area population data needed to redraw state legislative and congressional districts. Other important uses of Census data include the distribution of funds for government programs such as Medicaid; planning the right locations for schools, roads, and other public facilities; helping real estate agents and potential residents learn about a neighborhood and identifying trends over time that can help predict future needs.

According to the PriceWaterHouse report on the 2000 Census, the Census Bureau has estimated that the Census 2000 undercounted the actual U.S. population by a net of over three million individuals, representing an undercount rate of 1.18 percent. I am particularly concerned about correcting undercounting problems because Harris County, Texas, which is situated in my district, ranked fourth of the fifty U.S. counties with the highest number of people living in hard-to-count

areas. In fact, 80.5 percent of the population in Harris County lives in hard-to-count areas. Even more astonishing, Harris County, Texas is one of eight counties estimated to lose over $100 million each in federal funds from undercounting in the 2000 Census, according to the aforementioned Price Waterhouse report.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and protect the integrity of the constitutionally mandated United States census and prohibit deceptive mail practices that attempt to exploit the decennial census.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4621, 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. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1615

SPC NICHOLAS SCOTT HARTGE POST OFFICE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4624) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the ''SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4624

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

SECTION 1. SPC NICHOLAS SCOTT HARTGE POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the ''SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4624. This legislation will designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the ''SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office.'' Army Specialist Nicholas Hartge was raised in the small town of Rome City, in northeastern Indiana. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Specialist Hartge enlisted in the infantry while still in high school and was stationed in Germany before deploying to Iraq.

On May 14, 2007, Specialist Hartge's patrol came under heavy attack. He was killed in combat when his Humvee hit a roadside bomb while maneuvering under intense fire.

For his service to his country, Specialist Hartge received a Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement for helping to capture the enemy in Iraq, and a Bronze Star for his actions on the day he was killed. He is missed by his family, his community, and his country. Our Nation owes a great debt of gratitude for his service.

H.R. 4624 was introduced by the gentleman from Indiana, Representative MARK SOUDER, on February 9, 2010. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which approved it by unanimous consent on March 4, 2010. The measure enjoys the support of the entire Indiana delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4624, designating the facility of the United States Post Office located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the ''SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office.''

It was back on May 14, 2007, that Specialist Hartge met a tragic, yet heroic fate when his unit came in contact with enemy forces in Iraq. In honor of this fallen American hero, it is fitting and appropriate that we recognize the ultimate sacrifice that he made for his country.

He was raised in Rome City, Indiana. Specialist Hartge was profoundly affected by the 9/11 attacks on the United States. It was then that he decided that he wanted to, more than anything else, serve his country. Before graduating from East Noble High School, he enlisted in the Army. Just 1 week after graduation, he left for boot camp at Fort Benning.

In August 2006, he was deployed to Iraq, where he and his unit patrolled the difficult streets of the city. Risking his life every day, he served as a driver and a radio/telephone operator. Although he was one of the younger members of his unit, he distinguished himself as hard working, a good soldier, and the type of person his comrades could always count on. He believed in what he was fighting for. He believed and felt that they were really helping the people of Iraq.

While he was only 20 years old, he aspired to do something special with his life. And, indeed, when we think about it, he did. He became a positive role model for those around him and those he surrounded himself with. He once told his fellow soldiers that ''the Army doesn't give you values; it develops values that you already had from your parents.'' That's so true.

He is survived now by his parents, a sister and brother—a fellow soldier. Yes, this fine young man embodied the values and the passions of this great Nation. Sadly, he paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve those freedoms for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, as I come to the floor and speak about this fallen soldier, I'm mindful of the fact that I was here only literally several weeks ago, submitting a similar resolution for a young man about the equal age, back from our district, from the Fifth Congressional District of the State of New Jersey. Likewise, in these circumstances we saw the outpouring of support from the people of his community on the day that he was returned once and for all to his final resting place in his hometown. At that time, members of his fire department, the mayor and council and, more importantly, the entire community came out and recognized him.

It was at that point we realized that it's a day to remember these fallen soldiers when they do come back. But that day is a fleeting day. Even when you talk to the parents of the soldiers at those funerals and the services, they don't really even remember it, in some ways. A week later, it was such a blur, just a fast passing, and all the commotion that went on that day. It was hard to remember who was there.

So I'm sure, like the speaker on the other side of the aisle and all the Members on the other side of the aisle agree, it's for this reason we come to the floor today and name the post office for Specialist Hartge, because we don't want to just make it a 1-day event. We don't want it to be an incident where the community comes out and pays respect at the church service and graveside. We don't want it to be a time that is in passing. We want to have something there in the community that, day in and day out, members of his family, other members of the community that he grew up with, his boyhood friends and the like, will able to see his name on post office.

We also want to have something in the community that, days in the future, when future generations grow up, kids that he grew up with have grown up and gotten married and have children themselves and they come back to town, that they will see Specialist Hartge's name up there on the post office.

Maybe they will ask their parents, Who was that Specialist? Who was that name? Who was that soldier? And there will be people still around in the community who say, I remember him when

he grew up here. I remember what he did for the town. I remember him going through the high school in the days there, and the friends that he had there. I remember him for the love that he had for his family, his brother and his sister, and for everyone else here. I remember him also for the sacrifice that he made for this country overseas.

So in that respect a little bit of him will be remembered for this generation and his posterity as well. So I thank the gentleman for moving this piece of legislation in a bipartisan manner so that a piece of him will be remembered for posterity.

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

Mr. CLAY. I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his kind words about Specialist Hartge. Also, Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my friends from both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 4624.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge served in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany.

Nicholas grew up in the small town of Rome City, Indiana were he was deeply involved with his community. He was extremely patriotic and was moved by the events of September 11th to do something special. He decided to serve his country and enlisted in the army during his senior year of high school. His mother, Lori, has often described that on the day he came home seeking her permission to join, Nicholas was so determined that a freight train could not stop him. Just one week after graduation, he left for boot camp at Fort Benning, GA. He could have taken many paths, but chose to serve in the infantry.

In August, 2006, Nicholas and his unit were deployed to Iraq where they had the difficult task of patrolling the streets of Adhamiyah. Every day his unit risked their lives, constantly under pressure, never knowing who their enemy was. Though he was one of the younger members, Nicholas quickly earned the respect of his fellow soldiers. They described him as having a Midwest innocence, and even teased him good naturedly for being such a straight-laced young man. All were impressed by his dedication and drive to succeed—noticing how he would practice new tasks endlessly until he mastered them.

He had a goal to attend West Point, and worked with his commanding officer to prepare for the process. However, when an opportunity was presented to him to join a prep school that could have led to the academy, Nicholas decided he could not leave his unit and chose to stay and finish his combat tour. On May 14, 2007, his patrol came under heavy attack. Nicholas was killed in combat when his humvee hit a roadside bomb, while maneuvering under intense fire.

He always maintained deep roots in his community and was very proud of his hometown. When on a two-week leave from Iraq, Nicholas took time to visit classes and talk with students at the Rome City Elementary and Middle School. In the summer of 2009, the school renamed their annual spirit award as the "Nicholas Scott Hartge Spirit Award." Nicholas had previously received the honor when he was in 8th grade.

SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge received a Commendation Medal for outstanding achievement in the capture of Abu Hassan, and a bronze star for his actions on the day he was killed. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Lori and Dave Abbott of Rome City; father Scott Roger Hartge of Delaware, OH; sisters Elise Hartge of Rome City and Jennifer (Scott) Wheeler of Fort Wayne; brothers Ryan Abbott of Camp Humphreys, Korea and Justin Abbott of Auburn; maternal grandmother Janet Hines of Orlando; paternal grandfathers Roger Hartge of New Carlisle, OH, Frank Robey of VanWert, OH; grandmother Marjorie Abbott of Fort Wayne and many nieces and nephews.

Renaming the Rome City Post Office in his honor is just a small gesture to recognize the contributions of a young man and his family who sacrificed so much for us all.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4624.

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.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF KOREAN AMERICANS

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1036) recognizing the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1036

Whereas, on January 13, 1903, the arrival of 102 pioneer Korean immigrants to the United States marked the first chapter of Korean immigration in this country;

Whereas the Korean War began 60 years ago this June and impacted the lives of millions of Koreans;

Whereas thousands of Koreans, fleeing from war and poverty, came to the United States seeking opportunities;

Whereas Korean Americans, like thousands of immigrants to the United States before them, have built strong families and contributed to dynamic communities;

Whereas more than a million people in the United States can trace their roots to Korea;

Whereas the Centennial Committees of Korean Immigration and Korean Americans have designated January 13 of each year as "Korean American Day" to commemorate the first step of the long and prosperous journey of Korean Americans in the United States; and

Whereas Korean Americans have contributed significantly to the development of the arts, sciences, engineering, medicine, government, military, education, and the economy in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives urges all people in the United States to recognize the invaluable contributions Korean Americans have made to this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 1036, a resolution that will recognize the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States. Korean Americans have contributed significantly to the culture, economy, and success of the United States. January 13, 2010, marked the 107th anniversary of the beginning of Korean immigration into the United States. There are now more than a million and a half people of Korean descent living in the United States. Korean Americans have helped build our communities and our Nation. They have added significantly to the development of the arts, sciences, engineering, medicine, government, military, education, and the economy of the United States.

House Resolution 1036 was introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey, Representative SCOTT GARRETT, on January 22, 2010. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which ordered it reported by unanimous consent on March 4, 2010. The bill enjoys bipartisan support from over 50 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1036.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H. Res. 1036, recognizing the contribution of Korean Americans to the United States.

It was indeed back on January 13 that we marked the 107th anniversary of Korean American Day, for it was on that day, 107 years ago, that a boat carrying 102 Korean immigrants arrived in Hawaii. In the years since that time, many Koreans have come to the United States for opportunity, safety, and other reasons. Like the millions of immigrants before them, Korean Americans have made a tremendous contribution to the United States. At the beginning, these immigrants were laborers on farms, worked in mines, railroads, and such. It was their hard labor that literally helped build this country as we have it today. Today, there are over a million Korean Americans across this great country.

This year marks yet another great anniversary for them. The Korean War began 60 years ago this June, impacting the lives of millions of Koreans and, of course, people in this country as well. By the 1960s, Koreans became

one of the top five immigrant groups to the United States, as many Koreans sought hope and freedom and refuge from poverty and violence. The consequences of a divided Korean Peninsula affected the world then, as it does today. We will continue to work for diplomatic relations to resolve this conflict, and a North Korea free from nuclear weapons as well.

These Korean American immigrants have made untold contributions to American society. They have raised strong and good families and built successful businesses, dynamic communities, active civic associations, churches and charities. Thousands of Korean Americans currently serve in our Armed Forces; and many of them deployed overseas today, in harm's way, are keeping our Nation safe from terrorism and other risks.

□ 1630

Whether it's in military or in education, in science, in business or in the arts, Korean Americans have played and continue today to play a vital role in shaping communities throughout this country. So, Mr. Speaker, I come pleased to present this opportunity to recognize the contributions that Korean Americans have made to our Nation and urge all of us here on the floor and my colleagues across this House to support H. Res. 1036.

I would like to say thank you to the gentleman from the other side of the aisle for the past resolutions and this one as well.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my strong support of H. Res. 1036, offered by my colleague from New Jersey, Mr. GARRETT, which recognizes the contributions of Korean-Americans in the United States.

I have always believed that the Republic of Korea is one of America's most committed friends and allies, and the warmth and hospitality extended to me and my wife during our visit there last Spring reinforced my belief that the bonds that bind the people of the United States together with the people of South Korea are as strong today as they have ever been. Furthermore, I stand in fervent support of the more than 22 million citizens of North Korea who have suffered political oppression and severe human rights abuses for far too long under the dictatorship of Kim Jong-il and his father Kim it-Sung.

The United States and the Republic of Korea first became partners more than 125 years ago, when we signed a treaty of amity and commerce in 1882. This partnership grew stronger on the battlefield during the Korean War. The South Koreans fought bravely alongside Americans to stay free from the chains of tyranny and communism and have remained a beacon of light and democracy ever since. When countless Koreans were faced with war and poverty, they chose to come to the United States seeking better opportunities.

I believe that one of the reasons this bond has endured for over a century and remained so strong is because of the more than a million and a half people currently living in the United States of Korean descent. As noted in the resolution, these Korean-Americans, like countless others before them, have provided to their American communities by building strong families and becoming valuable members, greatly contributing to the arts, sciences, engineering, medicine, government, military, education and the economy in the United States. In addition to these contributions, these Korean-Americans continue to serve as a reminder of our long history together.

Furthermore, as this matter is of great importance to Korean-Americans, I would like to take this time to draw attention to the Administration's delay in pushing through various free trade agreements, especially the agreement that is pending with South Korea, which is the biggest U.S. trade pact since the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement. I urge this Administration to implement this agreement without any further delay as it is of vital interest to all and will have enormous economic and trade benefits for both the United States and South Korea.

Once again, in accordance with this resolution, and as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I would like to both acknowledge and express my gratitude for these important contributions to our society and to this Nation. I look forward to the continued positive role of Korean-Americans in communities all across America, and I look forward to the quick implementation of the free trade agreement with South Korea.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice of strong support for H. Res. 1036, introduced by Representative SCOTT GARRETT from New Jersey, which recognizes the invaluable contributions of Korean Americans to the United States of America.

Korean Americans have a long and proud history of serving their country in numerous ways. Military service, teaching our students, serving at high level posts in our current Administration, running Ivy League institutions, and providing quality medical care are just a few examples of how Korean Americans contribute to our society. They have added to the fabric of our culture and education with contributions in the fields of medicine, economy, business, architecture, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, the history of Korean Americans in the U.S. traces back to January 13, 1903 when a group of 102 Korean men, women and children immigrants arrived in Hawaii after a long journey across the Pacific. The Centennial Committees of Korean Immigration and Korean Americans have designated January 13 of each year as 'Korean American Day' to commemorate the first step of the long and prosperous journey of Korean Americans in the United States. In 2005, Congress formally designated this date as Korean American Day. This special day recognizes their American journey to this country as well as their entrepreneurial contributions to American society, culture, and economy.

Today, there are over one million Americans of Korean descent, making it the fifth largest Asian American subgroup. According to the 2006–2008 American Community Survey, California's fifteenth district, which I represent, is home to nearly 15,000 persons of Korean and Korean American background. Korean Americans are proudly serving the American people in the current Obama Administration, as well as excelling in professional sports such as golf and football.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and Korean peninsula share strong diplomatic and economic ties, dating back to the 1953 Korean War that unfortunately split apart a people with a rich history, culture, and religion. South Korea has blossomed into a beacon of democracy and free-market economy and continues to be one of America's unwavering friends in an increasingly critical region of the world.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I applaud the introduction of H. Res.1036 and urge colleagues to support this resolution so that we may recognize the contributions of Korean Americans.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1036, recognizing the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States.

There are more than 1 million Korean-Americans living in the United States. From the first hundred who immigrated to the United States in the early 20th century, Koreans have become an integral part of our country. Today, one out of every eight Korean-Americans owns his or her own business.

In my own district, I have had the opportunity to work hand in hand with the Korean community and I have seen their commitment in upholding their own rich heritage. The United States, and California in particular, have been enriched and defined by the contributions of Korean-Americans in a wide variety of fields.

Korean-Americans have invigorated businesses, civic institutions, and academic communities across the country. Korean-owned businesses employ more than 333,000 men and women, generating sales and receipts of over $46 billion. This resolution gives Congress the chance to recognize the importance Korean-Americans play in our communities.

Abroad, our relationship with South Korea has steadily grown and is now better than ever. Our trade relations are strong, and stand to be only further strengthened by the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, a deal that stands to grow both of our economies. In the previous Congress, I was proud to have authored legislation that granted Korea NATO +3 status in terms of military sales. These measures are important, but the strongest bridge between our two societies remains the Korean-American community, which continues to flourish.

In closing, I want to remind my colleagues that it is all too easy to overlook the invaluable contributions that Korean-Americans have made, not just in my home state of California, but to our Nation as a whole. This resolution provides well-deserved recognition to the Korean-American community for the indelible mark they have made upon the diversity and prominence of our great Nation.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my friends from both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting House Resolution 1036.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1036.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAPTAIN LUTHER H. SMITH, U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES POST OFFICE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4547) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Station Road in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, as the ''Captain Luther H. Smith, U.S. Army Air Forces Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4547

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

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN LUTHER H. SMITH, U.S. ARMY AIR FORCES POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Station Road in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the ''Captain Luther H. Smith, U.S. Army Air Forces Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Captain Luther H. Smith, U.S. Army Air Forces Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLAY. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4547. This legislation will designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 119 Station Road in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, as the Captain Luther H. Smith, U.S. Army Air Forces Post Office.

Luther Smith was one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, a highly decorated World War II prisoner of war, and a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal. One of the first African Americans to become a licensed pilot, Captain Smith began his military career in 1943. He flew 133 combat missions with the 332nd Fighter Group as a combat fighter pilot over Europe. He was severely wounded on his last mission in October 1944 and spent the next 7 months in enemy hospitals and prison camps before being liberated in May of 1945 by the Allied forces.

During his distinguished military career, Captain Smith destroyed two German aircraft in aerial conflicts and 10 aircraft in ground strafing attacks. Captain Smith was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with six oakleaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the Prisoner of War Medal, and eight European Theater Campaign Ribbons.

After retiring from the U.S. Army Air Forces, Captain Smith earned a B.S. in mechanical engineering at the University of Iowa. He was hired by General Electric, where he was involved in projects for the Air Force, the Navy Submarine Command, and NASA. His work included missile and jet engine design, and he published numerous papers and was awarded two patents.

Following his retirement from GE in 1988, Captain Smith was active in support of local civic causes, serving as the vice chairman of the Radnor Township, Pennsylvania, school board, and the board of the Delaware County Community College in Pennsylvania.

He also was instrumental in preserving the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. He and two other Tuskegee Airmen were featured in the 2006 documentary, ''On Freedom's Wings: Bound for Glory—The Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.'' He also designed the plaque, dedicated in memory of the Tuskegee Airmen, in Arlington National Cemetery.

In May of 1995, he was selected by President Bill Clinton to represent the U.S. Air Force for the 50th anniversary celebration of VE Day, and he accompanied President Clinton and Vice President Gore to Europe.

Captain Smith was a pioneer in American military and aviation history and left a lasting legacy for future pilots and engineers.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4547 was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Representative JOE SESTAK, on January 27, 2010, and was reported out of the Committee on Oversight by unanimous consent on March 4, 2010. This legislation enjoys the support of the entire Pennsylvania delegation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4547.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do rise today in support of H.R. 4547, designating the facility of the U.S. Post Office, located at 119 Station Road in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, as the Captain Luther H. Smith U.S. Army Air Forces Post Office.

Luther H. Smith was an original of the now legendary Tuskegee Airmen. His accomplishments, as already set forth, during World War II truly speak for themselves but deserve to be mentioned here on the floor.

Mr. SMITH was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with six oakleaf clusters, the Prisoner of War Medal, and eight European and Mediterranean Theaters Campaign Ribbons.

It was on October 13, 1944, while he was flying a mission over Hungary, that Mr. SMITH's P–51 Mustang fighter plane was hit, caught fire, and he was forced to bail out. Saved then only by a parachute, Mr. SMITH lost consciousness as he drifted towards Earth, snapping his hip in two places when he crashed into a tree. Later, there were some German soldiers who found him, and he was placed in a German hospital and then, after that, a prison camp for 7 months until the war ended. Wounded and starving, the exuberant and now talkative man, affectionately nicknamed Quibbles by his Airmen friends, withered to a mere 70 pounds during his internment.

After returning home from the war, Mr. SMITH received an engineering degree from the University of Iowa. He went on to spend the next 37 years as an aerospace engineer for General Electric, leveraging his experience to hold two U.S. patents; a testament, I think, to his creativity and his innovation.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. SMITH's life is an inspiration, and his tremendous sacrifices and a clear willingness to place himself in harm's way for this Nation are worthy of commendation. I ask our colleagues to support this resolution so that his life story will continue to inspire generations of Americans to serve their country.

Having no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage my friends from both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting H.R. 4547. Mr. SMITH certainly led an exemplary life which we can all be proud of.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4547.

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.

COMMENDING OHIO STATE FOOTBALL TEAM ON 2010 ROSE BOWL VICTORY

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1047) commending The Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for its victory in the 2010 Rose Bowl.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1047

Whereas The Ohio State University (Ohio State) Buckeyes football team achieved many historic accomplishments during the 2009 regular season;

Whereas Ohio State defeated favored Oregon 26–17 in the Rose Bowl on January 1, 2010;

Whereas Ohio State won its seventh Rose Bowl all-time;

Whereas Ohio State won its fifth consecutive Big Ten title and played in its fifth consecutive BCS bowl;

Whereas Ohio State finished the season at 11–2, ranked fifth nationally;

Whereas Ohio State led the Big Ten for the eighth consecutive season in academic all-conference honorees;

Whereas Ohio State Coach Jim Tressel became only the second coach in Ohio State history to win both a NCAA National Championship and a Rose Bowl (Woody Hayes);

Whereas the Ohio State defense ranked in the Top 5 nationally in 4 different categories;

Whereas Quarterback Terrelle Pryor threw for 266 yards, ran for 72 yards, and scored two touchdowns, leading all players for both teams in these categories; and

Whereas Quarterback Terrelle Pryor was the Rose Bowl MVP: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends The Ohio State University (Ohio State) Buckeye football team for its victory in the 2010 Rose Bowl;

(2) congratulates Coach Jim Tressel, winner of five Big Ten titles; and

(3) recognizes the accomplishments of the Ohio State Buckeye football team, which has played in more BCS Bowl Games than any other team in college football.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise, extend, and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1047 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PIERLUISI. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to congratulate the Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for their victory in the 2010 NCAA Rose Bowl. On January 1, the Ohio State Buckeyes of the Big Ten Conference faced off against the Oregon Ducks from the Pac-10 Conference for the 96th Rose Bowl game. The Buckeyes defeated the Ducks by a score of 26–17, collecting their seventh Rose Bowl crown.

The Buckeyes finished their season with an 11–2 record and a fifth national ranking. In addition to winning its seventh Rose Bowl title, Ohio State won its fifth consecutive Big Ten title, playing in its fifth consecutive BCS bowl game. The Buckeyes have played in eight BCS games, the most of any school. The players and coaches deserve to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments.

Congratulations are in order for Terrelle Pryor, Ohio State's quarterback and 2010 Rose Bowl MVP. Pryor threw for 266 yards, ran for 72 yards, and scored two touchdowns, leading all players from both teams in these categories.

I also want to extend my congratulations to Head Coach Jim Tressel. Coach Tressel just completed his ninth season with the Buckeyes. Since taking the position, Tressel has led the Buckeyes to an overall record of 94–21, with nine bowl appearances and one national championship.

The extraordinary achievement of this year is a tribute to the skill and dedication of the many players, coaches, students, alumni, families, and fans that have helped to make the Ohio State University Buckeyes a great football program. Winning the Rose Bowl and finishing the season with an 11–2 overall record have brought acclaim to the school and to the Buckeye football team. I know the fans of the university will revel in this victory as they look forward to the 2010 season.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I congratulate the Ohio State University Buckeyes for their success and thank Congresswoman KILROY for bringing this bill forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of the resolution before us, House Resolution 1047, commending the Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for its victory in 2010's Rose Bowl game.

In the 2010 Rose Bowl, the Ohio State University Buckeyes defeated the University of Oregon on January 1, 2010. Sophomore quarterback Terrelle Pryor scored two touchdowns and was Rose Bowl's offensive most valuable player. Although Oregon's team fought valiantly, the Buckeyes' defense held fast. Despite the Ducks' lead early in the third quarter, the Buckeyes' defense marched forward to win the game 26–17.

Known as ''The Granddaddy of Them All,'' the Rose Bowl game kicked off a myriad of college football legacies in 1902. Since then, the game has showcased 18 Heisman Trophy winners, produced 32 national champions, featured 197 consensus All-Americans, and honored 98 college football legends by inducting them into the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame.

The 2010 Rose Bowl was the seventh Rose Bowl won by the Buckeyes. The 2009–2010 season marked the fifth consecutive Big Ten title for the Buckeyes and the fifth consecutive BCS Bowl for the team.

□ 1645

Ohio State was ranked fifth nationally and competed in a manner unparalleled in the Rose Bowl game. The Buckeyes have won seven national championships and produced seven Heisman Trophy winners. While the tradition of excellence certainly presents itself on the gridiron, Ohio State University's commitment to academic excellence is equally abundant.

Ohio State University is the flagship institution of Ohio's public university system. It has been ranked as the 18th best public university by U.S. News & World Report and houses several programs that were ranked among the top 10 in these United States. The university was established in 1870, and its students have excelled since that time.

I extend my congratulations to head coach Jim Tressel and all of the hard-working players, the fans, and to Ohio State University. I am happy to join in recognizing the Ohio State Buckeyes for their accomplishment, and wish all involved continued success, except of course when they are playing the Wisconsin Badgers.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KILROY), the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1047, bipartisan legislation I introduced to recognize the Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for its victory in the 2010 Rose Bowl. As a graduate of the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University, and the Representative of the 15th Congressional District, where Ohio State University is located, it is my very great pleasure to wear the scarlet and gray today, and to publicly and formally congratulate the Buckeyes on a wonderful season, particularly for its Rose Bowl win.

I would like to thank the 26 cosponsors of this resolution for joining me in recognizing the Buckeyes' achievements, including all 18 members of the Ohio delegation. Buckeye football unites us across party lines. And I thank my Big 10 colleague from Wisconsin for his support of the resolution, and particularly for his kind words about Ohio State University's strong history of academic achievement. I am pleased that we can set aside partisan differences to come together and recognize the achievements of the student athletes of Buckeye football. I would also like to thank Chairman MILLER for his help in bringing this resolution to the floor.

On January 1, 2010, central Ohio cheered on the Ohio State Buckeyes as they defeated the University of Oregon Ducks 26–17 in the 96th Rose Bowl game. It was the Buckeyes' fifth straight BCS bowl appearance and seventh Rose Bowl victory in the program's history. The Buckeyes' strong defense held the high-powered Oregon offense to 27 points below its season average.

While the win was a result of a tremendous team effort, quarterback Terrelle Pryor, son of Pennsylvania, Mr. Speaker, turned in an exceptional individual performance, throwing for 266 yards and rushing for 72 more, earning the Most Valuable Player award.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Buckeyes' worthy opponent, the Pac 10 champion Oregon Ducks, on a great season. Led by their quarterback Jeremiah Masoli and their running back LaMichael James, the Ducks came into the game ranked number seven and boasted one of the most prolific offenses in the Nation. Although the Buckeyes prevailed in Pasadena, Oregon overcame adversity all season and should also be proud of their achievements.

A great thing about college football is that you see the students come and go and new teams every year. And so after losing a wealth of experience on both offense and defense, some thought that 2009 might be a rebuilding year for the Ohio State Buckeyes' football team. But instead, during a banner month of November, the Buckeyes tallied wins over then-number 10 Penn State and then-number 13 Iowa in a thrilling overtime game on their way to winning the Big 10 title.

The Buckeyes achieved many historic achievements during the 2009 season. The team earned its fifth consecutive Big 10 Conference title, and its sixth in the last eight seasons. The Buckeyes also won at least 10 games 5 straight years for the first time in the program's storied history. The Ohio State defense was ranked in the top five nationally in four statistical categories, while shutting their opponents out three times. This year's senior class is the most successful in Ohio State history, winning a school record 44 games over the past 4 years. In addition, head coach Jim Tressel became only the second Ohio State coach, along with Woody Hayes, to win both a Rose Bowl championship and the national championship with the Buckeyes. Most importantly, 31 Buckeyes were named to the Big 10 all-academic team, and the Buckeyes have led the Big 10 in all-academic team honorees in eight consecutive seasons.

One other comment about the Rose Bowl, this one about the Rose Bowl Parade. Many great marching bands, including those from Ohio, marched on that day in the Rose Bowl Parade, but it was a banner day when the marching band from the Ohio State School for the Blind marched the streets of Pasadena as part of the Rose Bowl Parade, an historic first. And I really congratulate those students, their teachers, and their band director. We are very proud of their outstanding achievement as well.

As it turns out, the Buckeyes' victory in the Rose Bowl was a sign of good things to come for Ohio State athletics in 2010. The women's basketball team recently won the Big 10 regular season title for the sixth year in a row, a new record, and the Big 10 tournament title for the second year in a row. Meanwhile, the men's basketball team won a share of the Big 10 regular season championship going into this weekend's Big 10 tournament. I wish both of these teams the best of luck during their postseason runs.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution recognizing the Ohio State Buckeyes' athletic and academic achievements. The 2009 Ohio State Buckeyes football team conducted itself both on and off the field with the excellence we have come to expect from this great program. I congratulate the Buckeyes on their season and look forward to cheering them on in 2010. As we say in Ohio, Go Bucks.

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

Mr. PIERLUISI. I now urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution congratulating the Ohio State Buckeyes for their Rose Bowl victory, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1047.

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. PIERLUISI. Mr. 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.

CONGRATULATING SILVER LAKE COLLEGE ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1142) congratulating Silver Lake College for 75 years of service as an undergraduate institution of higher education.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1142

Whereas Silver Lake College was founded in the late 1800s by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity as an academy and normal school;

Whereas the State of Wisconsin issued the charter designating Silver Lake College, then named Holy Family College, as an undergraduate institution of higher education in 1935;

Whereas Silver Lake College is a four-year Catholic liberal arts college, located in Manitowoc, Wisconsin;

Whereas Silver Lake College currently serves 1,253 students and offers a 7 to 1 student to teacher ratio;

Whereas students at Silver Lake College can earn degrees in 11 different programs and 24 different areas of study; and

Whereas Silver Lake College emphasizes a professional education with a liberal arts experience and encourages life-long learning and moral and community leadership: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Silver Lake College for 75 years of service as an undergraduate institution of higher education; and

(2) commends Silver Lake College for providing education and training to the people of Wisconsin for over 75 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise, extend, and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1142 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PIERLUISI. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1142, which congratulates Silver Lake College for 75 years of service as an undergraduate institution of higher education. Founded in the late 1800s by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity, Silver Lake College has emerged as a strong academic environment for students looking for one-on-one attention. The school educates approximately 1,000 students annually, offers a seven-to-one student-to-teacher ratio, and provides 24 different areas of study for its students. The small, intimate setting Silver Lake College champions gives students and teachers opportunities to excel in and out of the classroom.

Silver Lake College was founded on Franciscan Catholic values. These values focus on a commitment to community, compassion, peace, and reverence for creation. Through a quality liberal arts education, students at Silver Lake College learn to connect the mind and spirit through Franciscan traditions. Leadership and service ideals are instilled in the student body at Silver Lake College. These ideals are best exemplified by students' commitment to volunteerism. This past February, three student organizations at the school partnered to raise funds for victims of the Haiti earthquake. Students hosted a rock and roll concert and sold food at fundraisers throughout campus, with all proceeds going to earthquake victims.

This year Silver Lake College will celebrate 75 years of providing excellent education and cultivating young women and men to be well-rounded young adults with promising career paths.

Mr. Speaker, once again I express my support for Silver Lake College, and thank Congressman PETRI for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1142, congratulating Silver Lake College for 75 years of service as an undergraduate institution of higher education. Silver Lake College is a 4-year Catholic liberal arts college located in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, which is in the congressional district I represent.

The college was founded in the late 1800s by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity. In 1935, the State of

Wisconsin granted Silver Lake its charter as a 4-year undergraduate liberal arts institution, and it conferred its first degree 4 years later. The college began admitting lay women on a regular basis in 1957, and became coeducational in 1969 to better meet the educational needs of the local area.

Today, Silver Lake serves over 1,000 students and offers a seven-to-one student-to-teacher ratio. It offers 11 different degree programs in 24 areas of study. A pioneer in the music field, Silver Lake College is the only college in the country to have an established undergraduate Kodaly concept of music education concentration.

In addition to music, Silver Lake College has a highly regarded reputation for its undergraduate and graduate education programs. The college also has expanded its reach throughout the State of Wisconsin, offering classes in a variety of communities, including Green Bay, Marinette, Rhinelander, and Sheboygan. Silver Lake College strives to develop a community of lifelong learners, to provide educational opportunities for professional preparation within a liberal arts experience, to prepare students for self-directed intellectual inquiry and aesthetic appreciation, and to foster commitment to Christian values, service, and leadership in the world community.

This past fall, as part of a 10-year campus master plan, Silver Lake College opened its first on-campus residence hall. As its growth continues, plans are in the works for the construction of a new music education and performance center, along with an athletics and events center.

I have had the opportunity to visit the college on numerous occasions, and commend Dr. George Arnold, Silver Lake's president, for his efforts in working with the local Manitowoc community and businesses to enhance student learning opportunities. Strong institutions help to make strong communities, and the people of Wisconsin, especially those in and near Manitowoc, are proud of the 75 years of service that Silver Lake College has provided. The growth, strength, and vitality of Silver Lake College is an achievement well worth special recognition.

I extend my congratulations to Silver Lake College on its 75th anniversary, and wish all of its faculty, staff, students, and alumni continued success in their endeavors.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 1700

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

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution congratulating Silver Lake College for 75 years of service.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1142.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WEEK

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1091) expressing support for designation of the week of February 28 through March 7, 2010, as ''School Social Work Week'', as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1091

Whereas the importance of school social work through the inclusion of school social work programs has been recognized in the current authorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas school social workers serve as vital members of a school's educational team, playing a central role in creating partnerships between the home, school, and community to ensure student academic success;

Whereas school social workers are especially skilled in providing services to students who face serious challenges to school success, including poverty, disability, discrimination, abuse, addiction, bullying, divorce of parents, loss of a loved one, and other barriers to learning;

Whereas there is a growing need for local educational agencies to offer the mental health services that school social workers provide when working with families, teachers, principals, community agencies, and other entities to address students' emotional, physical, and environmental needs so that students may achieve behavioral and academic success;

Whereas to achieve the goal of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–110) of helping all children reach their optimal levels of potential and achievement, including children with serious emotional disturbances, schools must work to remove the emotional, behavioral, and academic barriers that interfere with student success in school;

Whereas in 1999, with the most current data available, the Surgeon General's Report on Mental Health showed that fewer than 1 in 5 of the 17,500,000 children in need of mental health services actually receive these services, and research indicates that school mental health programs improve educational outcomes by decreasing absences, decreasing discipline referrals, and improving academic achievement;

Whereas school mental health programs are critical to early identification of mental health problems and in the provision of appropriate services when needed;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school social workers recommended by the School Social Work Association of America is 400 to 1; and

Whereas the celebration and of ''School Social Work Week'' during the week of February 28 through March 6, 2010, highlights the vital role school social workers play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of ''School Social Work Week'';

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of school social workers to the successes of students in schools across the Nation; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe ''School Social Work Week'' with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the vital role of school social workers, in schools and in the community as a whole, in helping students prepare for their futures as productive citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1091 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1091, a resolution to recognize the week of February 28 through March 6, 2010, as National School Social Worker Week.

School social workers have long played a critical role in schools and in the community as a whole. They are professionals with training in social support and mental health intervention who work with youth to address their emotional, social, and developmental needs. For example, students in elementary school are just beginning to develop their academic skills and their feelings of competence. School social workers help students build their confidence as learners.

In middle school, many new challenges arise. During this passage from childhood to adolescence, students are characterized by a need to explore a variety of interests, connecting their learning in the classroom to its practical application in life. In middle schools, school social workers provide leadership to engage all stakeholders in the delivery of programs and services to help students navigate the challenges of early adolescence to achieve academic, social, and behavioral success.

And in high school, students begin separating from parents to explore their independence and define their individuality. They face increased pressures to engage in risky behaviors involving sex, alcohol, and drugs, and many students seek support in choosing acceptable behavior and establishing mature, meaningful relationships. School social workers help them

make thoughtful and appropriate decisions.

On top of this, school social workers must be responsive to the range of challenges that young people face every day such as poverty, disability, discrimination, abuse, addiction, bullying, divorce of parents, loss of a loved one, and other barriers to learning.

School social workers are also on the front lines when disaster strikes, such as the suicide plane attack in Austin, Texas, that killed a number of people last month, Hurricane Katrina, as well as our traumatic events such as 9/11 or school violence incidents like Columbine.

There is documentation of the growing need for school districts to expand mental health and student support services in schools. The numbers indicate that less than 1 in 5 of the 17.5 million children in need of mental health services actually receive any support from qualified professionals. Many students go underserved primarily because the national average ratio of students to school social workers is far higher than the 400 to 1 ratio recommended by the School Social Work Association of America.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution serves to recognize the tremendous importance of school social workers and acknowledge the valuable role that they play in guiding our students' success. I want to thank Congressman KENNEDY for bringing this resolution forward. I urge my colleagues to resoundingly pass this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution before us, House Resolution 1091, expressing support for designation of the week now passed of February 28 through March 6, 2010, as ''School Social Work Week.''

School social work is a specialized area of practice within the broad field of the social work profession. School social workers bring unique knowledge and skills to the school system and the student services team. School social workers are instrumental in furthering the purposes of education, which is to provide a setting for teaching, learning, and for the attainment of competence and confidence. School social workers are hired by school districts to enhance the district's ability to meet its academic mission.

Within the school setting, school social workers are a link between the student, the student's family, the school, and the community. The efficacy of this link is considerably dependent upon professional relationships developed with the student and the student's family, as well as with other school personnel. School social workers are concerned with the student's education as well as their emotional and mental well-being.

School social workers play an important part in the academic and emotional development of students in schools. They provide services to students who face challenges that might be a barrier to learning, such as poverty, disability, abuse, loss of a loved one, or divorce. School social workers are critical to the identification of mental health problems and the provision of services when needed.

Today, we honor and recognize the contributions of school social workers to the success of students in the schools throughout our Nation. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Having no requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution recognizing National School Social Work Week.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1091, supporting "School Social Work Week." I introduced this resolution in order to recognize and support the critical, often thankless work performed by social workers in schools across our country. School social workers bring valuable skills and expertise to schools and student services teams to ensure that every child has an opportunity for success.

On a daily basis, school social workers help educators, administrators, and parents address students' emotional, physical, and environmental needs. School social workers help educators to understand cultural, family, and community factors affecting students.

Everyday, they work with administrators to design and implement prevention programs and policies that address school attendance, bullying, sexual harassment, teen pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, special education, and more. Issues like cyber bullying and harassment are extremely underreported and on the rise in schools across the country. Adult intervention at school is necessary to effectively curb these trends.

School social workers also work as liaisons between parents and schools. They work with parents so that they may participate in their child's education, understand special education services, and access other services related to their child's needs.

In healthcare we must treat the whole person and in education we must do the same. School social workers recognize the importance of connecting emotional, behavioral, and academic services in order to maximize children's opportunities for success.

Too many children do not receive the mental health services they need. Improved and expanded school mental health programs would help to close this discrepancy. The kinds of services that so many students desperately need are precisely the type of services that school social workers can provide. As our economy continues to struggle, and families all over the country are losing their homes and jobs; the need for school social workers only multiples.

That is why I am proud to be the sponsor of this resolution. I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Education and Labor Committee for allowing this resolution to come to the floor, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1091, which expresses support for designation of the week of February 28 through March 7, 2010, as "School Social Work Week".

Mr. Speaker, there is a mounting need for local educational institutions to provide the mental health services social workers offer when working with students' emotional, physical, and environmental needs. When students are coupled with sincere and understanding social worker, they are more likely to succeed and achieve behavioral and academic success. This legislation will affirm that social workers are life lines to children, schools, families and communities and those we fully are committed to any and all initiatives that promote the need for such crucial workers.

Mr. Speaker, 1 in 5 of the 17,500,000 children in need of mental health services actually receive these services, and research indicates that school mental health programs improve educational outcomes by decreasing absences, decreasing discipline referrals, and improving academic achievement. It is imperative that more social workers are properly trained and deployed into these various school systems to assist students in reaching their most favorable level of potential and achievement, especially children with serious emotional barriers. The observation of 'School Social Work Week' during the week of February 28 through March 7, 2010, calls attention to the fundamental role school social workers play in the lives of students in the United States.

As many may know during the first years in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, the Houston school system, mainly Houston Independent School District, was flooded with children from the affected area school systems. After being through such a horrific ordeal, students were expected to continue with their studies as normal. It took the dedicated work of school social workers which assessed what was already in place to help the students, conclude what was missing and formulate a plan to build the student's aptitude to bounce back from adversity. Now many of these students have gone on to succeed academically and socially.

So in conclusion, I support H. Res. 1091 and I encourage my colleagues to join me. In these uncertain times, where natural and unnatural disasters are on every hand and have caused traumatic experiences for this nation, let us not forget our youth.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1091, 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.

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 5 o'clock and 8 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. SCHRADER) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 248, AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111–428) on the resolution (H. Res. 1146) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 248) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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.R. 3650, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 1069, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 935, de novo.

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

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA RESEARCH AND CONTROL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3650, as amended, 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 Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3650, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 263, nays 142, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—263

Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Alexander
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Bono Mack
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Giffords
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilroy
Kind
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wilson (OH)
Wittman
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—142

Aderholt
Akin
Altmire
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Dent
Dreier
Duncan
Emerson
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Rehberg
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Roskam
Royce
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—25

Barrett (SC)
Blunt
Camp
Conyers
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Engel
Fallin
Forbes
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hoekstra
Jordan (OH)
Kennedy
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kirk
Nadler (NY)
Perlmutter
Ryan (OH)
Space
Titus
Wamp
Woolsey
Young (FL)

□ 1902

Messrs. GARY G. MILLER of California, ALTMIRE, HALL of Texas, COLE, OLSON, CHILDERS, BOREN, JOHNSON of Illinois, TERRY and McCAUL and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CASSIDY, ALEXANDER, FLEMING and BILIRAKIS and Mrs. BONO MACK changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1069, 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 Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.R. 1069.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 0, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

YEAS—402

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)

Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
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
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
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
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
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)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—28

Barrett (SC)
Becerra
Blunt
Camp
Conyers
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Engel
Fallin
Forbes
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hoekstra
Jordan (OH)
Kennedy
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kirk
Manzullo
McIntyre
Nadler (NY)
Perlmutter
Quigley
Ryan (OH)
Serrano
Wamp
Woolsey
Young (FL)

□ 1909

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.

Stated for:

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 93 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING WINNERS OF NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 935.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 935.

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 402, noes 0, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

AYES—402

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
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
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
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
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
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)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen

Payne
Pence
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
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
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—28

Barrett (SC)
Berman
Blunt
Camp
Conyers
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Deal (GA)
Engel
Fallin
Forbes
Gohmert
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hoekstra
Jordan (OH)
Kennedy
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kirk
Manzullo
Nadler (NY)
Perlmutter
Quigley
Ryan (OH)
Terry
Wamp
Woolsey
Young (FL)

□ 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. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, 2010, I was called away on personal business. I regret that I was not present to vote on H.R. 3650, H. Res. 1069, and H. Res. 935. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all votes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend several votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 3650, "aye" on final passage of H. Res. 1069, and "aye" on final passage H. Res. 935.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 92, 93, and 94.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 872

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 872.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING TERRY LINDSEY

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a very distinguished individual from the 11th District of Georgia, Mr. Terry Lindsey.

Terry is not only a dear friend but a very renowned member of the Polk County community. Terry is retiring this March after 31 years of employment with Engineered Fabrics in Rockmart, Georgia. Engineered Fabrics manufactures fuel bladders for many platforms, such as the Blackhawk helicopter and the Abrams tank.

Terry's hard work with the company has ultimately helped to ensure the safety of our pilots and of our soldiers who are in harm's way.

Terry started with Engineered Fabrics in 1979 as the manager of Contract Management, and 10 years later, he was made vice president of Business Development. He is an integral part of Engineered Fabrics' success, and I know he will be deeply missed by the company.

Terry is also a very active volunteer in the Polk County community, serving on the Rotary, and he has been a board member of the Chamber of Commerce for many, many years. He is very committed to the youth leadership committee, often speaking to their graduation classes.

Terry is married to his college sweetheart, Jean, is a wonderful father of two, and is a grandfather of four.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to call Terry a friend. I want to congratulate him on his retirement, and I want to thank him for his hard work on behalf of our community and the military.

OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD TO HAITI

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

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the Ohio Air National Guard, recently dispatched to Haiti to participate in the relief efforts after the devastating earthquake there.

The 179th Airlift Wing of the National Guard was among the first units to land in Haiti, ready to improve communication at the Port-au-Prince airport and to dispatch search and rescue crews, knowing full well of the conditions awaiting them.

As a former member and pilot of the 179th Airlift Wing, I flew on various missions with them around the globe, and I know of their dedication.

The conditions in Haiti are, indeed, horrific, and I pray for those who have perished and for the loved ones they have left behind. I am proud that my home State of Ohio symbolizes what so many in the U.S. Armed Forces already know: No matter where devastation occurs, there are courageous and selfless young men and women across our Nation who are willing to respond to the call of duty.

To the members of the 179th Airlift Wing of the Ohio Air National Guard, each of you are heroes today, and I commend you for rising to the call of duty in this desperate time of need. Thank you for your service to our country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOYT C. WOODS

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

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Hoyt C. Woods, who passed away at his home in Port St. Lucie, Florida, this month. Woody, as he was known, was a veteran of the Vietnam War, and before moving to Florida nearly 30 years ago, he served as a police officer in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

Serving fellow veterans was one of Woody's lifelong passions. For more than 15 years, he served as chairman of the Martin County Veterans Council, and he was also active in AMVETS, the American Legion, the VFW, and the Elks. He also co-established and was a charter member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 127, in Martin County.

Woody was particularly proud of his integral role in creating the Honor Flight Program. This program honors America's veterans and their sacrifices by raising money to fly them to the Nation's capital so they can visit and reflect at their memorials.

Hoyt Woods leaves behind his wife of 25 years, Joyce; their sons, Micki and Shawn; two daughters, Wendi and Angela; and a Nation forever grateful for his distinguished service.

On behalf of the people of the 16th District of Florida, Godspeed, Mr. Woods.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to call attention to the month of March as being National Women's History Month. I am happy to stand here today, not only as a proud husband but also as a proud father of four daughters.

National Women's History Month actually started in March of 1980 as National Women's History Week. In 1987, the celebration was expanded to a full month. This month, we mark 30 years of shining a bright light on the importance that women have played in shaping the great Nation we live in today.

This year's theme is ''writing women back into history.'' Through events, celebrations, and many additional measures, 2010 will help ensure that the historical and groundbreaking achievements made by thousands of women will find their rightful place in our history books.

Today, I am proud to recognize the grandmothers, the mothers, and the daughters who have given us so many reasons to celebrate National Women's History Month. I look forward to witnessing other young women become future leaders and history makers.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF SERGEANT VINCENT L.C. OWENS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a brave American soldier who sacrificed his life for freedom, Sergeant Vincent L.C. Owens from Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Sergeant Owens was a decorated soldier who was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He was the recipient of many awards, including two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, a Valorous Unit Award, an Iraq Campaign Medal, and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

On March 1, 2010, Sergeant Owens died of injuries sustained when the vehicle he occupied received direct fire. He was only 21.

Vincent was an accomplished young man, known for his work ethic and drive, for his focus and desire to be the best, and, most importantly, for his commitment to his family. Vincent made the ultimate sacrifice. So, too, did his family—his wife, Kaitlyn; his mother, Sheila; and his father, Keith.

Mr. Speaker, Vincent is a true American hero. I ask that my colleagues keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

SAVING NASA, A NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST AND ASSET

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased tonight to acknowledge that there is a lot of energy behind the engine of NASA and the Constellation Program. There is a lot of interest across America, not so much for the individual States that are impacted but for the research engine of the international space station and the importance of human space exploration.

Today, I will introduce, along with 16 cosponsors, H. Res. 1150, which declares NASA a national security interest and asset. It emphasizes the importance of the work of NASA. As well, it indicates that the elimination of the Constellation Program will, in fact, create a national security risk to the United States and will diminish the Nation's efforts to advance scientific research in space.

In addition, we are asking and indicating that there should be partnerships between universities and that NASA centers should be established to provide research opportunities to conduct research on behalf of the United States at the international space station. In addition, this legislation will ask for the full funding of the Constellation Program.

We must save NASA. We must save jobs. This is an American imperative.

PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND AMERICA'S MANNED SPACE PROGRAM

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

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleague and fellow Houstonian, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, in expressing our strong support for the fine men and women at NASA.

Our manned space program has preserved America's leadership in space, which has led to America's leadership in technology and in scientific advancement. The great men and women of NASA and of our manned space program have created in so many ways so many technological spin-offs that we must preserve America's leadership in space. We must preserve America's ability to protect the high ground. Unavoidably, the outer space today is the high ground militarily just as surely as Cemetery Hill and Little Round Top were at Gettysburg.

There is strong bipartisan support in this Congress to preserve America's manned space program and to oppose the recommendation—and that's what it is—of the Obama administration to close down America's space program. That is unacceptable. America will never surrender her leadership in the world, and we certainly will not surrender our leadership in outer space.

We are very proud of the men and women at NASA and in our manned space program, and we will be working together in a bipartisan way to preserve, protect and defend America's manned space program.

□ 1930

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intent to offer a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct initiated an investigation into allegations related to earmarks and campaign contributions in the Spring of 2009.

Whereas, on December 2, 2009, reports and findings in seven separate matters involving the alleged connection between earmarks and campaign contributions were forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the Standards Committee.

Whereas, on February 26, 2010, the Standards Committee made public its report on the matter wherein the Committee found, though a widespread perception exists among corporations and lobbyists that campaign contributions provide a greater chance of obtaining earmarks, there was no evidence that Members or their staff considered contributions when requesting earmarks.

Whereas, the Committee indicated that, with respect to the matters forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics, neither the evidence cited in the OCE's findings nor the evidence in the record before the Standards Committee provided a substantial reason to believe that violations of applicable standards of conduct occurred.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics is prohibited from reviewing activities taking place prior to March of 2008 and lacks the authority to subpoena witnesses and documents.

Whereas, for example, the Office of Congressional Ethics noted that in some instances documents were redacted or specific information was not provided and that, in at least one instance, they had reason to believe a witness withheld information requested and did not identify what was being withheld.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics also noted that they were able to interview only six former employees of the PMA Group, with many former employees refusing to consent to interviews and the OCE unable to obtain evidence within PMA's possession.

Whereas, Roll Call noted that ''the committee report was five pages long and included no documentation of any evidence collected or any interviews conducted by the committee, beyond a statement that the investigation 'included extensive document reviews and interviews with numerous witnesses.' '' (Roll Call, March 8, 2010)

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee included in their investigation any activities that occurred prior to 2008.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee interviewed any Members in the course of their investigation.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee, in the course of their investigation, initiated their own subpoenas or followed the Office of Congressional Ethics recommendations to issue subpoenas.

Therefore be it:

Resolved, That not later than seven days after the adoption of this resolution, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall report to the House of Representatives, with respect to the activities addressed in its report of February 26, 2010, (1) what witnesses were interviewed, (2) what, if any,

subpoenas were issued in the course of their investigation, and (3) what documents were reviewed and their availability for public review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CROWLEY). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHRADER). 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.

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

MAKING PUBLIC INFORMATION GATHERED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, just minutes ago I introduced a privileged resolution that would require the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to make public information gathered for its probe into the relationship between earmarks and campaign contributions.

In a report released earlier this month, the Standards Committee concluded that it could find no evidence of a quid pro quo regarding the relationship between earmarks and campaign contributions. The committee exercised its authority under its own rules to release information gathered by the Office of Congressional Ethics, but released nothing more than a summary of its own findings.

According to one media source, ''the committee report was five pages long and included no documentation of any evidence collected or any interviews conducted by the committee beyond a statement that the investigation included extensive document reviews and interviews with numerous witnesses.''

I think it is fair to ask what the Standards Committee did regarding this investigation. We know the Standards Committee reviewed documents gathered by the Office on Congressional Ethics. What were these documents? We were also told the Standards Committee interviewed numerous witnesses. Who were they?

We know that the OCE has no subpoena power. It cannot compel cooperation from whom it investigates. Let me give an example of where it might have been useful to have some followup information from the Standards Committee.

Page 17 of the report notes that the OCE had reason to believe that a witness withheld information. It also notes that many remaining former PMA employees refused to consent to interviews. In addition, it noted that the OCE was unable to obtain any evidence within PMA's possession. I think it is reasonable to ask whether the Standards Committee issued subpoenas or otherwise sought cooperation from these reluctant witnesses. It appears they did not.

Perhaps what is most troubling about this investigation is that the Standards Committee concludes that while they could find no evidence of a quid pro quo between campaign contributions and earmarks, there is a widespread perception among campaign contributors and earmark recipients that such a quid pro quo exists.

It should be noted that the ''perception'' or ''appearance'' has been sufficient grounds for admonishment of a Member of Congress by the Standards Committee as recently as 2004. Yet despite finding that there is a widespread appearance of impropriety here, the Standards Committee provides no guidance to Members of Congress as to how they might avoid such an appearance. The existence of such a perception, I might add, inures to the benefit of Members of Congress and their campaign committees.

I have long advocated for a change to the Standard Committee's current guidance regarding earmarks and campaign contributions and have introduced legislation to this effect. House rules already require Members who earmark funds to certify that they and their families have no financial interest in the organization receiving earmark dollars, yet the Standards Committee states that campaign contributions do not constitute financial interests. Classifying campaign contributions as financial interests would go a long way toward dispelling the widespread perception of a quid pro quo and would do much to lift the ethical cloud hanging over this body.

As an aside, while we are updating guidance from the Standards Committee, we should certainly update the recent guidance implying that Members of Congress who, for example, earmark money for a freeway off-ramp next to property they own, thereby inflating the value of this property, are not in violation of House rules as long as they are not the ''sole beneficiaries'' of such a rise in value. Such a standard does not pass the test of smell or laughter.

When behavior that is condoned by this body lends itself to a widespread perception of impropriety, we have an obligation not only to change the behavior, but to change the rules that police and govern such behavior.

Mr. Speaker, we owe this wonderful institution far more than we are giving it. The widespread perception of the dependent relationship between earmarks and campaign contributions carries no partisan advantage. The cloud that hangs over this body rains on Republicans and Democrats alike, and we will all benefit when this cloud is lifted.

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 NECESSITY FOR FUNDING NASA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Just a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, I stood on the floor of the House to introduce H. Res. 1150, which addresses the National Aeronautic and Space Administration as a national security asset and interest.

I served for 12 years on the Science Committee and as a member of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee. I visited almost every NASA center around the country. I have visited our science laboratories. I am very engaged with the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Program, to help educate America's children to ensure that we remain at the cutting edge of science and technology and inventiveness, and as well to be able to build jobs for the 21st century. We are in that century now.

I have interacted with NASA and many of the astronauts over the years, watching them as they have launched into space, experiencing the tragedies of *Challenger* and *Columbia*, the loss of life of those brave souls who were willing to risk their lives to explore on behalf of the American people.

I want to work with the administration, because I believe they are knowledgeable about the value of human spaceflight. However, the approach to commercialize this important national security interest is not appropriate for now.

We live in a world that has changed. I chair the Subcommittee on Homeland Security dealing with transportation security and the protection of our infrastructure. Our infrastructure includes the buildings that we are in

today, hospitals and schools, private-sector buildings, mass assets of the Federal Government, and, yes, the NASA centers and the NASA shuttle and all of the equipment that goes into providing for human spaceflight.

Lending that space technology to commercial exploration and private-sector businesses on the basis of profit is not appropriate now. It will put us in a noncompetitive position with China, India, and Russia.

So this resolution is simple. It declares the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as a national security interest and asset. It indicates that the United States has invested in the human space program since May 5, 1961. We all can remember the words of our President, John F. Kennedy, that challenged this Nation when he asked the question, Not why, but why not? Although those words came from his brother, he captured it in the early 1960s when he asked and demanded what we could do not for ourselves, but what we could do for our country.

At that time, we established the United States as a leader in the role of space exploration, and as well in the advancement of scientific research, and therefore that equals a national security interest. It does so because science provides security, and the penetration of the scientific knowledge that we have lowers the security of this Nation.

My Committee on Homeland Security deals with protecting the infrastructure. Infrastructure is security. Infrastructure involves the science labs. Infrastructure involves the many space centers we have around the Nation. The States that are involved are Florida; Huntsville, Alabama; Texas; and the various sites in California as well.

□ 1945

And so I would ask that this legislation be moved quickly in the United States Congress and in this House because the 2010 NASA budget funded a program of space-based research that supports the administration's commitment to deploy a global climate change research and monitoring system. That research can be done better on the international space station. That international space station needs to be supported. It needs to be able to carry astronauts and scientists there to continue the research to make the quality of life for Americans and the world better. In the early stages of the international space station, research was done involving HIV/AIDS, stroke, heart disease, and cancer. That research has created opportunities for a better quality of life, and it saved lives.

Let us not miss the opportunity, the treasure of being able to explore in space; the genius of America to allow us to be at the cutting edge of science; and, yes, to protect a natural security interest, which is the National Aeronautics Space Administration and all of its assets.

And so I look forward to working with General Bolden, an astronaut and a very able appointee of the President of United States, to see how we can save NASA and the Constellation program that will allow us to be at the cutting edge of science, not in America, but around the world.

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 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

BUYING INTO MEDICARE

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

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced a simple 4-page bill that allows any American to buy into Medicare at cost. Let me explain why I have done that. I have five children. When one of my children was born, I found out from the insurance company that the insurance company would not pay for the birth of my child. I had what I thought was excellent health care coverage from this insurance company, but it turned out otherwise. As a result of that, I had to pay $10,000 for the birth of my child.

You know, it could have been worse. Maybe I wouldn't have that $10,000. A lot of Americans face that situation when they have health care bills that their health insurance company won't cover. It could have been worse. I had twins who were born afterwards, who were born a month premature, spent weeks in the hospital. God only knows what those bills would have looked like. I probably would have been broke.

But the fact is that I felt, like many Americans feel, that I had an adversarial relationship with my insurance company and that every penny they spent on my care was a penny less for their profits. And that is a fundamentally unfair situation that causes untold health care needs around this country that go unmet and, frankly, untold death.

That's why we need another option. We need a public option. We're going to be seeing a Senate bill that doesn't have a public option. We're going to be seeing reconciliation that doesn't have a public option. But America needs a public option. That's why I've introduced this bill.

There are other reasons as well. Another reason is that all across this country there are areas, including areas in Florida, where one or two private insurance companies dominate the market to the extent that they have 80 percent of all the insured in the area. There is no competition. It's a monopoly in the case of one. It's an oligopoly in the case of two. Either way, these insurance companies pretty much do whatever they want. They can offer you care or they deny you care. They can cut you off when you already have care. And they can charge you pretty much anything they want.

Well, a public option would change that. In an area where one company had 80 percent of the market, suddenly there would be an alternative. Where two companies have 80 percent of the market, suddenly there would be an alternative. That alternative is an alternative that is already used by one-eighth of our population. That alternative is Medicare.

This simple bill would allow anybody—any American, any permanent resident—to buy into Medicare at cost. And what it does is it takes this enormously valuable public resource called the Medicare Provider Network and makes it available to all Americans. We've spent billions putting together a Medicare Provider Network that stretches from Nome, Alaska, all the way to Key West, Florida. We've spent billions doing that, and yet only one-eighth of the population can use it.

The most expensive part of preparing a health care plan for any American in any location is to set up the provider network, hundreds and hundreds of contracts with hospitals, with specialists, with nurses, with testing companies. All these things have to be done before you actually serve the first patient.

Well, we have a system like that called Medicare, and yet it's open to only one-eighth of the population. It's as if we're saying that only one-eighth of the population, senior citizens, can drive on Federal highways. That's how important the Medicare provider network is, and that's why we have to open it to everybody.

This is not a plan for subsidies. Everyone would have to pay their own cost. This is not a plan that's meant to help anybody, except for the people who cannot otherwise get insurance, or people like me, who simply don't trust the insurance companies anymore because of the raw treatment that we've received.

Let's face it, it's never going to be any different. The insurance companies are always going to look for ways to chintz you. They're always going to look for ways to charge you more and give you less, and the difference is what they call profit. And that's a system that a lot of people just can't accept anymore. They just don't want it anymore.

And for those people who have it in their mind that there will be some kind of government death panels, what about the real death panels that exist in this company—the insurance company death panels; the ones that look for rescission when you get sick, the

ones that top you out at some small amount of benefits when you have some terminally ill condition. These are the real death panels in this country. And that's why we need a public option.

So I'm asking the Speaker and the leadership, if we have to vote on this Senate bill that doesn't have a public option in it, if we have to vote on this reconciliation amendment that doesn't have a public option, isn't it time that we finally did something good for America? Isn't it time that we gave all Americans the right to buy into a public plan like this? Isn't it in fact past time that we did something like that? And what's the harm?

I say to those people on the other side of the aisle, if you don't want to buy into the public option, that's fine. But don't prevent me and my family and the ones who I love from doing the same. Let us have our alternative. And remember what you said so many times before: you say the government can't do anything right. Well, let's see. Let's see right now. Let's let people buy into the public option through this bill, H.R. 4789, and we'll give it a shot.

HEALTH CARE ALTERNATIVE

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. You know, Mr. Speaker, I wasn't going to come down here and speak tonight, but I saw my learned colleague who's a trial lawyer coming down here to talk. The trial lawyers have been doing very well over the years suing doctors and driving up the cost of medical care because of the suits that have to be paid, and the insurance that the doctors have to buy to protect themselves against malpractice claims is astronomical in some States. In some States, doctors are actually leaving the State or retiring from their practices because they can't afford to pay those premiums and/or they're worried to death that they're going to lose everything they have worked a whole lifetime to attain through a lawsuit.

And so it's not a surprise to me that my colleague that was just here, who is a trial lawyer, would be down here talking about the changes that he thinks ought to be made in health care.

We have an alternative. Our alternative is to allow small businesses to bind together to buy insurance for their employees at the same rates as a major corporation; to allow small businesses and individuals to buy insurance across State lines so there's more competition in the system; to come up with tort reform, which will limit these astounding settlements that these trial lawyers get.

There's a whole host of things that we have talked about putting into legislation that will help solve the problems of health care, but they don't want to talk about it. In fact, what they talk about is that we're the Party of ''No,'' we're being obstructionists, and we don't want to solve the health care problems. We do want to solve the health care problems. And we can solve the health care problems without destroying the free enterprise system.

They are for government takeover of medicine. That is socialized medicine. And they want to see the government telling all of us what kind of care we get, who we get it from, when we get it, and what rationing might take place. And there will be rationing of health care if their plan passes. And that's something I don't think the American people want.

And then you start talking to the senior citizens. They want to take $500 billion out of Medicare and Medicare Advantage. What's that going to do to the seniors and the health care they're getting right now? That's going to add to the problem that they say they're going to solve. Just putting the government in complete control of health care is not going to be the answer.

We have problems that need to be solved. They can be solved. They can be solved within the free enterprise system. We don't want to destroy free enterprise in America. There are those on that side and I believe at the White House that believe government should run everything. They should run health care; they should run energy, like the cap-and-trade bill; they should run the automobile industry. We now have Government Motors that took over General Motors. They want to run the finance industry. And the crown jewel is health care, because health care is one-sixth of our economy. They get that. They're on their way to the government controlling every part of our lives, at least in large part.

This is something that we don't believe in in America. We believe in the free enterprise system and the people that have the ability to succeed to have that opportunity, the people who come from nowhere can make money because the system works. And we don't want the government telling us what we can and we can't do. We believe in freedom in this country and not more and more government control.

If their health care bill passes, there will be rationing of health care. There will be bureaucrats coming between people and their doctors. And government here in Washington will be making decisions for people's health care. Are they taking care of the other problems we're facing in this country? Are they solving the problems without the costs going through the roof? Their program is going to cost at least $1.5 trillion to $3 trillion that we do not have. And our kids and our grandkids are going to have to pay for that. That's unbelievable that we pass to the next generation all the problems that we face today.

We could come to grips with this, and we could solve the problem if they'll sit down and work with us. They keep saying, Well, we're not working with them. They've got about an 80-vote majority in this House. In the other body, they've got 59–41. They can pass anything they want. They've got the guy in the White House. The reason they can't get it done is because you, the American people, don't want it. You don't want government control over our lives, and you don't want socialized medicine.

We can solve these problems. And we can do it within the free enterprise system if we just sit down and get the job done. Let there be competition in the free enterprise system and medicine, and we'll solve these problems.

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

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

RULE OF LAW

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. I'm honored to be here. I think some might remember in this body that for the last about year, year and a half, I've been getting up here and talking about the rule of law and how the basic foundation of American society is based upon a set of rules, a set of laws. Without that foundation, that surrender of sovereignty of the American people to pieces of paper that describe how we will behave in this world, we would be an uncivilized Nation and we would not be the great Nation of liberty and freedom that we are today. I've talked about the fact that when we talk about the rule of law, we're not just talking about abiding by the laws of this country. We're talking about abiding by the rules that we set to operate whatever we operate in this country.

I'm reminded to tell a story. When my oldest son was, I believe, in the seventh or the eighth grade; he played football. He was the best punter. He was also the center. So the one time he didn't snap the ball was when he was the punter. He punted the ball. He did a pretty good job of it. We played a team—I won't mention where it is, but if he's listening, he'll know what I'm talking about—where the first time he kicked the ball, a guy came through and knocked him flat, and they didn't throw a flag. It's young kids playing and not, I guess, the most professional referees. So he took it and I took it and there was no problem.

The second time he punted the ball, somebody came in and knocked him flat again. At this point in time, I was really concerned about it. The third time he punted the ball, somebody

came in and knocked him flat again. He turned to the referee as I was climbing the fence, I was so mad, and asked him, What does it take to get a ''roughing the kicker'' call? And he said, In this town, you better just shut up and play the game.

□ 2000

My son is now a coach at a major school in Texas, but I would almost assure you that he has never forgotten that person who refused to enforce the rules, and we were just lucky that he didn't get injured because he was a little kid still. He was in the seventh grade. And I have never forgotten it, and most people don't forget when people break rules that they expect to be played by. If their team is playing on Saturday or on Sunday and they see a blatant violation of the rules, most Americans get infuriated by people who violate rules.

I take the position—and I think the position is easily defended—that the United States of America cannot run without the laws that we create both in this body and our State legislatures around the country and those laws that the courts have interpreted correctly. Those things keep us on that foundation of operational procedures that we have that allows us to know that when we do something, we follow the rules, and others are expected to follow the rules, and if they don't follow the rules, we have recourse to make them follow the rules.

I have been talking about that for a year. I have been talking about that, about Members of this body that I have said, you know, that there were ethics violations filed against them, that the Ethics Committee needed to resolve those because there were allegations that they had broken the rules. Some of those things have come to fruition, and without any animosity towards anyone, I am glad at least one of those issues has been slightly resolved. But there are others, and it would seem to me that as we talk about and as we look at each other in this body—and all of us are Members and all of us agree to a set of rules when we come here.

What's interesting is that in the history of the United States, there are some people that are highly respected by both political parties, by all Americans. I think Abraham Lincoln falls in that category. I think George Washington falls in that category. I believe Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and many, many others of those who are either our Founding Fathers or people who have done such extraordinary things for freedom and for liberty in this country that we remember them, and we remember and we honor what they did.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the rules for operation of this House and of the Senate. I take that back. I don't know if he wrote it for the Senate. I know he wrote it for the House. I think he wrote it for both bodies. But whatever that may be, when our Founding Fathers were sitting around on those hot days in the summer trying to put together a constitution, trying to resolve the issues and deciding what kind of functioning government they wanted to have, they had a concept of creating a republic—not a parliamentary democracy but a republic—where you had a representative form of government, where you had two bodies, the House and the Senate. The House would be the people's House, and it would have the opportunity to change every 2 years. The Senate, at that time, would be appointed by the legislatures of the various States. The Senators would represent States, and they would change after a 6-year term, with alternating terms, so every 2 years a certain body but never all that body would change.

And when they looked at how they wanted these two Houses to operate, they set up that this House would be the rapid-solution-to-the-problem House. This House goes and moves, compared to the Senate, at light speed, and it was intended that way by our Founders. They intended it because they wanted the people's business taken care of and addressed first, and they wanted it addressed in an important manner by this House. But they also realized that sometime in the heat of debates that can go on in this place, that level heads needed to calm things down for a bit and ponder it before it's passed so things aren't rushed to judgment and mistakes aren't made. We have the same kind of procedures in the courtroom today. Just, for example, in a capital murder case, we spend an inordinate amount of time and slow things down so that we can try our very best to make sure that mistakes are not being made, because it's life or death, what occurs in that courtroom.

So our Founding Fathers wanted our legislation to go to the Senate and give the Senate the ability to slow the process down, take a hard look at each of the elements, and try to come up with a resolution in the Senate that was more philosophical and more pondered than the House. It was intended that way. And for that reason, they set up a means by which the Members of the Senate could do what's called filibuster the Senate. And that means that they can start talking, and one person could hold up the whole operation until everybody agreed to calm down and get certain points resolved at a slower rate.

This has evolved, but the rules have been following that various trend and with that concept since the creation by our Founding Fathers. Today, we have a process that takes place over in the Senate which is sort of, if you will—imagine that there is someone standing up talking until you get 60 votes to shut him up. But there is not really somebody standing up and talking. We have a rule called ''cloture,'' and that rule says that until you can vote on an up-or-down vote on any issue in the Senate of the United States, you have to have 60 Members of that body to agree to bring that to the floor of the Senate for a vote. And that's an issue that it should be—if it's not in the minds of all the American people today, it should be in the minds of the American people, because one-sixth of our economy teeters on the verge of change based upon whether or not the Senate rule of cloture will be maintained as a rule which has been in existence and the concept since the founding of the body that is over on the other side of this building.

Now, whenever there's a rule, there is always someone who will try to come up with a way to get around the rule. That's human nature. Sometimes people can get around it by breaking the rule, and sometimes people can get around it by adjusting the rule. The rule was adjusted slightly back in, I think it was, 1974, and they came up with a concept called reconciliation. And what they were finding was that in the budgetary process, when you have to reconcile revenues with expenditures to balance your checkbook, balance the budget, whatever you do at your home—don't use the kind of accounting we use around this place. But to make those two things reconcile, they put up the process of reconciliation, which for reconciling those numbers—for reconciling those two numbers to make them work, you could use a reconciliation process if you had put it in the rule prior to the passage of the budget or the addressing of the budget so that you could reconcile the numbers, and it didn't take 60 votes to get that vote. And reconciliation has been used for budgetary and number balancing ever since in a very limited manner.

It comes up maybe once or twice a Presidential term for a President, to make sure that when new things are being done in the way of expenditures or taxation or whatever it is, to make things reconciled. Sometimes that's done by reconciliation. But it never was designed to take a whole body and battery of laws and just change the rule to make 51 votes a win in the Senate. It was always intended that that was just for balancing your checkbook and not for creating your job and paying your bills. So, in other words, it wasn't for the big ideas. It was for the little tweaks to make things work. I don't think everybody understands that, but that's what it was for. That's what it's been used for.

I have some examples on this page. This was written by a man named John Dalton about the process. It's a good explanation. He points out—and there may be others, but he has got a list of the names of the bills that have used reconciliation. Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1980 under Jimmy Carter, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 under Ronald Reagan, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 under Ronald Reagan, Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act 1982 under Reagan, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act.

Notice the names ''budget,'' ''taxes,'' ''fiscal'' under Reagan. Deficit Reduction Act under Reagan. All of those took place in the eighties. All of those, you hear the word ''budget'' or you hear the word ''tax'' or ''expenditures.'' That's what it was for.

Today we have been debating now for over a year President Obama's concept of health care for the United States. I hesitate to say President Obama's bill because, at least to my knowledge, President Obama has never himself, nor the White House, written a bill and presented it to this body for deliberation.

So the bill that we're talking about right now—we had a House bill pass this body by one vote, and we had a Senate bill pass the Senate on Christmas Eve. Both of those were contentious, and both of those were hard fought, and both of those barely squeaked by. And normally, because the Senate bill is drastically different from the House bill, those would go to a conference committee where they would work out the differences and try to come up with solutions. That's the normal process for bills in this House. But the normal process doesn't seem to be wanting to go on in this House right now, so we're not going to a conference committee. And the only other alternative would be that either the Senate take the House bill without any changes and pass it, which they said ''no,'' or now that they've passed their bill, they send it over here to the House, and the House has to pass that bill without any changes. And if there are any changes, it's got to go to a conference committee, because you can't change it. You either accept it or you haven't accepted it. If you haven't accepted it, then you've got to reconcile between the House and the Senate bill.

The proposal on health care, which is being strong-armed in this House right now is to get this done by Easter, and they're going to do it by strong-arming the elements in this House on the Democratic side of the aisle because the Republicans are not going to vote for this bill, to ask them to give up their conscience—both our liberal Members and our conservative Members—to give up what they stand for and pass the Senate bill, even if they don't agree with it, and then to trust the leadership of this House to put together a reconciliation package that will fix things like abortion, which has nothing to do with anything to do with reconciliation, and do a reconciliation bill to address the issues concerning abortion in this bill, or do a reconciliation bill to address a government option, which is the far left liberals' concept—and you heard it talked about here tonight—of what's missing here in this bill.

The leadership here is asking them to not mess with the Senate bill; pass it, even though they don't agree with it. And they don't think it should pass the way it is. Pass it and trust it that it will be changed. And it will be changed through a process which is not for changing these types of life-changing issues, but for tweaking your checkbook, if you will. And that means that we are going to change over 200 years of history in order to get a health care bill passed that, by the best poll out there, 57 percent of the American people don't want. And there are polls that say as many as 60 and 70 percent of the American people don't want this health care bill. They want us to start over and try again. They think we can do better than to create hundreds—not hundreds. That's an exaggeration. Let's get it right—about 35 or 40 new agencies and bureaus in this country that will have people overseeing everything to do with health care in this Nation and that will put people who operate in Washington, D.C., between you and your doctor in making health care decisions.

The American people have said, We don't like it. Tens of thousands of them took to the streets in August and said, Go back and do it right. Both you Democrats and you Republicans, get together. We want to see you work together on this bill, and we want you to come up with the kind of solutions we're looking for that deal with costs, deal with accessibility, deal with preexisting conditions. But they don't have to be in something that nobody—unless they've got a couple of months—can read through and digest and understand. Put it in a series of bills that we can understand as American people.

If there is one thing we owe, as Members of this body, is that we owe it to the American people to pass bills that they can read. I mean, it is affecting one-sixth of their lives. One-sixth of their paycheck is going to be hit every time they think about health care.

□ 2015

And people are going to be ordered to take health care and mandated with penalties if they don't want to take health care. And there's some people that don't. So it's life-changing. But what I'm talking about today—that's an argument you've heard made for months now—I'm back to where I started. There are rules and there are laws that you run your operation by, and when you start violating, especially laws and rules that go to the basic tenet of the Constitution of this United States, that the Senate is the deliberative body, then you are basically changing not only a sixth of our economy but you're changing the way the government of the United States has operated for over 200 years. That's not the way it ought to be. It shouldn't be that way.

And so I would argue that my issue about rule of law goes to the reconciliation process. And yet the leadership of this House, the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI; HARRY REID, the majority leader of the Senate; and the President of the United States are all talking about fixing the disputes that are in this House about the Senate health care bill through reconciliation which would then be an abuse of the rules and violate what this country has stood for for over 200 years.

Now, what's wrong with that picture? Well, first off, it changes everything that happens in the future. Because if now we can turn over one-sixth of the economy to the government, again a portion of the economy will now be managed by the centrists, if you will, the people who want a central government here in Washington running everything, when they do that, then the next issue that comes before this House, there's no reason for anybody to honor the 60-vote rule in the Senate. There's no reason for anybody to honor it. Once you break it, that affects every human being that lives on this planet, inside the United States, once you fix it and violate the rules to suit yourself against those people, what can we bring before this House that would require that rule ever again? And I think an argument could very well be made that that will be the end of the cloture rule in the Senate. And when you end the cloture rule in the Senate, we'll either go back to the old filibuster or, quite frankly, we'll go back to a different Senate that's not operating the way our Founding Fathers intended it to operate.

These are issues that I think as we vote about this, we need to realize that our concept, that we should go by a set of rules and we should operate by that set of rules. To violate those rules, there are consequences. I'm not saying we're going to put anybody in jail. I'm saying the consequences are right now you might have a win. But when you're in the minority, which this 60-vote rule is done to protect the minority, whoever it may be, Democrat or Republican, if you once give up the power to protect the minority, or at least give them a voice, then down the road someone's going to wake up, it's something that breaks their heart to see it passed into law, and there won't be a cloture rule to protect them.

Breaking rules has consequences. I don't know if what I'm saying here has any effect on those folks, but I can tell you that, for instance, the health care bill calls for $1 billion in budget savings over a 5-year period of time of deficit spending totaling about, estimated, $8 trillion. This impact is about one one-thousandth of a percent, which indisputably reaches the ''incidental'' definition of budgetary impact under the Byrd rule.

Senator BYRD wrote a rule that said you can't use this idea of reconciliation for just incidental effects. There is nothing more incidental than that. When you're talking about $8 trillion versus $1 billion, that's pretty incidental. And yet it is one-sixth of the economy.

The reason we have rules is for people to follow the rules. I encourage and I hope and I pray that every one of the American people will now understand, and this is difficult to talk about, and

it's not easy for anybody to understand. And if anybody tells you that JOHN CARTER's an expert on it, you tell them they don't know what they're talking about. I'm not an expert on it. I'm just here to tell you that I do understand what common sense means and I understand what's right and wrong. And when Thomas Jefferson writes the rules and everybody abides by them for over 200 years of history of the United States and all of a sudden to get your way you decide not to abide by the rules, that's wrong. And I think the American people are going to know it's wrong. And I hope the American people will rise up and say it's wrong.

If they can pass it with 60 votes in the Senate, that's the blessing of the American people. That's the way the deal operates. That's playing within the rules. That's following the rules that make the playing field, I consider, level because we all play by those rules. And that's fine. But if you can't, don't play tricks and don't change rules that you're not supposed to change, because if you do, the consequences to the American people are going to be awful. There's a lot of anger in this country right now, and I believe that anger will be increased six-fold or more if they find out, the same bunch of Americans who watch basketball or football or baseball, who know the rules of the game and watch somebody break the rules, they expect a foul to be called, they expect a penalty to be set, they expect a man to be called out or a man to be called safe, they expect the rules to be played by; and if they expect that on the baseball field, the football field and the basketball court, why wouldn't they expect it when people are changing their life? When people are writing rules to change their life, why wouldn't they expect that?

Health care reform has been on our plate now for quite a while. Meanwhile, we're losing jobs. We've got issues that we really need to be dealing with about people that are out of work and trying to figure out a way to get them back to work. We've got companies that are confused about the future. By that confusion, they're not willing to make investments either by expanding their businesses or hiring people, so they're just sitting on the sidelines right now and waiting. We've got small businesses that are frightened because they don't know whether they're going to be mandated to do health care or not, or whether they can do what they're doing now or what they need to do, or where they can go to make it better for their employees so maybe I don't want to hire any more employees. We've got millions of people that need a job. And we're happy when only 30 or 40,000 lost a job this month. That's supposed to be happy? I think we should be happy when 30 or 40,000 got a job this month, not when only 40,000 or 30,000 or 20,000 lost. That's not our goal. Our goal is to be able to say, we're happy to announce on the floor of this House that 40,000 people got a job this month.

But instead, we've been debating health care. We have been like people who say, I'm going to take my football and go home, demanding the game be played by their rules, not by the rules of the game, and demanding that their way be taken even when the American people tell them they don't want that way. That's what I think this debate is about.

I have a whole bunch of posters here that a lot of people went to a lot of work on, and I will go through some of them. ROBERT BYRD, who's still alive and still working over in the Senate, here is what he said about reconciliation:

''I oppose using the budget reconciliation process to pass health care reform and climate change legislation. Such a proposal would violate the intent and spirit of the budget process and do serious injury to the constitutional role of the Senate.

''As one of the authors of the reconciliation process, I can tell you that reconciliation was intended to adjust revenue and spending levels in order to reduce deficits. It was not designed to create a new climate and energy regime and certainly not to restructure the entire health care system.''

This was said by Senator ROBERT BYRD, 4/2/09. He was one of the authors of the reconciliation process in 1974. And that's what I've just been telling you. The Senator agrees with what I've just been saying, and I think really important things that we have to be concerned about is what he said about the Constitution: ''serious injury to the constitutional role of the Senate,'' just what I've been talking about with you.

Let me point out, all these chairs that you see in this room have somebody that sits in them. They're not assigned seats, we sit where we want to, but we all tend to sit somewhere. Every one of us stands up on the first day of this House and we swear an oath. We raise our right hand and we swear an oath. And the nature of that oath is pretty darn simple. We don't swear to be loyal to our party, Republican or Democrat; we don't swear to be loyal to a man or a Speaker or a majority leader or a President. We swear one thing. We don't swear to provide for everybody and give a free ride to everybody in the country. We swear to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. That's what we swear to. That's our job here. Our job is to make sure that piece of work that created this simple but intricate system of rules that we've all accepted and has caused us all to prosper, our job is to defend that and the President's got the same oath. Our job is not other things; it's preserve what's in the Constitution and the way the Constitution is supposed to operate.

Senator BYRD points out as I did, we're looking at something that will be in violation if not of the nature but at least of the spirit of the Constitution of the United States. This is more serious than some people may be thinking about.

Here's some stuff about reconciliation:

It gives the Congress the ability to change current law to bring spending and revenues in line.

Uses numerical targets and not program-specific.

Debate is limited to 20 hours, nongermane amendments are not in order, a vote is guaranteed and requires 51 votes to pass rather than 60 as normal.

The Byrd rule. Legislation cannot be added to a reconciliation bill if it has a budgetary impact which is merely incidental to the policy components of the provision. As I've told you, the bill that we're talking about is $1 billion versus $8 trillion. That's pretty incidental.

Now you may not think so until you realize what a billion is, and then you realize what a trillion is. A trillion is a number that's so hard to understand that if you stacked thousand-dollar bills 4 inches high, they're brand new, they don't have any wrinkles, they perfectly fit together and they're 4 inches high, that's a million dollars. A trillion dollars, 67 miles high.

So you can see, that's a whole lot of money we're talking about. A billion to $8 trillion is pretty incidental.

Health care reform is not fiscal policy. That means it's not about money. That's what we're talking about. When you change a rule to do something that you can't do, that you shouldn't be doing in the first place, and so you're going to change the rule just to get your way and change the constitutional history of our country, something's real wrong with all that, and something that people ought to think about, because someday somebody might be rolling over you and something you care about by breaking the rules, and I don't think you will be very happy about that, because we are a group of people that play by the rules.

□ 2030

Been picking on these two guys for a long time for the last 2 months about tax evasion with no penalties: Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and Mr. RANGEL, who is the former Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. But it is not fair to have spent the time picking on these two guys when this whole House is fixing to break rules that are going to affect everyone sitting in this Chamber, and in fact everyone drawing a breath in this country, and they are going to break rules and change rules and avoid rules.

I am almost embarrassed to have picked on these two individuals for the rules that they broke concerning taxes and other things. Although it is the right thing to say, and if they break the rules you ought to talk about it. Well, the Congress is about to break the rules, and we ought to talk about it.

Finally, and I am going to quit now, I would hope that everybody realizes that everybody in this Congress wants

to make health care work. And they want to make health care work for everybody and give everybody equal opportunity under health care. And there are many people on both sides of the aisle that think we can do better than these 2,000- and 3,000- and 4,000-page bills that seem to hit that table once in a while. And health care is one of them. So I am appealing to my colleagues in the House of Representatives to encourage everybody, when it comes to this important one-sixth of our economy, to play by the rules.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

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. JACKSON LEE of Texas) 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.

Mr. GRAYSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FLAKE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, March 12, 15, and 16.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, March 12, 15, and 16.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 10, 11, and 12.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, March 15 and 16.

Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6446. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the list of MARPOL Annex V special areas that are currently in effect to add the Gulfs and Mediterranean Sea special areas [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0273] (RIN: 1625-AB41) received January 27, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6447. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A318 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0713; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-303-AD; Amendment 39-16180; AD 2010-02-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6448. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca Turmoa IV A and IV C Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0009; Directorate Identifier 2010-NE-01-AD; Amendment 39-16178; AD 2010-02-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6449. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. (Agusta) Model AB139 and AW139 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1125; Directorate Identifier 2009-SW-50-AD; Amendment 39-16129; AD 2009-19-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6450. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Thrush Aircraft, Inc. Model 600 S2D and S2R Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2007-27862; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-036-AD; Amendment 39-16150; AD 2009-26-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6451. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Modification of Class E Airspace; Ocala, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0326; Airspace Docket 09-ASO-15] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6452. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747-100, 747-100B, 747-100B SUD, 747-200B, 747-200C, 747-200F, 747-300, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes Equipped with General Electric CF6-45 or -50 Series Engines, or Equipped with Pratt & Whitney JT9D-3 or -7 (Excluding -70) Series Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0865; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-023-AD; Amendment 39-16168; AD 2010-01-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6453. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lewisport, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0706; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-26] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6454. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Clayton, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0605; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-19] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6455. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Tompkinsville, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0604; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-18] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6456. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hertford, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0705; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-25] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6457. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747-100B SUD, -200B, -300, -400, and -400D Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0636; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-031-AD; Amendment 39-16158; AD 2010-01-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6458. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sicma Aero Seat 90xx and 92xx Series Passenger Seats, Installed on, but not Limited to ATR — GIE Avions de Transport Regional Model ATR42 Airplanes and Model ATR72 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2007-27346; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-205-AD; Amendment 39-16176; AD 2010-02-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6459. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; AVOX Systems and B/E Aerospace Oxygen Cylinder Assemblies, as Installed on Various Transport Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0029; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-262-AD; Amendment 39-16179; AD 2009-21-10 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6460. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Anniston, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0653; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-22] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6461. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Engine Components, Inc., (ECi) Reciprocating Engine Cylinder Assemblies [Docket No. FAA-2008-0052; Directorate Identifier 2008-NE-01-AD; Amendment 39-16151; AD 2009-26-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6462. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D and E Airspace and Modification of Class E Airspace; State College, PA [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0750; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-16] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6463. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, -900, and -900ER Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0657; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-048-AD; Amendment 39-16175; AD 2010-02-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 20109, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6464. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Saluda, SC [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0603; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASO-16] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6465. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 170 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0610; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-021-AD; Amendment 39-16171; AD 2010-01-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6466. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A340-200 and A340-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1251; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-133-AD; Amendment 39-16174; AD 2010-02-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6467. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30706; Amdt. No. 3357] received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6468. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Model F.28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0763; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-301-AD; Amendment 39-16170; AD 2010-01-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6469. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30705; Amdt. No. 3356] received January 29, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6470. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Worker Visibility [FHWA Docket No.: FHWA-2008-0157] (RIN: 2125-AF28) received January 29, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6471. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Employee Protection Program; Removal (RIN: 2105-AD94) received January 29, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6472. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Reimbursement of General Aviation Operators and Service Providers in the Washington, DC Area; Removal [Docket No.: OST-2010-XXXX] (RIN: 2105-AD93) received January 29, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6473. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Model Arriel 1B, 1D, and 1D1 Turboshaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0503; Directorate Identifier 2009-NE-12-AD; Amendment 39-16172; AD 2010-02-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6474. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — OST Technical Corrections [Docket No.: OST-2009-0173] (RIN: 2105-AD82) received January 29, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6475. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. CFM56-7B Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0236; Directorate Identifier 2009-NE-06-AD; Amendment 39-16162; AD 2010-01-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6476. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200, A330-300, A340-200, and A340-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0309; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-173-AD; Amendment 39-16152; AD 2009-26-13] (RIN: 2120-A64) received February 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. McGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1146. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 248) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan (Rept. 111–428). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 3239. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to submit a report on the effects of the Merida Initiative on the border security of the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111–429, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4506. A bill to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes (Rept. 111–430). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3239 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

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. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. CAMP, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida):

H.R. 4783. A bill to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the earthquake in Chile, and to extend the period from which such contributions for the relief of victims of the earthquake in Haiti may be accelerated; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. WU:

H.R. 4784. A bill to establish the Internet Freedom Foundation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. PERRIELLO, and Mr. SPRATT):

H.R. 4785. A bill to amend the miscellaneous rural development provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that will use the funds to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce home energy use; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. CONNOLLY of Virginia (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MICA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 4786. A bill to provide authority to compensate Federal employees for the 2-day period in which authority to make expenditures from the Highway Trust Fund lapsed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

H.R. 4787. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve and protect rehabilitative services and case management services provided under Medicaid to improve the health and welfare of the nation's most vulnerable seniors and children; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. MCCOTTER):

H.R. 4788. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish limitations on the approval of cooperative arrangements between 2 or more air carriers or between an air carrier and a foreign air carrier, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GRAYSON (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. POLIS of Colorado, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. WATSON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas):

H.R. 4789. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for any citizen or permanent resident of the United States to buy into Medicare; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H.R. 4790. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require shareholder authorization before a public company may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. CARTER:

H.R. 4791. A bill to ensure that the victims and victims' families of the November 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood, Texas, receive the same treatment, benefits, and honors as those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone overseas and their families; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 4792. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Minerals Management Service, to conduct a technological capability assessment, survey, and economic feasibility study regarding recovery of minerals, other than oil and natural gas, from the shallow and deep seabed of the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 4793. A bill to designate the library and archives gallery at the Washington's Headquarters Museum at Morristown National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANCE (for himself, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. PAULSEN, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS):

H.R. 4794. A bill to prohibit the use of any recommendation of the Preventive Services Task Force (or any successor task force) to deny or restrict coverage of an item or service under a Federal health care program, a group health plan, or a health insurance issuer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and 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. MATHESON (for himself and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 4795. A bill to prohibit restrictions on the resale of event tickets sold in interstate commerce as an unfair or deceptive act or practice; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4796. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the application of Medicare secondary payer rules for certain claims; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 4797. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of General Services to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features into public buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. CONAWAY):

H.R. 4798. A bill to allow small public water systems to request an exemption from the requirements of any national primary drinking water regulation for a naturally occurring contaminant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SPACE:

H.R. 4799. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan to retrain displaced workers to become health care professionals serving areas with a shortage of such professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself and Mr. INGLIS):

H. Con. Res. 250. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Iraq on their resolve to vote in a national parliamentary election on March 7, 2010, in the face of adversity; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HINOJOSA (for himself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. REYES, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BACA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CLAY, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mr. FARR):

H. Res. 1144. A resolution expressing condolences to the families of the victims of the February 27, 2010, earthquake in Chile, as well as solidarity with and support for the people of Chile as they plan for recovery and reconstruction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. GIFFORDS (for herself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 1145. A resolution recognizing the University of Arizona's 125 years of dedication to excellence in higher education; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H. Res. 1147. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner to hold an explanatory public meeting prior to the submission of congressional earmark requests; to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself and Mr. FORTENBERRY):

H. Res. 1148. A resolution expressing support for the mission and goals of the World Economic Forum; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H. Res. 1149. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Charter School Week, to be held May 2 through May 8, 2010; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CARTER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. OLSON):

H. Res. 1150. A resolution designating the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as a National Security Interest and Asset; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. BAIRD):

H. Res. 1151. A resolution recognizing and congratulating Apolo Anton Ohno for his historic performances in short track speed skating at the 2002, 2006, and 2010 Olympic Winter Games and congratulating him for winning more Olympic Winter Games medals than any other American athlete; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself and Mr. BERMAN):

H. Res. 1152. A resolution celebrating Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) on its 45th anniversary and recognizing the national service program's contribution to the fight against poverty; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RAHALL (for himself, Mr. MOLLOHAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

H. Res. 1153. A resolution recognizing the heroic efforts of the West Virginia National Guard and local responders for their work rescuing 17 individuals from a downed military helicopter on a rugged, snow-covered mountain on the Pocahontas-Randolph county line; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SESTAK (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COLE, and Ms. SPEIER):

H. Res. 1154. A resolution expressing support for designation of September 13, 2010, as ''National Childhood Cancer Awareness Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 39: Mr. SIRES and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 43: Mr. ARCURI, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KIRK, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 197: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 205: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 211: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 219: Mr. TIAHRT.

H.R. 336: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 393: Mr. INGLIS.

H.R. 476: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. CAO.

H.R. 489: Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 537: Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JONES, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 622: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 673: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 678: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 690: Mr. BOEHNER and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 789: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 878: Mr. HELLER.

H.R. 881: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 903: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 904: Mr. TEAGUE.

H.R. 949: Mr. MOLLOHAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee.

H.R. 953: Mr. RODRIGUEZ and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 1017: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. OBERSTAR.

H.R. 1020: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 1067: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1079: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1126: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1175: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 1177: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 1190: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 1205: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1207: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 1210: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Ms. CHU, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, and Mr. SNYDER.
H.R. 1407: Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 1452: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1460: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1519: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 1523: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 1547: Mr. CARTER and Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 1640: Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 1682: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 1708: Mr. ROSS and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 1718: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 1866: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 1873: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 1895: Mr. HALL of New York.
H.R. 1924: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 1925: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 1932: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 1970: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 1980: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 2084: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2149: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 2156: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 2256: Mr. MURPHY of New York, Mr. FOSTER, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 2258: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2296: Mr. MELANCON.
H.R. 2299: Mr. KISSELL.
H.R. 2365: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 2372: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 2373: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 2377: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2408: Mr. OWENS and Mr. ORTIZ.
H.R. 2414: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2455: Mr. HARE and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2555: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.R. 2565: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2568: Mr. QUIGLEY and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2601: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 2697: Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. HARE, and Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 2737: Mr. CASTLE and Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 2891: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 2906: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. HOLT, and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 3024: Mr. MAFFEI.
H.R. 3035: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3043: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3070: Mr. GORDON of Tennessee.
H.R. 3101: Ms. KILROY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3116: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 3125: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. SULLIVAN.
H.R. 3186: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 3240: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3308: Mr. HELLER.
H.R. 3355: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3380: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. HERGER, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. LINDER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BERMAN, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 3401: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3415: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 3421: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 3488: Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 3554: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 3652: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. OLVER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. WU.
H.R. 3655: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3656: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 3715: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 3731: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 3734: Mr. NADLER of New York and Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 3787: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3790: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JONES, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 3838: Mr. COHEN and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3952: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 4116: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 4141: Ms. BEAN.
H.R. 4155: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4159: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4163: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4196: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4241: Mr. MURPHY of New York and Mr. MCMAHON.
H.R. 4256: Mr. TANNER and Ms. GIFFORDS.
H R. 4261: Mr. POE of Texas.
H.R. 4269: Mr. KILDEE.
H R. 4274: Mr. HOLT and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 4296: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4320: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 4322: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4324: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BORDALLO, and Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 4333: Ms. NORTON, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 4343: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 4353: Mr. COHEN and Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 4375: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4376: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 4386: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 4399: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 4400: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 4430: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 4446: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 4477: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 4496: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 4502: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 4505: Ms. GRANGER and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 4521: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4530: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. GIFFORDS, and Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 4537: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 4538: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 4556: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 4557: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 4563: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4572: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. BUYER.
H.R. 4573: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4598: Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 4614: Mr. HEINRICH and Ms. MARKEY of Colorado.
H.R. 4630: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 4687: Ms. CHU, Mr. STARK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4690: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 4692: Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4693: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 4713: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 4719: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 4735: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 4740: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 4745: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. TANNER, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BOREN, Mr. TAYLOR, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. HARE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. SHULER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 4751: Mr. MOLLOHAN.
H.R. 4755: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHAUER, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 4765: Mr. ELLISON.
H.J. Res. 76: Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PETRI, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BARROW, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 204: Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Con. Res. 231: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H. Con. Res. 242: Mr. SESTAK, Ms. CHU, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. FARR.
H. Con. Res. 248: Mr. STARK and Mr. FARR.
H. Res. 173: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. HODES.
H. Res. 200: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H. Res. 213: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. STARK, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DOYLE, and Ms. LEE of California.
H. Res. 311: Mr. RUSH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WALZ, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PETERSON.
H. Res. 440: Mr. POLIS.
H. Res. 704: Mr. KISSELL, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. MICA.
H. Res. 763: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Res. 764: Mr. FORBES.
H. Res. 874: Mr. PLATTS.
H. Res. 925: Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 959: Ms. FOXX.
H. Res. 1036: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 1047: Mr. BOEHNER.
H. Res. 1052: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
H. Res. 1053: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. OLVER.
H. Res. 1060: Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. FORBES, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mrs. CAPITO.
H. Res. 1081: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 1088: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H. Res. 1091: Mr. CLEAVER.
H. Res. 1099: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BARROW, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. MCKEON.
H. Res. 1102: Mr. FILNER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H. Res. 1103: Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. TANNER, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, and Mr. DUNCAN.
H. Res. 1107: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 1116: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. RUSH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BILBRAY, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. FARR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. HINCHEY, and Mr. ALEXANDER.
H. Res. 1120: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.
H. Res. 1128: Mr. SALAZAR and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H. Res. 1138: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 1141: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WU, Mr. MINNICK, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Ms. BERKLEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. CHU, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

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.R. 872: Mr. MCCOTTER.

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Vol. 156 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010 No. 33

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, our shelter in the time of storm, hold our Senators within Your providential hand, guiding them from perplexity to wisdom. Give them strength to overcome the challenges they face, enabling them to be true guardians of liberty. Lord, keep them faithful in service, inspired by the knowledge that in due season they will reap if they persevere. Give them a vision greater than they possess that they may see clearly what You want them to accomplish. Infuse them with the faith to realize that with You all things are possible.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF MERKLEY 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 the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 9, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MERKLEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will turn to a period of morning business until 11 o'clock this morning. Senators during that time will be able to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the second half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4213, the tax extenders bill. There will then be a series of up to four rollcall votes in relation to amendments to the bill. Those votes will start at 11 o'clock. Following the series of votes, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. in order to accommodate the weekly caucus meetings. At 2:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the substitute amendment. As a reminder, the filing deadline for second-degree amendments is 12 o'clock noon today.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the debate over health care has been going on for a long time now. It is easy to lose sight of where we started, so I would just like to remind people today of what this debate was supposed to be about.

It was supposed to be about cost. This debate was supposed to be about bringing the cost of health care down, about keeping health care costs from bankrupting families and government. So if you are looking for a reason as to why Americans overwhelmingly oppose this bill and why Democrats are having such a hard time rounding up votes within their own party for this bill, it is because no one believes this bill will lower the cost of health care. It is that simple.

When you hear people talk about the cost of health care, they usually are referring to three things: the overall health care expenses Americans will have to shoulder if this bill passes, overall spending by the Federal Government on health care if this bill passes, and the amount of money people will have to spend on health insurance premiums if this bill passes. On all three counts, the bill the White House and its allies in Congress want us to vote for would drive costs up actually. The administration's own scorekeeper at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services says overall health spending will go up by more than $200 billion under this bill—overall health care spending up $200 billion under this bill, according to the administration. The independent Congressional Budget Office says Federal spending on health care will increase by about $200 billion over the next 10 years. CBO also says health insurance premiums for millions of Americans across the country will go up 10 to 13 percent as a result of all the new government mandates contained in this bill—and continue to rise at the current unsustainable rate for nearly everyone else, despite more than $2 trillion in new government spending.

Another thing Americans are rightly concerned about is the debt. It is completely out of control. Some say this

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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bill lowers the debt, but let me remind my colleagues that the extenders bill we will be voting on today—the bill we will be voting on today—will add more to the debt than even the White House claims its health spending bill will save. Let me say that again. The bill we are going to pass today, the extenders bill, will add more to the debt—will add more to the debt—than even the White House claims its health spending bill will save.

So if cost is what you are concerned about, then you cannot vote for this bill. It is that simple. Americans have it figured out, and that is why they are asking themselves why anyone in Congress would even think about voting for this bill. This should not even be a tough call.

Let's start over and work together on a step-by-step solutions process that focuses on cost, that actually lowers costs, not the other way around. Let's put together a bill Americans will support.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders, with the Republicans controlling the first portion and the majority controlling the second portion.

The Senator from Wyoming.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I just heard the Republican leader talk about the issue of health care in America and the goal which we heard so much about of getting the cost of care under control.

I have practiced medicine for 25 years in Casper, WY. I was in Wyoming yesterday visiting with physicians, visiting with nurses, visiting with those who are patients, as well as those who are providers, and talking with them about what is happening in this country and in this body with the discussion about health care in America and the legislation. No matter whom I talk with in Wyoming, when they look at this massive, 2,000-page bill and they think about it and then they ask questions about it, they say: How in the world is this actually going to get the cost of care down? How is this going to help them save money? Because as they read it and as they look at the rules and the regulations and the new mandates for more bureaucracies—they say it is going to be more government employees at a time when there is 10 percent unemployment in the country—they say: It is going to likely cause my own cost of health care to go up, my own insurance coverage to go up. They have great concerns that the quality of their own care will go down—go down. Americans, and certainly the people in Wyoming, are very worried that if this bill becomes law, the cost of their care is going to go up and the quality and availability of their care is going to go down. That is not what they want.

The President was speaking in Philadelphia yesterday. The front page of one of the papers this morning says: ''[The President] Turns Up the Volume in Bid for His Health Measure.'' And he said, as a challenge to Democrats, ''If not us, who?''

Mr. President, it should be all of us. This should not be something that is being rammed through the House and the Senate and force-fed to the American people at a time when 75 percent of them want nothing to do with this bill. Three out of four Americans say: Stop, we don't want this, because they are worried about the cost of their own care and the availability and the quality of the care they are receiving.

So when the President gives his speeches, as he did yesterday, I would say: Involve all of us. Involve all of us in the discussion, which is what we should have been doing for over a year.

I look at what he said in his speech, and he talked about an insurance broker who apparently told some others there was so little competition—this is the President now talking, saying there is so little competition in insurance, that allows people to drive up the cost. The solution to that is the Republican solution that says: Increase the competition, increase the competition. That is what we need. Patients, people, citizens of this country want to be able to shop around, buy insurance across State lines, look for what is best for them and best for their families. If we did that, if we did that today, there would be 12 million more Americans with insurance by merely being allowed to have more competition, to be able to shop across State lines and to look around for something that is best for them and for their families—not the limited choices they may have in the State in which they happen to live.

So I look at this from the standpoint of practicing medicine for 25 years, visiting with patients, visiting with providers, talking with nurses, talking with doctors, saying there are things we can do to get down the cost of care. Unfortunately, they are not included in this 2,000-page bill that is now sitting over in the House, with all of these different approaches to force this through in a way that undermines what the American people want, what the American people are asking for—the opinions of the American people—by a group of people in this body who say: We know better than the American people.

This body does not know better than the American people. The House does not know better than the American people. It is time to listen to the American people, which is why I go home every weekend to visit with those folks in my State, in my home State of Wyoming, to visit with them about their needs, their concerns. And they have great concerns about this bill.

It is not just people in my home communities. Warren Buffett, the great investor, says Washington should scrap this health care bill and start over. He said they should focus, as our Republican leader said a few minutes ago, on the costs. He said we should say we are going to focus on the costs and not dream up 2,000 pages of other things. Warren Buffett says get rid of the nonsense, and this bill is loaded with nonsense. This bill is loaded with nonsense—nonsense that is going to drive up the cost of care and decrease the quality of care in this country.

So we have now been going through this for a year. The President is out trying to make an appeal to the Nation to say: Yes, buy this package I am trying to sell. The American people are too smart for that. They realize this package cuts $500 billion from Medicare patients who depend on Medicare for their health care—$500 billion in Medicare cuts. Part of it is to hospitals and part of it is to a program called Medicare Advantage. There are 10 million Americans on Medicare Advantage. The reason they signed up for this, they choose this, is because there is an advantage for them as seniors to participate in this program because this is a program that actually works with preventive care, with coordinating care, things that regular Medicare does not do. They are going to cut over $100 billion from our nursing homes and money from home health, which is a lifeline for people at home. They are going to cut money from hospice for people in their final days of life. That is part of this big bill the President is supporting and that he is asking the House to vote for. It is a bill that raises taxes by another $500 billion. It is a bill the House is going to be asked to pass that includes every one of the sweetheart deals because their first act in the House is going to have to be to pass the bill the Senate passed on Christmas Eve and that includes all the sweetheart deals, whether it is to Nebraska or Louisiana or Florida. Thirteen different Senators had sweetheart deals put into that bill the Democrats are going to be asked to vote for because the Republicans see through this whole thing.

So the opposition to this is bipartisan. It is bipartisan opposition. Those who support it is one party only.

We are looking now at a mandate where every American is going to be forced—forced—to buy a product, to buy insurance—forced under this—or they will either have to pay special taxes, have their wages garnished or pay a fine or a penalty under this plan

that the American people, three out of four, have absolutely rejected.

I see my colleague from Arizona has taken to the floor, and I would ask him if he is hearing similar things when he goes home to Arizona to visit with the people and what concerns he is hearing because there are certainly many seniors in the fine State of Arizona.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague asking. There are 330,000 seniors in the State of Arizona who rely on Medicare Advantage. It is exactly as Dr. BARRASSO said: Medicare Advantage is a program that helps people with preventive care, with coordinated care, and with some of the things that aren't available under regular care, including vision care, audio care, and the like. These benefits would be drastically cut under the proposal in this legislation, so they are naturally very much opposed to it. I think Arizona represents the second largest State in terms of the number of seniors participating in Medicare Advantage.

The other part of this that concerns them is the fact that if it is such a good idea to eliminate this program—or to drastically curtail it, to be perfectly accurate—then why is it that in one State the Senator was able to get his senior citizens who have Medicare Advantage programs exempted from the bill? If it is such a wonderful idea, why shouldn't it apply to everybody? But the seniors in Florida would be grandfathered in their Medicare Advantage plans because, of course, they don't like these cuts any more than seniors in Arizona or Wyoming or any other State.

So this brings up the question: How can these provisions that are objected to by the American people be fixed in the process that has now been settled upon, this so-called reconciliation process?

If I could address that for a moment. The author of this so-called reconciliation process is our esteemed colleague, the senior Senator from West Virginia, ROBERT BYRD. Here is what he had to say about using the process he created, this reconciliation process, for the purposes of consideration of health care legislation. I quote him from the Washington Post, March 22, 2009:

> I am certain that putting health care reform and climate change legislation on a freight train through Congress is an outrage that must be resisted.
>
> Using the reconciliation process to enact major legislation prevents an open debate about the critical issues in full view of the public. Health reform and climate change are issues that in one way or another touch every American family. The resolution carries serious economic and emotional consequences.
>
> The misuse of the arcane process of reconciliation—a process intended for deficit reduction—to enact substantive policy changes is an undemocratic disservice to our people and to the Senate's institutional role.

That is what Senator BYRD had to say. Yet that is the process that has been selected by the Democratic leaders to force this legislation through the Congress.

The final point I wish to make with respect to this is I think, to some extent, it may be a cruel hoax on some of our Democratic colleagues in the House of Representatives who are counting on the Senate to back up the reconciliation bill that might be passed in the House of Representatives. What they are assuming is, when they attempt to fix the Senate bill they don't like very much by amending it through this reconciliation process and then sending that bill over to the Senate, the Senate is simply going to pass the bill. Voila: The bad Senate bill has been fixed, the President can sign the reconciliation bill, and we will now have national health care reform.

Well, not so fast. As a matter of fact, the author of this reconciliation process also created what is known around here as the Byrd rule, which means that if you go outside the narrow lanes of the reconciliation process and try to include things in the bill that don't belong in the reconciliation process, then it is, of course, subject to a point of order, as it should be, and it would take 60 Senators to override that point of order.

Well, there are a lot of things that are going to be attempted to be fixed in the reconciliation bill that are subject to a point of order—the Byrd rule. Those points of order will be upheld because I am going to predict to my colleagues that 41 Republican Senators are not going to allow that misuse of the reconciliation process—going outside what is clearly a reconciliation process—which means the bill that is passed in the House of Representatives, if it is, would not be passed by the Senate. Key provisions of it would have been stricken on points of order. Then, our friends in the House of Representatives would be faced with the prospect that they had already passed this bad Senate bill they don't like very much—and that I don't like very much—but the President can sign that into law. Yet the process by which they would attempt to fix it has failed because of the points of order that can be raised and that will be raised and that will be sustained, as should be the case, under the application of the so-called Byrd rule.

So when my colleague from Wyoming talks about his constituents in Wyoming objecting not only to the substance of the bill but also the process by which it has been handled, I can answer the question: Yes, I met with a whole group of people from different States this weekend—from Pennsylvania, California, New Jersey, New York—I visited with folks from literally all over the country, and they had the same objections, both as to the substance of the legislation, but they were also very curious about this reconciliation process because they had heard it could be used to ram the bill through by a process that it was never intended for, and they wanted to talk about that. When we explained the fact that the legislation adopted by the House—if it is—would not necessarily be adopted in the Senate but would be subject to these points of order—and, by the way, amendments, an unlimited number of amendments—then at least they understood why House Democrats who will insist on amending the Senate bill should not rely on the Senate to do their bidding. That isn't going to happen.

Let me say one other thing before I turn it back over to my colleague from Wyoming. It has been such a learning experience for us and an inspiration to have a couple real physicians in the Senate. Our only two physicians here are Dr. BARRASSO, an orthopedic surgeon from Wyoming, and Dr. TOM COBURN, a physician from the State of Oklahoma, to talk about the real world of treating patients and how there are ways that care can be given in a less expensive way but retaining both the essential quality of care and that intangible but incredibly important—almost sacred—relationship between the doctor and the patient.

I see Dr. COBURN has joined us on the floor. It is key for the rest of us to understand how this process works when physicians sit down with patients and determine the best course of action to preventive care, that can both be the least expensive and yet still deliver the quality care that their patients deserve.

I think we ought to pay more attention to the advice they have provided to us, and I commend both Senator BARRASSO as well as Dr. COBURN for the advice they have given to us, and I hope we will continue to listen to that advice as this debate unfolds.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would say to my colleague from Arizona—and there is actually a Mayo Clinic in Arizona, as there is in Florida and as there is in Rochester, MN, which is the home of the Mayo Clinic—one would think, since the President early on talked so much about the Mayo Clinic being a model for health care in the country, the Mayo Clinic might agree with what the President had to say. But if you go to the Mayo Clinic's blogs, they say:

> The proposed legislation misses the opportunity—

We have an opportunity now—

> to help create high-quality, more affordable health care for patients. In fact, it will do the opposite.

So here you are. The proposed legislation misses the opportunity to help create higher quality, more affordable health care for patients. In fact, it will do the opposite.

Mr. KYL. If my colleague would yield for a quick comment on that point.

Mr. BARRASSO. Absolutely.

Mr. KYL. The Mayo Clinic in Arizona, unfortunately, has had to announce that in several of its key facilities there, it will no longer accept new Medicare patients. Why is that so? Because the government program of Medicare, which our seniors rely on, is getting to the point where it does not

pay physicians what they require just to stay in business, just to have their office practice continue.

The Medicaid Program, which is the other government program, is already so low in its reimbursements to physicians that—the numbers differ, but 50 to 60 percent of physicians are no longer taking Medicaid patients. As a result, these government programs end up getting very close to rationing care because there aren't enough physicians and facilities to take care of the people who are enrolled in the programs. Imposing yet another entitlement for even more people to have this care with fees regulated by the Federal Government and reimbursements at levels too low for physicians to take advantage of will simply continue to drive physicians away from the treatment of the patients they have treated over the years and want to continue to treat.

It would be our hope we could bring the incentive for physicians to continue to treat these patients, rather than the disincentives the Mayo Clinic is pointing to in backing out of the treatment of folks in Arizona.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, one of the important points he made a moment ago is a doctor sitting down and listening to their patient. Mayo has it right. If you are not going to pay us enough to sit down, we refuse to practice medicine the way Medicare is directing us to practice: Listen a little bit and then cover it with tests.

The reason costs are out of control is because Medicare wouldn't pay for a physician to sit down and truly listen and come to a centered point on what the patient's problem is and the way to get around it. Consequently, what we have seen in the Medicare Program is doctors have to see so many patients that they don't get to listen to them and they consequently cover that lack of listening by ordering more tests.

What do we know about tests? We know we order $¼ trillion worth of tests every year that aren't needed. There are two reasons we are ordering them. No. 1, the reimbursement to sit down to listen to the patient is so low the doctors can't afford to take the time to cover the test; and No. 2 is the threat of tort litigation. So now we are ordering tests not for patients, but we are ordering them for doctors. If we want to change health care, we have to drive costs down. I am proud Mayo recognizes we are not going to sacrifice our quality, so, therefore, we are saying: No, we are not going to take any more Medicare patients because we can't do it in a way that lends a quality outcome at an appropriate cost.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I remember sitting back in the cloakroom and listening to Dr. COBURN when he was talking about how he treats patients who come into his office. A child, he said, comes in who has had a fall on the playground and the parents, understandably, are very concerned. Dr. COBURN said to me: If I just sit down and talk to that young man, that child, talk to his parents for a while, I can usually figure out what kind of treatment is going to be necessary without necessarily ordering a bunch of tests. But under the medical malpractice situation we have to work under today, I am almost required to order those tests or, if something should go wrong, be accused of malpractice. I wonder if my colleague could relay that story.

Mr. COBURN. Every summer, we have thousands of kids hit the ER, whether they ran into a pole or they had a baseball bing them in the head. The standard of care now is to put that child through a CT scan. These are children the vast majority of whom have no neurologic signs whatsoever. But now we are not only spending that $1,200 per child, we are exposing those children to radiation they don't need.

So there are two untoward events for what has happened as we see the hijacking of medicine by the trial bar. No. 1 is we spend a whole lot more money unnecessarily, but No. 2 is we are actually now starting to hurt people by exposing them to radiation they don't need.

That is another cost. We know we can bring down costs if we change the tort system in this country to one that is sensible and reasonable and still allows, when doctors make mistakes, for them to be compensated for their economic damages and the harm that was caused to them. No one is saying we should eliminate that. What we are saying is, it should be appropriate and in a venue that represents the real risks without disturbing the practice of medicine because we cannot afford it, and the children who are getting these tests, their bodies cannot afford it. It is just common sense that we would go that way.

I wonder if the Senator will yield for a moment before we lose our time that I might discuss the amendment I am going to have up in a moment.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, might I just inquire how much time remains on the Republican side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 3 minutes 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to take that time, if I may.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX EXTENDERS ACT

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, we are going to have an amendment on the floor in just a moment that simply requires the Senate to post every time they create a new program and every time they spend money outside of pay-go so that we truly are transparent with the American people about what we are doing.

With great fanfare, we passed pay-go. We made it a statute. The last three bills in a row, we have allocated up to $120 billion outside of pay-go. With all the claims, with all the fanfare, we said we are going to now start paying for everything we do, and the first three bills to come before the Senate, what do we do? We simply say: Rules off; doesn't count; we are going to spend our grandkids' money.

For the life of me, I do not understand the controversy around this amendment. It is about us being transparent with the American people. No more games. No more saying we are doing one thing and doing another. All this amendment says is, when we violate our own rules and we spend money we do not have and we do not pay for programs by eliminating programs that are not effective, that are not a priority, that we are going to list it on our Web site. Nothing could be simpler.

We have offered the Secretary of the Senate our staff to do that work. It takes about 5 minutes a day to post that information and probably 5 minutes every third or fourth day. We will happily pay for that or we will offer one of our staff to put that information on the computer.

We are going to have a side-by-side amendment that does nothing. We understand that. That gives people a way to not vote for our amendment.

If we want to solve the problems in America and we want to solve our financial problems, the first thing we have to do is have real information about what this body is doing. This amendment will do that.

I yield back the remainder of our time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment No. 3431 be in order when we return to H.R. 4213, with up to 10 minutes to speak regarding that amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object on behalf of the managers who are not present at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I still ask for up to 10 minutes to speak on behalf of this amendment, even though the action has been heard and registered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator may speak.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. The amendment I rise today to speak on is straightforward. It would provide an offset for all known emergency provisions included in the bill, H.R. 4213. The amendment would direct the Office of Management and Budget to rescind $35 billion in unobligated American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds on a prorated basis. The amendment would exclude military construction and veterans affairs stimulus funding from the rescission.

This rescission would offset all remaining nonemergency items in the

American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act, which is H.R. 4213.

As a result of my amendment, all provisions in the bill would be paid for minus the emergency extension of unemployment insurance and COBRA.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle just made the best case I have heard for this amendment. They raised concerns about the underpayments for Medicare and Medicaid patients and patient care. In this underlying bill, doctors would have their fees increased for payment purposes so the concerns that were raised by my colleague from Arizona would be, in part, answered by the increased payments the Mayo Clinic was not receiving and, therefore, made the decision to reduce their care to Medicare patients.

It seems to me it would be appropriate to support this bill. I suspect they will not, but it would seem appropriate to support this bill then and also support having it paid for under pay-go rules applying to the unused stimulus funds that would be available through this act.

If we are going to see that Medicare patients are treated and are not excluded from treatment, it is going to be because the providers are adequately compensated. That is one of the provisions of this bill. What we are seeking to do is to make sure that is paid for, among other things.

The Governors of the States have come to us and said they cannot afford to make their part of the Medicaid match that they are required to make under the Medicaid Program that is approved in virtually every State. As a result of that, a good portion of this bill is seeking money to pay the States, compensate them for that unfunded mandate that the States are currently facing.

In other words, they come in and say: You forced us to do this. We don't have the money to do it. We are asking that you make it good. You pay for it.

The challenge is, if Medicaid is decreased or payments to providers are decreased, then the concerns they raised about the Medicaid Program underfunding providers will be a self-fulfilling prophecy. It seems to me there is an opportunity for the other side to take a very positive look at this particular bill.

I can look at it positively if we pay for it. My concerns are that we pay for the nonemergency provisions within this bill, that we pay for the FMAP fix, that we pay for the other parts of this bill minus the emergency extension of unemployment insurance and COBRA. That would make us consistent with the pay-go rules we forced upon ourselves—I think appropriately so. But it is important that we follow the rules we set for ourselves. This is one of the ways we do it—by paying for these nonemergency items in the underlying bill.

That is my argument. That is why I have offered this legislation. I think it is unfortunate the other side has chosen to object to it, but they have and that is it. The amendment will fail unless the other side finds that it makes sense to simply begin to pay for things. I thought the other side was interested in seeing that these requirements are paid for, particularly when they make such a strong case for the payment to physicians for Medicare and Medicaid patients. That does not seem to be the case.

I yield the floor. 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. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3430, AS MODIFIED

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment No. 3430 be modified with the changes at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

Strike title III and insert the following:

TITLE III—PENSION FUNDING RELIEF

Subtitle A—Single Employer Plans

SEC. 301. EXTENDED PERIOD FOR SINGLE-EMPLOYER DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS TO AMORTIZE CERTAIN SHORTFALL AMORTIZATION BASES.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO ERISA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 303(c) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following subparagraph:

''(D) SPECIAL ELECTION FOR ELIGIBLE PLAN YEARS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If a plan sponsor elects to apply this subparagraph with respect to the shortfall amortization base of a plan for any eligible plan year (in this subparagraph and paragraph (7) referred to as an 'election year'), then, notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

''(I) the shortfall amortization installments with respect to such base shall be determined under clause (ii) or (iii), whichever is specified in the election, and

''(II) the shortfall amortization installment for any plan year in the 9-plan-year period described in clause (ii) or the 15-plan-year period described in clause (iii), respectively, with respect to such shortfall amortization base is the annual installment determined under the applicable clause for that year for that base.

''(ii) 2 PLUS 7 AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE.—The shortfall amortization installments determined under this clause are—

''(I) in the case of the first 2 plan years in the 9-plan-year period beginning with the election year, interest on the shortfall amortization base of the plan for the election year (determined using the effective interest rate for the plan for the election year), and

''(II) in the case of the last 7 plan years in such 9-plan-year period, the amounts necessary to amortize the remaining balance of the shortfall amortization base of the plan for the election year in level annual installments over such last 7 plan years (using the segment rates under subparagraph (C) for the election year).

''(iii) 15-YEAR AMORTIZATION.—The shortfall amortization installments determined under this subparagraph are the amounts necessary to amortize the shortfall amortization base of the plan for the election year in level annual installments over the 15-plan-year period beginning with the election year (using the segment rates under subparagraph (C) for the election year).

''(iv) ELECTION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The plan sponsor of a plan may elect to have this subparagraph apply to not more than 2 eligible plan years with respect to the plan, except that in the case of a plan described in section 106 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, the plan sponsor may only elect to have this subparagraph apply to a plan year beginning in 2011.

''(II) AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE.—Such election shall specify whether the amortization schedule under clause (ii) or (iii) shall apply to an election year, except that if a plan sponsor elects to have this subparagraph apply to 2 eligible plan years, the plan sponsor must elect the same schedule for both years.

''(III) OTHER RULES.—Such election shall be made at such time, and in such form and manner, as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury shall, before granting a revocation request, provide the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation an opportunity to comment on the conditions applicable to the treatment of any portion of the election year shortfall amortization base that remains unamortized as of the revocation date.

''(v) ELIGIBLE PLAN YEAR.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'eligible plan year' means any plan year beginning in 2008, 2009, 2010, or 2011, except that a plan year shall only be treated as an eligible plan year if the due date under subsection (j)(1) for the payment of the minimum required contribution for such plan year occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph.

''(vi) REPORTING.—A plan sponsor of a plan who makes an election under clause (i) shall—

''(I) give notice of the election to participants and beneficiaries of the plan, and

''(II) inform the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation of such election in such form and manner as the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation may prescribe.

''(vii) INCREASES IN REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS IN CERTAIN CASES.—For increases in required contributions in cases of excess compensation or extraordinary dividends or stock redemptions, see paragraph (7).''.

(2) INCREASES IN REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS IN CERTAIN CASES.—Section 303(c) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1083(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following paragraph:

''(7) INCREASES IN ALTERNATE REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS IN CASES OF EXCESS COMPENSATION OR EXTRAORDINARY DIVIDENDS OR STOCK REDEMPTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If there is an installment acceleration amount with respect to a plan for any plan year in the restriction period with respect to an election year under paragraph (2)(D), then the shortfall amortization installment otherwise determined and payable under such paragraph for such plan year shall, subject to the limitation under subparagraph (B), be increased by such amount.

''(B) TOTAL INSTALLMENTS LIMITED TO SHORTFALL BASE.—Subject to rules prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, if a shortfall amortization installment with respect to any shortfall amortization base for an election year is required to be increased for any plan year under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) such increase shall not result in the amount of such installment exceeding the present value of such installment and all succeeding installments with respect to such base (determined without regard to such increase but after application of clause (ii)), and

''(ii) subsequent shortfall amortization installments with respect to such base shall, in reverse order of the otherwise required installments, be reduced to the extent necessary to limit the present value of such subsequent shortfall amortization installments (after application of this paragraph) to the present value of the remaining unamortized shortfall amortization base.

''(C) INSTALLMENT ACCELERATION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'installment acceleration amount' means, with respect to any plan year in a restriction period with respect to an election year, the sum of—

''(I) the aggregate amount of excess employee compensation determined under subparagraph (D) with respect to all employees for the plan year, plus

''(II) the aggregate amount of extraordinary dividends and redemptions determined under subparagraph (E) for the plan year.

''(ii) ANNUAL LIMITATION.—The installment acceleration amount for any plan year shall not exceed the excess (if any) of—

''(I) the sum of the shortfall amortization installments for the plan year and all preceding plan years in the amortization period elected under paragraph (2)(D) with respect to the shortfall amortization base with respect to an election year, determined without regard to paragraph (2)(D) and this paragraph, over

''(II) the sum of the shortfall amortization installments for such plan year and all such preceding plan years, determined after application of paragraph (2)(D) (and in the case of any preceding plan year, after application of this paragraph).

''(iii) CARRYOVER OF EXCESS INSTALLMENT ACCELERATION AMOUNTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If the installment acceleration amount for any plan year (determined without regard to clause (ii)) exceeds the limitation under clause (ii), then, subject to subclause (II), such excess shall be treated as an installment acceleration amount with respect to the succeeding plan year.

''(II) CAP TO APPLY.—If any amount treated as an installment acceleration amount under subclause (I) or this subclause with respect any succeeding plan year, when added to other installment acceleration amounts (determined without regard to clause (ii)) with respect to the plan year, exceeds the limitation under clause (ii), the portion of such amount representing such excess shall be treated as an installment acceleration amount with respect to the next succeeding plan year.

''(III) LIMITATION ON YEARS TO WHICH AMOUNTS CARRIED FOR.—No amount shall be carried under subclause (I) or (II) to a plan year which begins after the first plan year following the last plan year in the restriction period (or after the second plan year following such last plan year in the case of an election year with respect to which 15-year amortization was elected under paragraph (2)(D)).

''(IV) ORDERING RULES.—For purposes of applying subclause (II), installment acceleration amounts for the plan year (determined without regard to any carryover under this clause) shall be applied first against the limitation under clause (ii) and then carryovers to such plan year shall be applied against such limitation on a first-in, first-out basis.

''(D) EXCESS EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'excess employee compensation' means, with respect to any employee for any plan year, the excess (if any) of—

''(I) the aggregate amount includible in income under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for remuneration during the calendar year in which such plan year begins for services performed by the employee for the plan sponsor (whether or not performed during such calendar year), over

''(II) $1,000,000.

''(ii) AMOUNTS SET ASIDE FOR NONQUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION.—If during any calendar year assets are set aside or reserved (directly or indirectly) in a trust (or other arrangement as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury), or transferred to such a trust or other arrangement, by a plan sponsor for purposes of paying deferred compensation of an employee under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan (as defined in section 409A of such Code) of the plan sponsor, then, for purposes of clause (i), the amount of such assets shall be treated as remuneration of the employee includible in income for the calendar year unless such amount is otherwise includible in income for such year. An amount to which the preceding sentence applies shall not be taken into account under this paragraph for any subsequent calendar year.

''(iii) ONLY REMUNERATION FOR CERTAIN POST-2009 SERVICES COUNTED.—Remuneration shall be taken into account under clause (i) only to the extent attributable to services performed by the employee for the plan sponsor after February 28, 2010.

''(iv) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN EQUITY PAYMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—There shall not be taken into account under clause (i)(I) any amount includible in income with respect to the granting after February 28, 2010, of service recipient stock (within the meaning of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) that, upon such grant, is subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture (as defined under section 83(c)(1) of such Code) for at least 5 years from the date of such grant.

''(II) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of the Treasury may by regulation provide for the application of this clause in the case of a person other than a corporation.

''(v) OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The following amounts includible in income shall not be taken into account under clause (i)(I):

''(I) COMMISSIONS.—Any remuneration payable on a commission basis solely on account of income directly generated by the individual performance of the individual to whom such remuneration is payable.

''(II) CERTAIN PAYMENTS UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Any remuneration consisting of nonqualified deferred compensation, restricted stock, stock options, or stock appreciation rights payable or granted under a written binding contract that was in effect on March 1, 2010, and which was not modified in any material respect before such remuneration is paid.

''(vi) SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL TREATED AS EMPLOYEE.—The term 'employee' includes, with respect to a calendar year, a self-employed individual who is treated as an employee under section 401(c) of such Code for the taxable year ending during such calendar year, and the term 'compensation' shall include earned income of such individual with respect to such self-employment.

''(vii) INDEXING OF AMOUNT.—In the case of any calendar year beginning after 2010, the dollar amount under clause (i)(II) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(I) such dollar amount, multiplied by

''(II) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) of such Code for the calendar year, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2009' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

If the amount of any increase under clause (i) is not a multiple of $1,000, such increase shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $1,000.

''(E) EXTRAORDINARY DIVIDENDS AND REDEMPTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount determined under this subparagraph for any plan year is the excess (if any) of the sum of the dividends declared during the plan year by the plan sponsor plus the aggregate amount paid for the redemption of stock of the plan sponsor redeemed during the plan year over the greater of—

''(I) the adjusted net income (within the meaning of section 4043) of the plan sponsor for the preceding plan year, determined without regard to any reduction by reason of interest, taxes, depreciation, or amortization, or

''(II) in the case of a plan sponsor that determined and declared dividends in the same manner for at least 5 consecutive years immediately preceding such plan year, the aggregate amount of dividends determined and declared for such plan year using such manner.

''(ii) ONLY CERTAIN POST-2009 DIVIDENDS AND REDEMPTIONS COUNTED.—For purposes of clause (i), there shall only be taken into account dividends declared, and redemptions occurring, after February 28, 2010.

''(iii) EXCEPTION FOR INTRA-GROUP DIVIDENDS.—Dividends paid by one member of a controlled group (as defined in section 302(d)(3)) to another member of such group shall not be taken into account under clause (i).

''(iv) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN REDEMPTIONS.—Redemptions that are made pursuant to a plan maintained with respect to employees, or that are made on account of the death, disability, or termination of employment of an employee or shareholder, shall not be taken into account under clause (i).

''(v) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PREFERRED STOCK.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Dividends and redemptions with respect to applicable preferred stock shall not be taken into account under clause (i) to the extent that dividends accrue with respect to such stock at a specified rate in all events and without regard to the plan sponsor's income, and interest accrues on any unpaid dividends with respect to such stock.

''(II) APPLICABLE PREFERRED STOCK.—For purposes of subclause (I), the term 'applicable preferred stock' means preferred stock which was issued before March 1, 2010 (or which was issued after such date and is held by an employee benefit plan subject to the provisions of this title).

''(F) OTHER DEFINITIONS AND RULES.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term ' plan sponsor' includes any member of the plan sponsor's controlled group (as defined in section 302(d)(3)).

''(ii) RESTRICTION PERIOD.—The term 'restriction period' means, with respect to any election year—

''(I) except as provided in subclause (II), the 3-year period beginning with the election year (or, if later, the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009), and

''(II) if the plan sponsor elects 15-year amortization for the shortfall amortization base

for the election year, the 5-year period beginning with the election year (or, if later, the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009).

''(iii) ELECTIONS FOR MULTIPLE PLANS.—If a plan sponsor makes elections under paragraph (2)(D) with respect to 2 or more plans, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide rules for the application of this paragraph to such plans, including rules for the ratable allocation of any installment acceleration amount among such plans on the basis of each plan's relative reduction in the plan's shortfall amortization installment for the first plan year in the amortization period described in subparagraph (A) (determined without regard to this paragraph).

''(iv) MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe rules for the application of paragraph (2)(D) and this paragraph in any case where there is a merger or acquisition involving a plan sponsor making the election under paragraph (2)(D).''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 303 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1083) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''the shortfall amortization bases for such plan year and each of the 6 preceding plan years'' and inserting ''any shortfall amortization base which has not been fully amortized under this subsection'', and

(B) in subsection (j)(3), by adding at the end the following:

''(F) QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTIONS NOT TO INCLUDE CERTAIN INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS.—Subparagraph (D) shall be applied without regard to any increase under subsection (c)(7).''.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 430(c) is amended by adding at the end the following subparagraph:

''(D) SPECIAL ELECTION FOR ELIGIBLE PLAN YEARS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If a plan sponsor elects to apply this subparagraph with respect to the shortfall amortization base of a plan for any eligible plan year (in this subparagraph and paragraph (7) referred to as an 'election year'), then, notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

''(I) the shortfall amortization installments with respect to such base shall be determined under clause (ii) or (iii), whichever is specified in the election, and

''(II) the shortfall amortization installment for any plan year in the 9-plan-year period described in clause (ii) or the 15-plan-year period described in clause (iii), respectively, with respect to such shortfall amortization base is the annual installment determined under the applicable clause for that year for that base.

''(ii) 2 PLUS 7 AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE.—The shortfall amortization installments determined under this clause are—

''(I) in the case of the first 2 plan years in the 9-plan-year period beginning with the election year, interest on the shortfall amortization base of the plan for the election year (determined using the effective interest rate for the plan for the election year), and

''(II) in the case of the last 7 plan years in such 9-plan-year period, the amounts necessary to amortize the remaining balance of the shortfall amortization base of the plan for the election year in level annual installments over such last 7 plan years (using the segment rates under subparagraph (C) for the election year).

''(iii) 15-YEAR AMORTIZATION.—The shortfall amortization installments determined under this subparagraph are the amounts necessary to amortize the shortfall amortization base of the plan for the election year in level annual installments over the 15-plan-year period beginning with the election year (using the segment rates under subparagraph (C) for the election year).

''(iv) ELECTION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The plan sponsor of a plan may elect to have this subparagraph apply to not more than 2 eligible plan years with respect to the plan, except that in the case of a plan described in section 106 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, the plan sponsor may only elect to have this subparagraph apply to a plan year beginning in 2011.

''(II) AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE.—Such election shall specify whether the amortization schedule under clause (ii) or (iii) shall apply to an election year, except that if a plan sponsor elects to have this subparagraph apply to 2 eligible plan years, the plan sponsor must elect the same schedule for both years.

''(III) OTHER RULES.—Such election shall be made at such time, and in such form and manner, as shall be prescribed by the Secretary, and may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary. The Secretary shall, before granting a revocation request, provide the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation an opportunity to comment on the conditions applicable to the treatment of any portion of the election year shortfall amortization base that remains unamortized as of the revocation date.

''(v) ELIGIBLE PLAN YEAR.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'eligible plan year' means any plan year beginning in 2008, 2009, 2010, or 2011, except that a plan year shall only be treated as an eligible plan year if the due date under subsection (j)(1) for the payment of the minimum required contribution for such plan year occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph.

''(vi) REPORTING.—A plan sponsor of a plan who makes an election under clause (i) shall—

''(I) give notice of the election to participants and beneficiaries of the plan, and

''(II) inform the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation of such election in such form and manner as the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation may prescribe.

''(vii) INCREASES IN REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS IN CERTAIN CASES.—For increases in required contributions in cases of excess compensation or extraordinary dividends or stock redemptions, see paragraph (7).''.

(2) INCREASES IN REQUIRED CONTRIBUTIONS IF EXCESS COMPENSATION PAID.—Section 430(c) is amended by adding at the end the following paragraph:

''(7) INCREASES IN ALTERNATE REQUIRED INSTALLMENTS IN CASES OF EXCESS COMPENSATION OR EXTRAORDINARY DIVIDENDS OR STOCK REDEMPTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If there is an installment acceleration amount with respect to a plan for any plan year in the restriction period with respect to an election year under paragraph (2)(D), then the shortfall amortization installment otherwise determined and payable under such paragraph for such plan year shall, subject to the limitation under subparagraph (B), be increased by such amount.

''(B) TOTAL INSTALLMENTS LIMITED TO SHORTFALL BASE.—Subject to rules prescribed by the Secretary, if a shortfall amortization installment with respect to any shortfall amortization base for an election year is required to be increased for any plan year under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) such increase shall not result in the amount of such installment exceeding the present value of such installment and all succeeding installments with respect to such base (determined without regard to such increase but after application of clause (ii)), and

''(ii) subsequent shortfall amortization installments with respect to such base shall, in reverse order of the otherwise required installments, be reduced to the extent necessary to limit the present value of such subsequent shortfall amortization installments (after application of this paragraph) to the present value of the remaining unamortized shortfall amortization base.

''(C) INSTALLMENT ACCELERATION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'installment acceleration amount' means, with respect to any plan year in a restriction period with respect to an election year, the sum of—

''(I) the aggregate amount of excess employee compensation determined under subparagraph (D) with respect to all employees for the plan year, plus

''(II) the aggregate amount of extraordinary dividends and redemptions determined under subparagraph (E) for the plan year.

''(ii) ANNUAL LIMITATION.—The installment acceleration amount for any plan year shall not exceed the excess (if any) of—

''(I) the sum of the shortfall amortization installments for the plan year and all preceding plan years in the amortization period elected under paragraph (2)(D) with respect to the shortfall amortization base with respect to an election year, determined without regard to paragraph (2)(D) and this paragraph, over

''(II) the sum of the shortfall amortization installments for such plan year and all such preceding plan years, determined after application of paragraph (2)(D) (and in the case of any preceding plan year, after application of this paragraph).

''(iii) CARRYOVER OF EXCESS INSTALLMENT ACCELERATION AMOUNTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If the installment acceleration amount for any plan year (determined without regard to clause (ii)) exceeds the limitation under clause (ii), then, subject to subclause (II), such excess shall be treated as an installment acceleration amount with respect to the succeeding plan year.

''(II) CAP TO APPLY.—If any amount treated as an installment acceleration amount under subclause (I) or this subclause with respect any succeeding plan year, when added to other installment acceleration amounts (determined without regard to clause (ii)) with respect to the plan year, exceeds the limitation under clause (ii), the portion of such amount representing such excess shall be treated as an installment acceleration amount with respect to the next succeeding plan year.

''(III) LIMITATION ON YEARS TO WHICH AMOUNTS CARRIED FOR.—No amount shall be carried under subclause (I) or (II) to a plan year which begins after the first plan year following the last plan year in the restriction period (or after the second plan year following such last plan year in the case of an election year with respect to which 15-year amortization was elected under paragraph (2)(D)).

''(IV) ORDERING RULES.—For purposes of applying subclause (II), installment acceleration amounts for the plan year (determined without regard to any carryover under this clause) shall be applied first against the limitation under clause (ii) and then carryovers to such plan year shall be applied against such limitation on a first-in, first-out basis.

''(D) EXCESS EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'excess employee compensation' means, with respect to any employee for any plan year, the excess (if any) of—

''(I) the aggregate amount includible in income under this chapter for remuneration during the calendar year in which such plan

year begins for services performed by the employee for the plan sponsor (whether or not performed during such calendar year), over

''(II) $1,000,000.

''(ii) AMOUNTS SET ASIDE FOR NONQUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION.—If during any calendar year assets are set aside or reserved (directly or indirectly) in a trust (or other arrangement as determined by the Secretary), or transferred to such a trust or other arrangement, by a plan sponsor for purposes of paying deferred compensation of an employee under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan (as defined in section 409A) of the plan sponsor, then, for purposes of clause (i), the amount of such assets shall be treated as remuneration of the employee includible in income for the calendar year unless such amount is otherwise includible in income for such year. An amount to which the preceding sentence applies shall not be taken into account under this paragraph for any subsequent calendar year.

''(iii) ONLY REMUNERATION FOR CERTAIN POST-2009 SERVICES COUNTED.—Remuneration shall be taken into account under clause (i) only to the extent attributable to services performed by the employee for the plan sponsor after February 28, 2010.

''(iv) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN EQUITY PAYMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—There shall not be taken into account under clause (i)(I) any amount includible in income with respect to the granting after February 28, 2010, of service recipient stock (within the meaning of section 409A) that, upon such grant, is subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture (as defined under section 83(c)(1)) for at least 5 years from the date of such grant.

''(II) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may by regulation provide for the application of this clause in the case of a person other than a corporation.

''(v) OTHER EXCEPTIONS.—The following amounts includible in income shall not be taken into account under clause (i)(I):

''(I) COMMISSIONS.—Any remuneration payable on a commission basis solely on account of income directly generated by the individual performance of the individual to whom such remuneration is payable.

''(II) CERTAIN PAYMENTS UNDER EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Any remuneration consisting of nonqualified deferred compensation, restricted stock, stock options, or stock appreciation rights payable or granted under a written binding contract that was in effect on March 1, 2010, and which was not modified in any material respect before such remuneration is paid.

''(vi) SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUAL TREATED AS EMPLOYEE.—The term 'employee' includes, with respect to a calendar year, a self-employed individual who is treated as an employee under section 401(c) for the taxable year ending during such calendar year, and the term 'compensation' shall include earned income of such individual with respect to such self-employment.

''(vii) INDEXING OF AMOUNT.—In the case of any calendar year beginning after 2010, the dollar amount under clause (i)(II) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(I) such dollar amount, multiplied by

''(II) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2009' for 'calendar year 1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

If the amount of any increase under clause (i) is not a multiple of $1,000, such increase shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $1,000.

''(E) EXTRAORDINARY DIVIDENDS AND REDEMPTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount determined under this subparagraph for any plan year is the excess (if any) of the sum of the dividends declared during the plan year by the plan sponsor plus the aggregate amount paid for the redemption of stock of the plan sponsor redeemed during the plan year over the greater of—

''(I) the adjusted net income (within the meaning of section 4043 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974) of the plan sponsor for the preceding plan year, determined without regard to any reduction by reason of interest, taxes, depreciation, or amortization, or

''(II) in the case of a plan sponsor that determined and declared dividends in the same manner for at least 5 consecutive years immediately preceding such plan year, the aggregate amount of dividends determined and declared for such plan year using such manner.

''(ii) ONLY CERTAIN POST-2009 DIVIDENDS AND REDEMPTIONS COUNTED.—For purposes of clause (i), there shall only be taken into account dividends declared, and redemptions occurring, after February 28, 2010.

''(iii) EXCEPTION FOR INTRA-GROUP DIVIDENDS.—Dividends paid by one member of a controlled group (as defined in section 412(d)(3)) to another member of such group shall not be taken into account under clause (i).

''(iv) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN REDEMPTIONS.—Redemptions that are made pursuant to a plan maintained with respect to employees, or that are made on account of the death, disability, or termination of employment of an employee or shareholder, shall not be taken into account under clause (i).

''(v) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PREFERRED STOCK.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Dividends and redemptions with respect to applicable preferred stock shall not be taken into account under clause (i) to the extent that dividends accrue with respect to such stock at a specified rate in all events and without regard to the plan sponsor's income, and interest accrues on any unpaid dividends with respect to such stock.

''(II) APPLICABLE PREFERRED STOCK.—For purposes of subclause (I), the term 'applicable preferred stock' means preferred stock which was issued before March 1, 2010 (or which was issued after such date and is held by an employee benefit plan subject to the provisions of title I of Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974).

''(F) OTHER DEFINITIONS AND RULES.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) PLAN SPONSOR.—The term ' plan sponsor' includes any member of the plan sponsor's controlled group (as defined in section 412(d)(3)).

''(ii) RESTRICTION PERIOD.—The term 'restriction period' means, with respect to any election year—

''(I) except as provided in subclause (II), the 3-year period beginning with the election year (or, if later, the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009), and

''(II) if the plan sponsor elects 15-year amortization for the shortfall amortization base for the election year, the 5-year period beginning with the election year (or, if later, the first plan year beginning after December 31, 2009).

''(iii) ELECTIONS FOR MULTIPLE PLANS.—If a plan sponsor makes elections under paragraph (2)(D) with respect to 2 or more plans, the Secretary shall provide rules for the application of this paragraph to such plans, including rules for the ratable allocation of any installment acceleration amount among such plans on the basis of each plan's relative reduction in the plan's shortfall amortization installment for the first plan year in the amortization period described in subparagraph (A) (determined without regard to this paragraph).

''(iv) MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe rules for the application of paragraph (2)(D) and this paragraph in any case where there is a merger or acquisition involving a plan sponsor making the election under paragraph (2)(D).''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 430 is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''the shortfall amortization bases for such plan year and each of the 6 preceding plan years'' and inserting ''any shortfall amortization base which has not been fully amortized under this subsection'', and

(B) in subsection (j)(3), by adding at the end the following:

''(F) QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTIONS NOT TO INCLUDE CERTAIN INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS.—Subparagraph (D) shall be applied without regard to any increase under subsection (c)(7).''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 302. APPLICATION OF EXTENDED AMORTIZATION PERIOD TO PLANS SUBJECT TO PRIOR LAW FUNDING RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 is amended by redesignating section 107 as section 108 and by inserting the following after section 106:

''SEC. 107. APPLICATION OF EXTENDED AMORTIZATION PERIODS TO PLANS WITH DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—If the plan sponsor of a plan to which section 104, 105, or 106 of this Act applies elects to have this section apply for any eligible plan year (in this section referred to as an 'election year'), section 302 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as in effect before the amendments made by this subtitle and subtitle B) shall apply to such year in the manner described in subsection (b) or (c), whichever is specified in the election. All references in this section to 'such Act' or 'such Code' shall be to such Act or such Code as in effect before the amendments made by this subtitle and subtitle B.

''(b) APPLICATION OF 2 AND 7 RULE.—In the case of an election year to which this subsection applies—

''(1) 2-YEAR LOOKBACK FOR DETERMINING DEFICIT REDUCTION CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CERTAIN PLANS.—For purposes of applying section 302(d)(9) of such Act and section 412(l)(9) of such Code, the funded current liability percentage (as defined in subparagraph (C) thereof) for such plan for such plan year shall be such funded current liability percentage of such plan for the second plan year preceding the first election year of such plan.

''(2) CALCULATION OF DEFICIT REDUCTION CONTRIBUTION.—For purposes of applying section 302(d) of such Act and section 412(l) of such Code to a plan to which such sections apply (after taking into account paragraph (1))—

''(A) in the case of the increased unfunded new liability of the plan, the applicable percentage described in section 302(d)(4)(C) of such Act and section 412(l)(4)(C) of such Code shall be the third segment rate described in sections 104(b), 105(b), and 106(b) of this Act, and

''(B) in the case of the excess of the unfunded new liability over the increased unfunded new liability, such applicable percentage shall be determined without regard to this section.

''(c) APPLICATION OF 15-YEAR AMORTIZATION.—In the case of an election year to which this subsection applies, for purposes of

applying section 302(d) of such Act and section 412(l) of such Code—

''(1) in the case of the increased unfunded new liability of the plan, the applicable percentage described in section 302(d)(4)(C) of such Act and section 412(l)(4)(C) of such Code for any pre-effective date plan year beginning with or after the first election year shall be the ratio of—

''(A) the annual installments payable in each year if the increased unfunded new liability for such plan year were amortized over 15 years, using an interest rate equal to the third segment rate described in sections 104(b), 105(b), and 106(b) of this Act, to

''(B) the increased unfunded new liability for such plan year, and

''(2) in the case of the excess of the unfunded new liability over the increased unfunded new liability, such applicable percentage shall be determined without regard to this section.

''(d) ELECTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The plan sponsor of a plan may elect to have this section apply to not more than 2 eligible plan years with respect to the plan, except that in the case of a plan to which section 106 of this Act applies, the plan sponsor may only elect to have this section apply to 1 eligible plan year.

''(2) AMORTIZATION SCHEDULE.—Such election shall specify whether the rules under subsection (b) or (c) shall apply to an election year, except that if a plan sponsor elects to have this section apply to 2 eligible plan years, the plan sponsor must elect the same rule for both years.

''(3) OTHER RULES.—Such election shall be made at such time, and in such form and manner, as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) ELIGIBLE PLAN YEAR.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'eligible plan year' means any plan year beginning in 2008, 2009, 2010, or 2011, except that a plan year beginning in 2008 shall only be treated as an eligible plan year if the due date for the payment of the minimum required contribution for such plan year occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this clause.

''(2) PRE-EFFECTIVE DATE PLAN YEAR.—The term 'pre-effective date plan year' means, with respect to a plan, any plan year prior to the first year in which the amendments made by this subtitle and subtitle B apply to the plan.

''(3) INCREASED UNFUNDED NEW LIABILITY.—The term 'increased unfunded new liability' means, with respect to a year, the excess (if any) of the unfunded new liability over the amount of unfunded new liability determined as if the value of the plan's assets determined under subsection 302(c)(2) of such Act and section 412(c)(2) of such Code equaled the product of the current liability of the plan for the year multiplied by the funded current liability percentage (as defined in section 302(d)(8)(B) of such Act and 412(l)(8)(B) of such Code) of the plan for the second plan year preceding the first election year of such plan.

''(4) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms 'unfunded new liability' and 'current liability' shall have the meanings set forth in section 302(d) of such Act and section 412(l) of such Code.''.

(b) ELIGIBLE CHARITY PLANS.—Section 104 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 is amended—

(1) by striking ''eligible cooperative plan'' wherever it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting ''eligible cooperative plan or an eligible charity plan'', and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) ELIGIBLE CHARITY PLAN DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, a plan shall be treated as an eligible charity plan for a plan year if the plan is maintained by more than one employer (determined without regard to section 414(c) of the Internal Revenue Code) and 100 percent of the employers are described in section 501(c)(3) of such Code.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

(2) ELIGIBLE CHARITY PLAN.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2007, except that a plan sponsor may elect to apply such amendments to plan years beginning after December 31, 2008. Any such election shall be made at such time, and in such form and manner, as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and may be revoked only with the consent of the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 303. LOOKBACK FOR CERTAIN BENEFIT RESTRICTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO ERISA.—Section 206(g)(9) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN YEARS.—Solely for purposes of any applicable provision—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after October 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2010, the adjusted funding target attainment percentage of a plan shall be the greater of—

''(I) such percentage, as determined without regard to this subparagraph, or

''(II) the adjusted funding target attainment percentage for such plan for the plan year beginning after October 1, 2007, and before October 1, 2008, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of a plan for which the valuation date is not the first day of the plan year—

''(I) clause (i) shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2007, and before January 1, 2010, and

''(II) clause (i)(II) shall apply based on the last plan year beginning before November 1, 2007, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(iii) APPLICABLE PROVISION.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'applicable provision' means—

''(I) paragraph (3), but only for purposes of applying such paragraph to a payment which, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, is a payment under a social security leveling option which accelerates payments under the plan before, and reduces payments after, a participant starts receiving social security benefits in order to provide substantially similar aggregate payments both before and after such benefits are received, and

''(II) paragraph (4).''.

(2) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 436(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN YEARS.—Solely for purposes of any applicable provision—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For plan years beginning on or after October 1, 2008, and before October 1, 2010, the adjusted funding target attainment percentage of a plan shall be the greater of—

''(i) such percentage, as determined without regard to this paragraph, or

''(ii) the adjusted funding target attainment percentage for such plan for the plan year beginning after October 1, 2007, and before October 1, 2008, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary.

''(B) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of a plan for which the valuation date is not the first day of the plan year—

''(i) subparagraph (A) shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2007, and before January 1, 2010, and

''(ii) subparagraph (A)(ii) shall apply based on the last plan year beginning before November 1, 2007, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary.

''(C) APPLICABLE PROVISION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'applicable provision' means—

''(i) subsection (d), but only for purposes of applying such paragraph to a payment which, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary, is a payment under a social security leveling option which accelerates payments under the plan before, and reduces payments after, a participant starts receiving social security benefits in order to provide substantially similar aggregate payments both before and after such benefits are received, and

''(ii) subsection (e).''.

(b) INTERACTION WITH WRERA RULE.—Section 203 of the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 shall apply to a plan for any plan year in lieu of the amendments made by this section applying to sections 206(g)(4) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and 436(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 only to the extent that such section produces a higher adjusted funding target attainment percentage for such plan for such year.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning on or after October 1, 2008.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of a plan for which the valuation date is not the first day of the plan year, the amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 304. LOOKBACK FOR CREDIT BALANCE RULE FOR PLANS MAINTAINED BY CHARITIES.

(a) AMENDMENT TO ERISA.—Paragraph (3) of section 303(f) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by adding the following at the end thereof:

''(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN YEARS OF PLANS MAINTAINED BY CHARITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of applying subparagraph (C) for plan years beginning after August 31, 2009, and before September 1, 2011, the ratio determined under such subparagraph for the preceding plan year shall be the greater of—

''(I) such ratio, as determined without regard to this subparagraph, or

''(II) the ratio for such plan for the plan year beginning after August 31, 2007, and before September 1, 2008, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of a plan for which the valuation date is not the first day of the plan year—

''(I) clause (i) shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2008, and before January 1, 2011, and

''(II) clause (i)(II) shall apply based on the last plan year beginning before September 1, 2007, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

''(iii) LIMITATION TO CHARITIES.—This subparagraph shall not apply to any plan unless such plan is maintained exclusively by one or more organizations described in section

501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.''.

(b) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Paragraph (3) of section 430(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding the following at the end thereof:

''(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN YEARS OF PLANS MAINTAINED BY CHARITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of applying subparagraph (C) for plan years beginning after August 31, 2009, and before September 1, 2011, the ratio determined under such subparagraph for the preceding plan year of a plan shall be the greater of—

''(I) such ratio, as determined without regard to this subsection, or

''(II) the ratio for such plan for the plan year beginning after August 31, 2007 and before September 1, 2008, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary.

''(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of a plan for which the valuation date is not the first day of the plan year—

''(I) clause (i) shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2007, and before January 1, 2010, and

''(II) clause (i)(II) shall apply based on the last plan year beginning before September 1, 2007, as determined under rules prescribed by the Secretary.

''(iii) LIMITATION TO CHARITIES.—This subparagraph shall not apply to any plan unless such plan is maintained exclusively by one or more organizations described in section 501(c)(3).''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after August 31, 2009.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of a plan for which the valuation date is not the first day of the plan year, the amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2008.

Subtitle B—Multiemployer Plans

SEC. 311. ADJUSTMENTS TO FUNDING STANDARD ACCOUNT RULES.

(a) ADJUSTMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO ERISA.—Section 304(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1084(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) SPECIAL RELIEF RULES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection—

''(A) AMORTIZATION OF NET INVESTMENT LOSSES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A multiemployer plan with respect to which the solvency test under subparagraph (C) is met may treat the portion of any experience loss or gain attributable to net investment losses incurred in either or both of the first two plan years ending after August 31, 2008, as an item separate from other experience losses, to be amortized in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over the period—

''(I) beginning with the plan year in which such portion is first recognized in the actuarial value of assets, and

''(II) ending with the last plan year in the 30-plan year period beginning with the plan year in which such net investment loss was incurred.

''(ii) COORDINATION WITH EXTENSIONS.—If this subparagraph applies for any plan year—

''(I) no extension of the amortization period under clause (i) shall be allowed under subsection (d), and

''(II) if an extension was granted under subsection (d) for any plan year before the election to have this subparagraph apply to the plan year, such extension shall not result in such amortization period exceeding 30 years.

''(iii) NET INVESTMENT LOSSES.—For purposes of this subparagraph—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Net investment losses shall be determined in the manner prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury on the basis of the difference between actual and expected returns (including any difference attributable to any criminally fraudulent investment arrangement).

''(II) CRIMINALLY FRAUDULENT INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENTS.—The determination as to whether an arrangement is a criminally fraudulent investment arrangement shall be made under rules substantially similar to the rules prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury for purposes of section 165 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

''(B) EXPANDED SMOOTHING PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A multiemployer plan with respect to which the solvency test under subparagraph (C) is met may change its asset valuation method in a manner which—

''(I) spreads the difference between expected and actual returns for either or both of the first 2 plan years ending after August 31, 2008, over a period of not more than 10 years,

''(II) provides that for either or both of the first 2 plan years ending after August 31, 2008, the value of plan assets at any time shall not be less than 80 percent or greater than 130 percent of the fair market value of such assets at such time, or

''(III) makes both changes described in subclauses (I) and (II) to such method.

''(ii) ASSET VALUATION METHODS.—If this subparagraph applies for any plan year—

''(I) the Secretary of the Treasury shall not treat the asset valuation method of the plan as unreasonable solely because of the changes in such method described in clause (i), and

''(II) such changes shall be deemed approved by such Secretary under section 302(d)(1) and section 412(d)(1) of such Code.

''(iii) AMORTIZATION OF REDUCTION IN UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY.—If this subparagraph and subparagraph (A) both apply for any plan year, the plan shall treat any reduction in unfunded accrued liability resulting from the application of this subparagraph as a separate experience amortization base, to be amortized in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 30 plan years rather than the period such liability would otherwise be amortized over.

''(C) SOLVENCY TEST.—The solvency test under this paragraph is met only if the plan actuary certifies that the plan is projected to have sufficient assets to timely pay expected benefits and anticipated expenditures over the amortization period, taking into account the changes in the funding standard account under this paragraph.

''(D) RESTRICTION ON BENEFIT INCREASES.—If subparagraph (A) or (B) apply to a multiemployer plan for any plan year, then, in addition to any other applicable restrictions on benefit increases, a plan amendment increasing benefits may not go into effect during either of the 2 plan years immediately following such plan year unless—

''(i) the plan actuary certifies that—

''(I) any such increase is paid for out of additional contributions not allocated to the plan immediately before the application of this paragraph to the plan, and

''(II) the plan's funded percentage and projected credit balances for such 2 plan years are reasonably expected to be at least as high as such percentage and balances would have been if the benefit increase had not been adopted, or

''(ii) the amendment is required as a condition of qualification under part I of subchapter D of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or to comply with other applicable law.

''(E) REPORTING.—A plan sponsor of a plan to which this paragraph applies shall—

''(i) give notice of such application to participants and beneficiaries of the plan, and

''(ii) inform the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation of such application in such form and manner as the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation may prescribe.''.

(2) AMENDMENT TO INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—Section 431(b) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) SPECIAL RELIEF RULES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection—

''(A) AMORTIZATION OF NET INVESTMENT LOSSES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A multiemployer plan with respect to which the solvency test under subparagraph (C) is met may treat the portion of any experience loss or gain attributable to net investment losses incurred in either or both of the first two plan years ending after August 31, 2008, as an item separate from other experience losses, to be amortized in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over the period—

''(I) beginning with the plan year in which such portion is first recognized in the actuarial value of assets, and

''(II) ending with the last plan year in the 30-plan year period beginning with the plan year in which such net investment loss was incurred.

''(ii) COORDINATION WITH EXTENSIONS.—If this subparagraph applies for any plan year—

''(I) no extension of the amortization period under clause (i) shall be allowed under subsection (d), and

''(II) if an extension was granted under subsection (d) for any plan year before the election to have this subparagraph apply to the plan year, such extension shall not result in such amortization period exceeding 30 years.

''(iii) NET INVESTMENT LOSSES.—For purposes of this subparagraph—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Net investment losses shall be determined in the manner prescribed by the Secretary on the basis of the difference between actual and expected returns (including any difference attributable to any criminally fraudulent investment arrangement).

''(II) CRIMINALLY FRAUDULENT INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENTS.—The determination as to whether an arrangement is a criminally fraudulent investment arrangement shall be made under rules substantially similar to the rules prescribed by the Secretary for purposes of section 165.

''(B) EXPANDED SMOOTHING PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A multiemployer plan with respect to which the solvency test under subparagraph (C) is met may change its asset valuation method in a manner which—

''(I) spreads the difference between expected and actual returns for either or both of the first 2 plan years ending after August 31, 2008, over a period of not more than 10 years,

''(II) provides that for either or both of the first 2 plan years ending after August 31, 2008, the value of plan assets at any time shall not be less than 80 percent or greater than 130 percent of the fair market value of such assets at such time, or

''(III) makes both changes described in subclauses (I) and (II) to such method.

''(ii) ASSET VALUATION METHODS.—If this subparagraph applies for any plan year—

''(I) the Secretary shall not treat the asset valuation method of the plan as unreasonable solely because of the changes in such method described in clause (i), and

''(II) such changes shall be deemed approved by the Secretary under section 302(d)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 412(d)(1).

''(iii) AMORTIZATION OF REDUCTION IN UNFUNDED ACCRUED LIABILITY.—If this subparagraph and subparagraph (A) both apply for any plan year, the plan shall treat any reduction in unfunded accrued liability resulting from the application of this subparagraph as a separate experience amortization base, to be amortized in equal annual installments (until fully amortized) over a period of 30 plan years rather than the period such liability would otherwise be amortized over.

''(C) SOLVENCY TEST.—The solvency test under this paragraph is met only if the plan actuary certifies that the plan is projected to have sufficient assets to timely pay expected benefits and anticipated expenditures over the amortization period, taking into account the changes in the funding standard account under this paragraph.

''(D) RESTRICTION ON BENEFIT INCREASES.—If subparagraph (A) or (B) apply to a multiemployer plan for any plan year, then, in addition to any other applicable restrictions on benefit increases, a plan amendment increasing benefits may not go into effect during either of the 2 plan years immediately following such plan year unless—

''(i) the plan actuary certifies that—

''(I) any such increase is paid for out of additional contributions not allocated to the plan immediately before the application of this paragraph to the plan, and

''(II) the plan's funded percentage and projected credit balances for such 2 plan years are reasonably expected to be at least as high as such percentage and balances would have been if the benefit increase had not been adopted, or

''(ii) the amendment is required as a condition of qualification under part I of subchapter D or to comply with other applicable law.

''(E) REPORTING.—A plan sponsor of a plan to which this paragraph applies shall—

''(i) give notice of such application to participants and beneficiaries of the plan, and

''(ii) inform the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation of such application in such form and manner as the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation may prescribe.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as of the first day of the first plan year ending after August 31, 2008, except that any election a plan makes pursuant to this section that affects the plan's funding standard account for the first plan year ending after August 31, 2008, shall be disregarded for purposes of applying the provisions of section 305 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and section 432 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to such plan year.

(2) RESTRICTIONS ON BENEFIT INCREASES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the restrictions on plan amendments increasing benefits in sections 304(b)(8)(D) of such Act and 431(b)(8)(D) of such Code, as added by this section, shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. ISAKSON. 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.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I know you and I and others in this Chamber are focused like a laser beam on getting this economy turned around. Although we see some promising signs—for example, in my State of California it turns out that last month 32,000 new jobs were created—we still are not moving quickly enough on the jobs front. That is why I am particularly pleased that Leader REID is focused on jobs, jobs, jobs, and we are going to finish, hopefully, the bill that is before us which is very critical to jobs.

Then we are going to move on to the FAA reauthorization—the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization—which is going to create 160,000 new jobs as we modernize our Nation's airports. After that, we are going to stop for a brief moment and take up the HIRE Act that we passed over here, and it has been passed in the House with a couple of pay-go changes. That will extend the highway trust fund until the end of this year and will save 1 million jobs.

Mr. President, we can't play politics with the highway trust fund. The Nation needs us to build our highways, our bridges, and our roads. So we are doing the right thing.

There is one piece of unfinished business that is directly related to our economy. There is no question that health care is directly related to our economy, and we need to fix a health care system that is broken.

Now, I have listened to my Republican friends on this for a very long time, and they have a message for the American people. I would like to distill that message.

That message is, when it comes to health care reform, when it comes to fixing the health care system, be afraid. Be very afraid.

Mr. President, that is not the American way. When there is a challenge in front of us, we act. We don't cower in the corner in fear. I think it is important to note that if one were to be afraid, it should not be of fixing the system—which, in our mind, means if you like your health insurance, you can keep it, and we are going to make sure that it is affordable and that more people can obtain it. If there is one thing to be fearful of, it is doing nothing. It is the status quo.

Let me explain why. Every day in America 14,000 people lose their health insurance. That could be any one of us, for any of a number of reasons. We might lose our job, or our spouse might lose their job, and that means we can't have health insurance anymore.

An insurance company can rescind your policy. They can walk away and say: Oh, by the way, 10 years ago when you signed up, you didn't mention that you had one blood test that was a little awry and, therefore, we are walking away from you.

You may have a cap on your policy and reach that cap, because you didn't read the fine print and so you are out; it is over. Any one of us could be one of the 14,000 people who loses their health insurance.

Now, that would not happen in the Senate. Oh no. Every one of my colleagues is protected because we have a system that, yes, is a public option, where the rules are made by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and people can't mistreat us. But for some reason, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't seem to believe it is fair to give that kind of protection to ordinary families, so they are scaring people to death.

So let me say again: If there is anything to be afraid of, it is doing nothing because you could be one of the 14,000 people—in my State about 1,400—who every day lose their insurance. Or, Mr. President, you could be one of the people who goes bankrupt because of a health care crisis. Sixty-two percent of bankruptcies in America today are directly linked to a health care crisis and most of those people have insurance. I repeat: Most of those people have insurance.

I read a little story—I don't know if it is true—that Sarah Palin, the former Republican Vice Presidential nominee, said when she was young her family went to Canada to get their health care. I don't know if it is true, but I find it interesting if it is true. But here is the point: Doing nothing is not an option.

Let me tell you what is happening. In California, a company—Anthem Insurance—has increased rates in the individual market by—hold on to your hat—29 percent. Imagine, 29 percent in one clip. This leads me to a study that was done by a nonpartisan group. That study showed what happens if we do nothing—which is, in fact, my Republican friends' idea because they say start over. Well, we started this under Teddy Roosevelt. It is time we acted. But this nonpartisan group said if we do nothing, the average cost of insurance would be 45 percent of a family's income by 2016. Imagine that. Yet my colleagues on the other side say: Well, if you go with the President's bill and the Democrats' bill, insurance rates will go up.

The fact is, rates would not go up as much if you have the same policy. If you have a better policy, they may go up a little over time, but they are never going to be—never, never, never—45 percent of your income. There are two reasons for that: No. 1, we are going to watch insurance companies like a hawk, and that is the right thing to do. They are not selling us something that is a luxury. They are selling us a product that is a matter of life or death, and we ought to look over their shoulder a little more to make sure they are fair. So that is one reason.

The other reason is, we are going to help people—the middle class—families making up to $88,000 a year. We are going to make sure you get tax credits to help you pay for your premiums. That is a big deal. That is a good thing.

So, remember, when the Republicans say: Be very afraid, don't be very afraid of reform, be very afraid of doing nothing. That is a reason to be very afraid.

Then my Republican friends will say: They didn't take any of our ideas. Well, it turns out when the bill was being written in the Senate, well over 100 amendments—I think it was 160 amendments—of the Republicans were incorporated into the work of the HELP Committee. Oh, that is not good enough for them. We took 160 of their ideas, why can't they take an equal amount of our ideas? Why can't we work together, come to the table across party lines? It doesn't work that way.

Then the President had them up for, I thought, a very instructive meeting, and the President took three or four more very big ideas of the Republicans—dealing with HSAs, dealing with medical malpractice, dealing with selling insurance across State lines, and a couple of other things. Yet they still say: It is not enough.

Then they say: Be very afraid, people. Be very afraid because the Senate might do this with a majority vote. Well, I would suggest that all of us are here because we won a majority vote. I don't hear any of my colleagues suggesting we need 60 percent of the vote to win. We are here.

I support minority rights very strongly, but there is a point where something turns and it becomes obstruction. I can't look into the faces of any of my constituents who are having all of these problems and tell them: I am sorry, I couldn't do anything even though we had a majority in the Senate.

So they are scaring people about using a procedure they have used over the years. Out of 22 times, they have used the reconciliation procedure requiring a majority vote 16 times. I need to say that again. My Republican friends, who abhor the use of a majority rule, used it 16 times out of the 22 times it was used, and mostly it was used for health care.

Then they say: Oh, no; when we used it, it was for much smaller things. Well, no, I checked it out. The whole Reagan revolution was done by reconciliation—all the Bush tax cuts, health care and all. So the very slippery slope of their argument, whatever the argument of the day is, at the end of the day it is about scaring people. It is all about scaring people.

So I am going to close with this. I am going to talk about the 8 or 10 things that happened within 6 months to a year that this bill was signed into law—real things. For all new policies, you can keep your child on your policy until he or she is 27 years of age—27 years of age. I know a lot of people whose kids have been thrown off their policy. They may have had asthma, for example, and the insurance company says they have a preexisting condition and so they can get no insurance. We fix that in this bill.

If you have a preexisting condition and you are an adult, and you can't get insurance, you can join a high-risk pool and get insurance very soon—within 90 days. If you run a small business that is struggling to find affordable health insurance, or you are self-employed—and I have spoken to so many people in that situation in California—there will be many billions of dollars for small business and self-employed people in tax credits to help them get insurance.

The President has also proposed increasing funding for community health centers by $11 billion so they can provide affordable, high-quality care to even more families in need.

There will be no preexisting conditions for children. If you have a child who has a preexisting condition, they still can get insured. I think about the story HARRY REID told about the couple who had full insurance, and the woman gave birth to a baby and the baby had a cleft palate. The couple was distraught, but the doctor said: Don't worry. We can fix that baby right up and no one is going to know there was a problem.

So they wrote to their insurance company. You know what their insurance company said, even though they gave full coverage to that pregnant woman. They said: Your baby has a preexisting condition. You are out of luck.

Mr. President, that is morally reprehensible. So if you want to be scared about something—and I don't believe in being scared about anything—be scared about the status quo. Be scared about what your insurers could do to you in today's world.

What else will happen with this bill? Well, prevention is pretty much free. As soon as this bill is signed into law, you get to go to your doctor and get preventive treatment pretty much for free.

If you are a senior and you are on a prescription drug plan, we are going to close that gap—that payment gap where you get to a certain level and then your insurance company stops paying until you reach yet another level. This creates the situation where at the time you need your medicine the most, it is not there for you. We are going to close that doughnut hole. By the way, that impacts 794,000 Californians. The President wants to give about $250 to help our seniors who fall into that doughnut hole right away.

Also, there will be insurance reform. The minute this bill is signed into law, an insurance company must use 80 percent of their income on you—on the people who have insurance—not on them, not putting it in their pockets, not on these outrageous bonuses and paying their people millions of dollars. So 80 to 85 percent will have to go into the business of helping their people by expanding coverage or lowering premiums.

There are a couple more things that will kick in—no more caps on new plans. I remember my husband and I once had a plan that had a cap. We didn't even know it, but somebody warned us and we realized it was a bad plan and there was a cap. I forget the amount, but it wasn't that high.

Also, you will be protected from your insurance company walking away from you. No more rescissions in all new plans. There are other benefits to retirees. In 2014, we will have these exchanges, and you will be able to shop for the best insurance in an exchange online. It will be very clear.

So we are moving in the right direction, Mr. President. At the end of the day, by the way, this bill saves money. Not only is it deficit neutral, it helps the deficit. Why? Because we take the fraud, waste, and abuse out of the system.

My message to the people of this great country is, don't listen to the fear mongering. Learn the facts. Understand how life will be better if we move forward with this reform—but not in 3 years, right away. I think if we do that, and we realize we are going to do it in a way that actually reduces the deficit, there should be strong support for this bill.

I hope we will be able to get to that day as we focus on getting this country on track: jobs, jobs, jobs. We also fix this problem of unaffordable health care, tenuous health care. It has to become something we can count on.

I yield the floor and suggest absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

TAX EXTENDERS ACT OF 2009

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4213 which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4213), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Baucus amendment No. 3336, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid (for Murray-Kerry) further modified amendment No. 3356 (to amendment No. 3336), to extend the TANF Emergency Fund through fiscal year 2011 and to provide funding for summer employment for youth.

Coburn amendment No. 3358 (to amendment No. 3336), to require the Senate to be transparent with taxpayers about spending.

Baucus (for Webb-Boxer) amendment No. 3342 to (amendment No. 3336), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on excessive 2009 bonuses received from certain major recipients of Federal emergency economic assistance, to limit the deduction allowable for such bonuses.

Feingold-Coburn amendment No. 3368 (to amendment No. 3336), to provide for the rescission of unused transportation earmarks and to establish a general reporting requirement for any unused earmarks.

Reid amendment No. 3417 (to amendment No. 3336), to temporarily modify the allocation of geothermal receipts.

McCain-Graham amendment No. 3427 (to amendment No. 3336), to prohibit the use of reconciliation to consider changes in Medicare.

Lincoln amendment No. 3401 (to amendment No. 3336), to improve a provision relating to emergency disaster assistance.

Baucus (for Isakson-Cardin) modified amendment No. 3430 (to amendment No. 3336), to modify the pension funding provisions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3429 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3336

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, pursuant to the previous order, on behalf of the chairmen of the Rules and Budget committees, I call up my amendment No. 3429.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS] proposes an amendment numbered 3429 to amendment No. 3336.

Mr. BAUCUS. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide an explanation of the budgetary effects of legislation considered by the Senate)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE SENATE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF WEB PAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Senate shall establish on the official website of the United States Senate (www.senate.gov) a page entitled ''Information on the Budgetary Effects of Legislation Considered by the Senate'' which shall include—

(A) links to appropriate pages on the website of the Congressional Budget Office (www.cbo.gov) that contain cost estimates of legislation passed by the Senate; and

(B) as available, links to pages with any other information produced by the Congressional Budget Office that summarize or further explain the budgetary effects of legislation considered by the Senate.

(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary of the Senate shall update this page every 3 months.

(b) CBO REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as imposing any new requirements on the Congressional Budget Office.

Mr. BAUCUS. The first amendment is a simple attempt to improve the availability of budgetary information on what Congress does. This amendment would require the Secretary of the Senate to create a new Web site that clearly provides information from the Congressional Budget Office on the legislative actions of the Senate. This is a side-by-side amendment to the Coburn amendment on the same subject.

I believe Senator COBURN has the same purpose in mind, but we have drafted this side-by-side amendment to avoid new burdens on the Congressional Budget Office. The Rules Committee and Budget Committee worked together with us on the drafting of this amendment to assure that it would work.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is all time yielded back? If all time is yielded back, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3429) was agreed to.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3358

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Coburn amendment No. 3358. There is 4 minutes, evenly divided, before the vote. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, we just voice voted an amendment that will not do anything. What this amendment says is, where we violate our own rules in terms of pay-go, we will actually publish both the number of times and the amount of dollars we do that. It is about transparency of the Senate, being honest with the American people.

With great fanfare, the Senator from Montana came down and we put into law a pay-go law. Since that time, including this bill, we will have passed $120 billion of debt to our kids by saying we waive pay-go.

That is OK. That is the right of the body to do that. But it is not OK not to let the American people know that and let them keep track of us.

This amendment is very simple. Anytime we create a new program, anytime we pass and violate the pay-go rules by overriding the pay-go point of order, then we should list that with the American people so they can see what we are doing. It is quite simple, quite straightforward. It doesn't require any time. You will spend forever going to the Congressional Budget Office to find this. This makes it very simple, very straightforward.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I think we can vote on this. I yield the remainder of my time, but before I do, I think it is a step toward transparency, and I urge all my colleagues to vote for it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be. All time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 44 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Akaka	Ensign	Menendez
Alexander	Enzi	Merkley
Barrasso	Feingold	Mikulski
Baucus	Feinstein	Murkowski
Bayh	Franken	Murray
Begich	Gillibrand	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Grassley	Pryor
Bingaman	Gregg	Reed
Bond	Hagan	Reid
Boxer	Harkin	Risch
Brown (MA)	Hatch	Roberts
Brown (OH)	Hutchison	Rockefeller
Brownback	Inhofe	Sanders
Bunning	Inouye	Schumer
Burr	Isakson	Sessions
Burris	Johanns	Shaheen
Byrd	Johnson	Shelby
Cantwell	Kaufman	Snowe
Cardin	Kerry	Specter
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Kohl	Tester
Chambliss	Kyl	Thune
Coburn	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Lautenberg	Udall (NM)
Collins	Leahy	Vitter
Conrad	LeMieux	Voinovich
Corker	Levin	Warner
Cornyn	Lieberman	Webb
Crapo	Lincoln	Whitehouse
DeMint	Lugar	Wicker
Dodd	McCain	Wyden
Dorgan	McCaskill	
Durbin	McConnell	

The amendment (No. 3358) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3356, AS FURTHER MODIFIED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 4 minutes equally divided on the Murray amendment No. 3356.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask unanimous consent to use 1 minute and for Senator KERRY to have the second minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am offering the youth summer jobs amendment to build on the extremely successful summer jobs program that made it possible for over 313,000 young people to have a job. I have personally heard amazing stories from these young men and women who got a job. It changed their lives and gave them the experience they needed.

This amendment will provide $1.3 billion to create up to 500,000 temporary jobs this coming summer. It will invest in critical employment and learning programs that will help not only these young people but the businesses that hire them. The underlying bill is going to help millions of families across the country who need a job. This amendment will make sure young people get a start in their professional lives, firmly planted on their feet and moving toward success.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I thank Senator MURRAY for her work on this amendment.

Today, almost 15 million Americans are unemployed, 9 million can only find part-time work, and 25 percent of our Nation's teenagers and 42 percent of African-American teenagers are unemployed. Both the TANF Emergency Fund and the summer jobs program provide desperately needed jobs to our Nation's families who are the most vulnerable to our economic downturn. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, extending the TANF Emergency Fund will save more than 100,000 jobs. And providing up to $1.3 billion in funding for the summer jobs program will create 500,000 summer jobs.

I promise my colleagues, provide these summer jobs, and it will save far more than that money in the criminal justice system and in other social services. This is money well invested.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, why do we keep doing this? Why do we keep passing debt on to our children? Why do we keep running program after program out here that is shrouded in sweetness and light but not paid for?

We just passed a pay-go point of order 4 weeks ago to great fanfare, great breast-beating about how fiscally responsible we were going to be. Yet time after time since we passed that pay-go point of order, amendments have been brought to the floor which violate it. This is another one. This amendment costs $2 billion which is not paid for.

Summer jobs may be good. I am sure they are. But why do we want to put the debt for those summer jobs onto the children of the people who are having the summer jobs?

If this is a priority—and it is—let's pay for it. Let's take the money out of some other account. But let's not add to the debt, and let's not once again violate the pay-go rules which this Senate has so loudly proclaimed is the manner in which we will discipline ourselves fiscally. It is a $2 billion item. If we can't stand by pay-go for $2 billion, we are making a farce out of it.

As a result of this violation of pay-go, I raise a point of order against the amendment pursuant to section 201(a) of S. Res. 21, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mr. BAUCUS. How much time does the Senator from Washington have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has consumed her time.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, let me be clear: Working with the Finance Committee, this amendment is paid for over 10 years.

I ask that the budget point of order be waived.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, is this a pay-go point of order violation?

Mrs. MURRAY. I move that the budget point of order be waived and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 45 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Baucus	Franken	Murray
Bayh	Gillibrand	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hagan	Pryor
Bennet	Harkin	Reed
Bingaman	Inouye	Reid
Boxer	Johnson	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Kaufman	Sanders
Burris	Kerry	Schumer
Byrd	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kohl	Specter
Cardin	Landrieu	Stabenow
Carper	Lautenberg	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Conrad	Levin	Udall (NM)
Dodd	Lieberman	Whitehouse
Dorgan	Lincoln	Wyden
Durbin	Menendez	
Feingold	Merkley	

NAYS—45

Alexander	DeMint	McCaskill
Barrasso	Ensign	McConnell
Bennett	Enzi	Murkowski
Bond	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Brown (MA)	Grassley	Risch
Brownback	Gregg	Roberts
Bunning	Hatch	Sessions
Burr	Hutchison	Shelby
Chambliss	Inhofe	Snowe
Coburn	Isakson	Thune
Cochran	Johanns	Vitter
Collins	Kyl	Voinovich
Corker	LeMieux	Warner
Cornyn	Lugar	Webb
Crapo	McCain	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 45. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The point of order is sustained, and the amendment falls.

The Senator from New York is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that upon disposition of the amendments in order this morning, the Senate then proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that at 12:30 p.m., the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, there was an article in last Thursday's Chicago Tribune, my hometown newspaper, that caught my attention. It is shocking news for many of my fellow Illinoisans. I would like to share it with my colleagues today.

According to State records, Illinoisans who lose their jobs and have to buy their own health insurance will see their premiums increase by as much as 60 percent this year. As the Tribune notes, this is affecting more people than ever before because of the economic crisis.

There are currently more than one-half million consumers in Illinois who have individual health plans. Their base rates, which stand at 8.5 percent at the moment, will jump to more than 60 percent. Those are just the base rates. Elderly folks will likely see additional increases on top of that. So will those who have a history of illness. So will people who live in certain areas or who have only had a policy for a short period of time.

Insurance companies will pile on additional increases for all these folks, on top of a 60-percent increase that will affect every Illinoisan with an individual health plan.

Let me remind my colleagues that these are mostly folks who have lost their employment, so they do not have a steady stream of income to absorb these increases, and they do not have a choice but to pay whatever the insurance companies demand or go without the coverage they need.

This is bad news by itself, but it gets worse because they are not the only ones who will see their premiums go up. Small businesses are finding it harder than ever to afford coverage for their employees because they are being hit with big rate hikes even though business is not as good as it was a few years ago.

Companies, such as Illinois Blue Cross, have even acknowledged they will be increasing their rates by an average of 10 percent across the board and much more for some of their customers.

We have seen this kind of thing before. Just recently in California, a health insurance company raised its rates by 39 percent, a move that sparked national outrage and investigations by State and Federal regulators.

When we hear about this kind of behavior, there is an obvious question for us to ask, the same question that many folks in Illinois will be asking when they get their insurance bills over the next few months. That question is why. Why are insurance companies raising rates by as much as 60 percent? Why does it keep getting harder and harder to pay for health coverage when benefits are being slashed at the same time? It does not make any sense.

But when Illinoisans pick up their phones and they call their insurance providers and they ask them why, they probably will not be able to get an answer. Most insurance companies do not release that information and do not

feel they have an obligation to explain the outrageous rate hikes. Ordinary Americans do not have a way of finding out.

That is exactly why we need to pass comprehensive health care reform without delay to restore competition to the insurance industry so folks can shop around and try to get a fair deal, to help us hold insurance companies accountable so we can keep them honest, and to provide cost savings so hard-working Americans and small businesses can breathe a little easier in these difficult times.

The Senate health reform bill would have accomplished all these things and more. If we had combined our bill with the House version at the end of last year and sent it to President Obama, we would have had a law on the books by now. We would almost certainly not be seeing these dramatic premium increases. Instead, people's premiums would be going down significantly, and 31 million more Americans would have health care coverage.

This Chicago Tribune article would have read very differently if we had finished this health care bill a few months ago, as we easily should have done. But because of our inaction in Washington, because of delays and the obstructionism, these companies continue to have free rein.

As we struggle to find common ground between the House and the Senate, we must never forget the American people are locked in a much more serious struggle.

We have experienced the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The unemployment rate exceeds 10 percent in Illinois, and it stands just under 10 percent nationwide. Millions have watched helplessly as their hard-earned economic security vanished overnight. Individuals and families are finding it harder than ever to make ends meet. One of the greatest challenges they face is paying for health insurance.

Under the current system, too many people are forced to choose between keeping food on the table and buying health coverage. It is a terrible choice. Premiums are so high it is almost impossible to afford quality coverage. As the Chicago Tribune reported, they are about to get even higher, but without insurance we are all just one accident or catastrophic illness away from bankruptcy or even death.

It is time to turn our attention away from the partisan fight that consumes Washington every day and focus on the fight that is taking place in America's heartland.

My colleagues and I must never forget why we entered public service in the first place. Why are we here? What is our purpose? We must always remember our actions and our failures to take action have real consequences for ordinary people from coast to coast.

This legislation was stalled and delayed for the better part of a year. As a result of this obstructionism, we are about to see premiums go up by 60 percent instead of going down.

If my Republican friends had come to the table and acted in the spirit of compromise and listened to the will of the American people, we would have passed health care reform and a dozen other things by now. But instead, it is the same old politics. It is easy to find excuses. It is very difficult to govern.

Once again, I invite my colleagues across the aisle to join us in these efforts, come to the negotiating table. You heard President Obama speak yesterday very vividly and forthrightly about what we need to do to bring health care reform to the American people. We have a fresh sense of momentum, a new opportunity to deliver on this promise of reform.

Let's keep having this conversation. Let's confront these challenges together as the American people have asked us to do. Let's move forward as one Congress, as one Nation. It is time for Republicans and Democrats to say enough is enough to big insurance: No more outrageous rate hikes; no more coverage denials; no more abuse.

It is time for Republicans and Democrats to reaffirm our commitment to the hard-working people we represent in Illinois and across the country. It is time to pass comprehensive health reform so every American can get a great deal on health insurance and foreclose the possibility of losing their life or their assets.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAXPAYER FAIRNESS ACT

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a proposal that has been offered on this bill that we are currently dealing with that will hold the bailed-out Wall Street companies and their executives more accountable to American taxpayers.

Over the last 2 years, the top TARP recipients have paid out tens of billions of dollars in employee bonuses, while at the same time taxpayers have been footing the bill for bailing out these large financial institutions.

Enough is enough. All we have to do is look across this great land of ours to see so many people in businesses—small businesses in small communities across America—who are in difficult times. This amendment—the Taxpayer Fairness Act—included in the Senate jobs bill would put in place a one-time windfall tax on bonuses paid in 2010 to company executives who received the taxpayer bailout.

Specifically, the amendment provides a 50-percent tax on bonuses above $400,000 paid to financial institution executives who received at least $5 billion in taxpayer support. That is just common sense to all of us here who realize how important it is to be respectful of the taxpayers and make sure that as we have made available these resources to these Wall Street industries, to at least have the acknowledgment and respect from them of what the rest of America is going through.

I have fought for years to hold Wall Street more accountable. During the TARP debate in the fall of 2008, I pushed for stricter limits on executive compensation, which went unheeded in the Bush Treasury Department's implementation of the program. Later that year, I also cosponsored legislation that would have capped executives' salaries at bailed-out banks. In March of 2009, I sent a letter to the AIG chairman calling on his executives to forfeit their $165 million in bonuses or face unprecedented congressional action to strip them of their so-called ''performance-based'' rewards.

During the debate on the Recovery Act, in early 2009, the Senate passed my amendment to place an excise tax on bonuses from financial institutions that had received taxpayer dollars under TARP. Wall Street needs to understand that in these extraordinary times they must change their ways of doing business. They must play by the same rules that Arkansas families and businesses and other small towns and States across the Nation have to play by.

When a small business owner in our home State of Arkansas has a bad year, they have two options: They either buckle down and trim the fat or they go out of business. They do not come to the steps of the Capitol and ask for a government check, and they surely do not give themselves a lavish pay raise.

Arkansans are rightly irritated, just as I am. Let's not forget the actions of some of these firms are what sent our economy into dire straits in the very beginning. For almost 2 years now, Americans have paid the price for Wall Street's mistakes. They have lost jobs, they have seen their property values diminish, and they have seen their retirement savings depleted. So it flies in the face of common sense and general prudence for those accountable to reward themselves when the rest of the country is shouldering the burden they created.

This amendment must be enacted to send the message to Wall Street that we will not stand for such behavior. The time is right now, and we must send the message to all of America that we are not going to stand for this type of fiscal irresponsibility. I encourage my colleagues to stand with Main Street, not Wall Street, and support this important amendment.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:39 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Office (Mr. BEGICH).

TAX EXTENDERS ACT OF 2009—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

AMENDMENT NO. 3336

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, shortly we will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on this urgent legislation to create jobs and extend vital safety net and tax provisions. We have had a good debate. The Senate considered this bill on 7 separate days over the course of 2 workweeks. We have considered more than 30 amendments. We conducted a dozen rollcall votes. It is now time to bring this debate to a close.

This is not just some technical bill; this measure helps real people. Failure to enact this bill would cause real hardship. Failure to enact this bill would cost jobs.

Within weeks, this bill would help half a million workers who lose their jobs nationwide, including nearly 1,600 in my State of Montana, to remain eligible for help paying for their health insurance under the COBRA health insurance program. Unless we act, within weeks the average doctor in America will stand to lose more than $16,600 in payments from Medicare. The average doctor in Montana would lose $13,000. This bill would help nearly 40 million Medicare beneficiaries and nearly 9 million TRICARE beneficiaries nationwide to continue to have access to their doctors. That includes nearly 144,000 Montanans with Medicare and nearly 33,000 Montanans with TRICARE. Within weeks, this bill would help 400,000 Americans to be eligible for expanded unemployment insurance benefits. Thus, this important legislation would prevent millions of Americans from falling through the safety net. It would extend vital programs we have only temporarily extended. It would put cash into the hands of Americans who would spend it quickly, boosting the economy. It would extend critical programs and tax incentives that create jobs.

I urge my colleagues to vote to help Americans hurt by this great depression. I urge my colleagues to vote to preserve and create jobs. I urge my colleagues to vote to invoke cloture on the substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in opposition to the tax extenders bill. I do so with a heavy heart because there are good things in this bill that would be good for my State of Florida. It would be good to extend unemployment benefits. It would be good to extend COBRA, it would be good to extend and help with Medicaid funding, and it is important to make sure we have enough money going to doctors in Medicare so that they can provide services. But I can no longer stand by, even on a bill such as this, and vote for it when it is going to add $100 billion to our deficit.

If the majority party in this Chamber did the right thing and paid for this bill, if we cut wasteful spending, if we cut duplicate programs in other areas and paid for this bill, 80 or 90 Senators would vote for it. But at some point, even though these programs may be good for your State, a Senator has an obligation to stand up and say: No more, no more spending our kids' future, no more putting debt on the next generation, no more bankrupting the promise of this country.

No more. We cannot afford it. We have a $12.4 trillion debt. We are supposed to have pay-as-you-go rules here. One month ago, we passed a pay-as-you-go law. The President signed it. And all of the language was laudatory: We are not going to spend our children's money anymore. We are going to be fiscally responsible. And then here comes this bill, $100 billion in spending, and we declare it an emergency so that we do not have to follow the rules. It occurred to me this weekend as I played with my 6- and 4-year-old sons that this is not pay-go, it is Play Doh—you can make whatever you want of it. But it is not real enforcement.

We in this chamber should pay for the spending so that we do not increase the debt on our children. So we should vote against cloture on this bill, not because the leadership has not allowed us to have amendments—they have, and I appreciate that. But we should vote against it because this bill should only pass if we can pay for it.

No matter how good the program is, it is not good if we saddle our children with $100 billion more in debt. The public debt in this country is going to double in 5 years and triple in 10. It is has now come out that the estimate of the national debt in 2020 will add another $10 trillion. The day of reckoning is at hand, and we just cannot stand by, even though there are good things in this bill, things that would help my State. On this occasion, I have to put country first.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, we have a vote coming on cloture on a matter that has been moving through the Senate, the tax extenders bill. I wish to make clear that I will be voting for cloture. That does not mean I will support the actual legislation when it comes to a vote. That being said, I have serious concerns about the overall cost of the bill, but my vote for cloture signals my belief that we need to keep the process moving and allow the measure to be considered by the full Senate. I promised my constituents I would try to change the tone of politics as usual in Washington. There has been a week of debate. Allowing this bill to receive an up-or-down vote would be a step in the right direction.

However, I am opposed to the bill at this point because it adds more than $100 billion to our national debt and provides no way to actually pay for it. Our national debt is at a record high, and we cannot continue to burden future generations with a mountain of debt and bills they cannot pay.

I believe in process. I believe we should have an opportunity, after full and fair debate, to move bills forward so the House and others can get a crack at it and hopefully send back a product with which we can all live.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3401, AS MODIFIED, 3417, 3430, AS MODIFIED, 3372, AS MODIFIED, 3442, AS MODIFIED, 3365, AS MODIFIED, 3371, AS MODIFIED, AND 3451 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3336

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the following amendments to be considered agreed to en bloc; and in the instance where the amendment is modified, that the amendments, where applicable, be modified with the changes at the desk, and as modified the amendments be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; further, that in the instance where the amendment is not pending, where appropriate, the amendment be recorded by number: Lincoln amendment No. 3401 pending, to be modified; Reid amendment No. 3417, pending; Isakson-Cardin amendment No. 3430, pending and as modified; Merkley amendment No. 3372, to be modified; Warner amendment No. 3442, to be modified; Whitehouse amendment No. 3365, to be modified; Rockefeller amendment No. 3371, to be modified; and a Baucus technical amendment, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would ask that the request be modified to allow Senator ISAKSON to speak for 2½ minutes

following the agreement to this unanimous consent request, and that I thereafter be recognized to offer a unanimous consent request regarding something on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments were agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3401, AS MODIFIED

On page 75, line 4, strike ''excessive rainfall or related'' and insert ''drought, excessive rainfall, or a related''.

On page 76, line 1, insert ''fruits and vegetables or'' before ''crops intended''.

On page 76, line 13, strike ''90'' and insert ''112.5''.

Beginning on page 76, strike line 18 and all that follows through ''(4)'' on page 77, line 17, and insert ''(3)''.

On page 78, strike lines 3 through 7 and insert the following: ''not more than $300,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2011, to carry out a program of grants to States to assist eligible specialty crop producers for losses due to a natural disaster affecting the 2009 crops, of which not more than—

(A) $150,000,000 shall be used to assist eligible specialty crop producers in counties that have been declared a disaster as the result of drought; and

(B) $150,000,000 shall be used to assist eligible specialty crop producers in counties that have been declared a disaster as the result of excessive rainfall or a related condition.

On page 78, lines 18 and 19, strike ''with excessive rainfall and related conditions''.

On page 78, line 21, strike ''2008'' and insert ''2009''.

On page 79, lines 4 and 5, strike ''under this subsection'' and insert ''for counties described in paragraph (1)(B)''.

On page 80, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

(5) PROHIBITION.—An eligible specialty crop producer that receives assistance under this subsection shall be ineligible to receive assistance under subsection (b).

On page 80, line 4, strike ''(5)'' and insert ''(6)''.

On page 87, line 5, strike ''(h)'' and insert ''(i)''.

On page 89, line 15, insert ''for the purchase, improvement, or operation of the poultry farm'' after ''lender''.

On page 89, strike line 24 and insert the following:

(j) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—Section 1001(f)(6)(A) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(f)(6)(A)) is amended by inserting ''(other than the conservation reserve program established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of this Act)'' before the period at the end.

(k) ADMINISTRATION.—

On page 90, line 4, insert ''and the amendment made by this section'' after ''section''.

On page 90, line 7, insert ''and the amendment made by this section'' before ''shall be''.

On page 91, line 1, strike ''$15,000,000'' and insert ''$10,000,000''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3417

(Purpose: To temporarily modify the allocation of geothermal receipts)

At the end of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 6___. ALLOCATION OF GEOTHERMAL RECEIPTS.

Nothwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2010 only, all funds received from sales, bonuses, royalties, and rentals under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) shall be deposited in the Treasury, of which—

(1) 50 percent shall be used by the Secretary of the Treasury to make payments to States within the boundaries of which the leased land and geothermal resources are located;

(2) 25 percent shall be used by the Secretary of the Treasury to make payments to the counties within the boundaries of which the leased land or geothermal resources are located; and

(3) 25 percent shall be deposited in miscellaneous receipts.

AMENDMENT NO. 3430, AS MODIFIED

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 3372, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant market-related contract extensions of certain timber contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and timber purchasers)

At the end of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 6___. QUALIFYING TIMBER CONTRACT OPTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) QUALIFYING CONTRACT.—The term ''qualifying contract'' means a contract that has not been terminated by the Bureau of Land Management for the sale of timber on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management that meets all of the following criteria:

(A) The contract was awarded during the period beginning on January 1, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2008.

(B) There is unharvested volume remaining for the contract.

(C) The contract is not a salvage sale.

(D) The Secretary determined there is not an urgent need to harvest under the contract due to deteriorating timber conditions that developed after the award of the contract.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of Bureau of Land Management.

(3) TIMBER PURCHASER.—The term ''timber purchaser'' means the party to the qualifying contract for the sale of timber from lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) MARKET-RELATED CONTRACT EXTENSION OPTION.—Upon a timber purchaser's written request, the Secretary may make a one-time modification to the qualifying contract to add 3 years to the contract expiration date if the written request—

(1) is received by the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) contains a provision releasing the United States from all liability, including further consideration or compensation, resulting from the modification under this subsection of the term of a qualifying contract.

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report detailing a plan and timeline to promulgate new regulations authorizing the Bureau of Land Management to extend timber contracts due to changes in market conditions.

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate new regulations authorizing the Bureau of Land Management to extend timber contracts due to changes in market conditions.

(e) NO SURRENDER OF CLAIMS.—This section shall not have the effect of surrendering any claim by the United States against any timber purchaser that arose under a timber sale contract, including a qualifying contract, before the date on which the Secretary adjusts the contract term under subsection (b).

AMENDMENT NO. 3442, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To ensure adequate planning and reporting relating to the use of funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. ARRA PLANNING AND REPORTING.

Section 1512 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting ''PLANS AND'' after ''AGENCY'';

(B) by striking ''Not later than'' and inserting the following:

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'covered program' means a program for which funds are appropriated under this division—

''(A) in an amount that is—

''(i) more than $2,000,000,000; and

''(ii) more than 150 percent of the funds appropriated for the program for fiscal year 2008; or

''(B) that did not exist before the date of enactment of this Act.

''(2) PLANS.—Not later than July 1, 2010, the head of each agency that distributes recovery funds shall submit to Congress and make available on the website of the agency a plan for each covered program, which shall, at a minimum, contain—

''(A) a description of the goals for the covered program using recovery funds;

''(B) a discussion of how the goals described in subparagraph (A) relate to the goals for ongoing activities of the covered program, if applicable;

''(C) a description of the activities that the agency will undertake to achieve the goals described in subparagraph (A);

''(D) a description of the total recovery funding for the covered program and the recovery funding for each activity under the covered program, including identifying whether the activity will be carried out using grants, contracts, or other types of funding mechanisms;

''(E) a schedule of milestones for major phases of the activities under the covered program, with planned delivery dates;

''(F) performance measures the agency will use to track the progress of each of the activities under the covered program in meeting the goals described in subparagraph (A), including performance targets, the frequency of measurement, and a description of the methodology for each measure;

''(G) a description of the process of the agency for the periodic review of the progress of the covered program towards meeting the goals described in subparagraph (A); and

''(H) a description of how the agency will hold program managers accountable for achieving the goals described in subparagraph (A).

''(3) REPORTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) REPORTS ON PLANS.—Not later than 30 days after the end of the calendar quarter ending September 30, 2010, and every calendar quarter thereafter during which the agency obligates or expends recovery funds, the head of each agency that developed a plan for a covered program under paragraph (2) shall submit to Congress and make available on a website of the agency a report for each covered program that—

''(i) discusses the progress of the agency in implementing the plan;

''(ii) describes the progress towards achieving the goals described in paragraph (2)(A) for the covered program;

''(iii) discusses the status of each activity carried out under the covered program, including whether the activity is completed;

''(iv) details the unobligated and unexpired balances and total obligations and outlays under the covered program;

''(v) discusses—

''(I) whether the covered program has met the milestones for the covered program described in paragraph (2)(E);

''(II) if the covered program has failed to meet the milestones, the reasons why; and

''(III) any changes in the milestones for the covered program, including the reasons for the change;

''(vi) discusses the performance of the covered program, including—

''(I) whether the covered program has met the performance measures for the covered program described in paragraph (2)(F);

''(II) if the covered program has failed to meet the performance measures, the reasons why; and

''(III) any trends in information relating to the performance of the covered program; and

''(vii) evaluates the ability of the covered program to meet the goals of the covered program given the performance of the covered program.'';

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking ''Within 180 days'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) PENALTIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), the Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate United States District Court against a recipient of recovery funds from an agency that does not provide the information required under subsection (c) or knowingly provides information under subsection (c) that contains a material omission or misstatement. In a civil action under this paragraph, the court may impose a civil penalty on a recipient of recovery funds in an amount not more than $250,000. Any amounts received from a civil penalty under this paragraph shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury.

''(B) NOTIFICATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency shall provide a written notification to a recipient of recovery funds from the agency that fails to provide the information required under subsection (c). A notification under this subparagraph shall provide the recipient with information on how to comply with the necessary reporting requirements and notice of the penalties for failing to do so.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—A court may not impose a civil penalty under subparagraph (A) relating to the failure to provide information required under subsection (c) if, not later than 31 days after the date of the notification under clause (i), the recipient of the recovery funds provides the information.

''(C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the amount of a penalty under this paragraph for a recipient of recovery funds, a court shall consider—

''(i) the number of times the recipient has failed to provide the information required under subsection (c);

''(ii) the amount of recovery funds provided to the recipient;

''(iii) whether the recipient is a government, nonprofit entity, or educational institution; and

''(iv) whether the recipient is a small business concern (as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), with particular consideration given to businesses with not more than 50 employees.

''(D) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph shall apply to any report required to be submitted on or after the date of enactment of this paragraph.

''(E) NONEXCLUSIVITY.—The imposition of a civil penalty under this subsection shall not preclude any other criminal, civil, or administrative remedy available to the United States or any other person under Federal or State law.

''(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Each agency distributing recovery funds shall provide technical assistance, as necessary, to assist recipients of recovery funds in complying with the requirements to provide information under subsection (c), which shall include providing recipients with a reminder regarding each reporting requirement.

''(4) PUBLIC LISTING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter, and subject to the notification requirements under paragraph (2)(B), the Board shall make available on the website established under section 1526 a list of all recipients of recovery funds that did not provide the information required under subsection (c) for the calendar quarter.

''(B) CONTENTS.—A list made available under subparagraph (A) shall, for each recipient of recovery funds on the list, include the name and address of the recipient, the identification number for the award, the amount of recovery funds awarded to the recipient, a description of the activity for which the recovery funds were provided, and, to the extent known by the Board, the reason for noncompliance.

''(5) REGULATIONS AND REPORTING.—

''(A) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chairperson, shall promulgate regulations regarding implementation of this section.

''(B) REPORTING.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2010, and every 3 months thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Chairperson, shall submit to Congress a report on the extent of noncompliance by recipients of recovery funds with the reporting requirements under this section.

''(ii) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under clause (i) shall include—

''(I) information, for the quarter and in total, regarding the number and amount of civil penalties imposed and collected under this subsection, sorted by agency and program;

''(II) information on the steps taken by the Federal Government to reduce the level of noncompliance; and

''(III) any other information determined appropriate by the Director.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(i) TERMINATION.—The reporting requirements under this section shall terminate on September 30, 2013.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 3365, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To require the Comptroller General to report to Congress on the causes of job losses in New England and the Midwest over the past 20 years and to suggest possible remedies)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall report to Congress detailing—

(1) the pattern of job loss in the New England and Midwest States over the past 20 years;

(2) the role of the off-shoring of manufacturing jobs in overall job loss in the regions; and

(3) recommendations to attract industries and bring jobs to the region.

AMENDMENT NO. 3371, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes)

On page 268, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

SEC. _____. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF SECTION 45 CREDIT FOR REFINED COAL FROM STEEL INDUSTRY FUEL.

(a) CREDIT PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subclause (II) of section 45(e)(8)(D)(ii) is amended to read as follows:

''(II) CREDIT PERIOD.—In lieu of the 10-year period referred to in clauses (i) and (ii)(II) of subparagraph (A), the credit period shall be the period beginning on the date that the facility first produces steel industry fuel that is sold to an unrelated person after September 30, 2008, and ending 2 years after such date.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 45(e)(8)(D) is amended by striking clause (iii) and by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (iii).

(b) EXTENSION OF PLACED-IN-SERVICE DATE.—Subparagraph (A) of section 45(d)(8) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(or any modification to a facility)'', and

(2) by striking ''2010'' and inserting ''2011''.

(c) CLARIFICATIONS.—

(1) STEEL INDUSTRY FUEL.—Subclause (I) of section 45(c)(7)(C)(i) is amended by inserting '', a blend of coal and petroleum coke, or other coke feedstock'' after ''on coal''.

(2) OWNERSHIP INTEREST.—Section 45(d)(8) is amended by adding at the end the following new flush sentence:

''With respect to a facility producing steel industry fuel, no person (including a ground lessor, customer, supplier, or technology licensor) shall be treated as having an ownership interest in the facility or as otherwise entitled to the credit allowable under subsection (a) with respect to such facility if such person's rent, license fee, or other entitlement to net payments from the owner of such facility is measured by a fixed dollar amount or a fixed amount per ton, or otherwise determined without regard to the profit or loss of such facility.''.

(3) PRODUCTION AND SALE.—Subparagraph (D) of section 45(e)(8), as amended by subsection (a)(2), is amended by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv) and by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

''(iii) PRODUCTION AND SALE.—The owner of a facility producing steel industry fuel shall be treated as producing and selling steel industry fuel where that owner manufactures such steel industry fuel from coal, a blend of coal and petroleum coke, or other coke feedstock to which it has title. The sale of such steel industry fuel by the owner of the facility to a person who is not the owner of the facility shall not fail to qualify as a sale to an unrelated person solely because such purchaser may also be a ground lessor, supplier, or customer.''.

(d) SPECIFIED CREDIT FOR PURPOSES OF ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX EXCLUSION.—Subclause (II) of section 38(c)(4)(B)(iii) is amended by inserting ''(in the case of a refined coal production facility producing steel industry fuel, during the credit period set forth in section 45(e)(8)(D)(ii)(II))'' after ''service''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a), (b), and (d) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) CLARIFICATIONS.—The amendments made by subsection (c) shall take effect as if included in the amendments made by the Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008.

SEC. _____. MODIFICATIONS TO MINE RESCUE TEAM TRAINING CREDIT AND ELECTION TO EXPENSE ADVANCED MINE SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

(a) MINE RESCUE TEAM TRAINING CREDIT ALLOWABLE AGAINST AMT.—Subparagraph (B) of section 38(c)(4) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (vi), (vii), and (viii) as clauses (vii), (viii), and (ix), respectively, and

(2) by inserting after clause (v) the following new clause:

''(vi) the credit determined under section 45N,''.

(b) ELECTION TO EXPENSE ADVANCED MINE SAFETY EQUIPMENT ALLOWABLE AGAINST AMT.—Subparagraph (C) of section 56(g)(4) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(vii) SPECIAL RULE FOR ELECTION TO EXPENSE ADVANCED MINE SAFETY EQUIPMENT.—Clause (i) shall not apply to amounts deductible under section 179E.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

SEC. _____. APPLICATION OF CONTINUOUS LEVY TO EMPLOYMENT TAX LIABILITY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6330(h) is amended by inserting ''or if the person subject to the levy (or any predecessor thereof) is a Federal contractor that was identified as owing such employment taxes through the Federal Payment Levy Program'' before the period at the end of the first sentence.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to levies issued after December 31, 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 3451

(Purpose: To make technical changes)

Strike section 201 and insert the following:

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Section 4007 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(A) by striking ''April 5, 2010'' each place it appears and inserting ''December 31, 2010'';

(B) in the heading for subsection (b)(2), by striking ''APRIL 5, 2010'' and inserting ''DECEMBER 31, 2010''; and

(C) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''September 4, 2010'' and inserting ''May 31, 2011''.

(2) Section 2002(e) of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111–5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 438), is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''April 5, 2010'' and inserting ''December 31, 2010'';

(B) in the heading for paragraph (2), by striking ''APRIL 5, 2010'' and inserting ''DECEMBER 31, 2010''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''October 5, 2010'' and inserting ''June 30, 2011''.

(3) Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111–5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 444), is amended—

(A) by striking ''April 5, 2010'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2011''; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking ''September 4, 2010'' and inserting ''June 1, 2011''.

(4) Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking ''September 4, 2010'' and inserting ''May 31, 2011''.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

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

''(E) the amendments made by section 201(a)(1) of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010; and''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Extension Act of 2010.

Strike section 211 and insert the following:

SEC. 211. EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COBRA BENEFITS.

(a) EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD.—Subsection (a)(3)(A) of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), as amended by section 3 of the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, is amended by striking ''March 31, 2010'' and inserting ''December 31, 2010''.

(b) RULES RELATING TO 2010 EXTENSION.—Subsection (a) of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), as amended by subsection (b)(1)(C), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(18) RULES RELATED TO 2010 EXTENSION.—

''(A) ELECTION TO PAY PREMIUMS RETROACTIVELY AND MAINTAIN COBRA COVERAGE.—In the case of any premium for a period of coverage during an assistance eligible individual's 2010 transition period, such individual shall be treated for purposes of any COBRA continuation provision as having timely paid the amount of such premium if—

''(i) such individual's qualifying event was on or after April 1, 2010 and prior to the date of enactment of this paragraph, and

''(ii) such individual pays, by the latest of 60 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, 30 days after the date of provision of the notification required under paragraph (16)(D)(ii) (as applied by subparagraph (D) of this paragraph), or the period described in section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the amount of such premium, after the application of paragraph (1)(A).

''(B) REFUNDS AND CREDITS FOR RETROACTIVE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who pays, with respect to any period of COBRA continuation coverage during such individual's 2010 transition period, the premium amount for such coverage without regard to paragraph (1)(A), rules similar to the rules of paragraph (12)(E) shall apply.

''(C) 2010 TRANSITION PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'transition period' means, with respect to any assistance eligible individual, any period of coverage if—

''(I) such assistance eligible individual experienced an involuntary termination that was a qualifying event prior to the date of enactment of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010, and

''(II) paragraph (1)(A) applies to such period by reason of the amendments made by section 211 of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010.

''(ii) CONSTRUCTION.—Any period during the period described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) for which the applicable premium has been paid pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a period of coverage referred to in such paragraph, irrespective of any failure to timely pay the applicable premium (other than pursuant to subparagraph (A)) for such period.

''(D) NOTIFICATION.—Notification provisions similar to the provisions of paragraph (16)(E) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

In section 212, strike ''December 31, 2009'' and insert ''March 31, 2010''.

In section 231, strike ''this title'' and insert ''this Act''.

In section 241(1), strike ''March 1, 2010'' and insert ''March 31, 2010''.

In section 601(1), strike ''February 28, 2010'' and insert ''March 31, 2010''.

In section 601(2), strike ''March 1, 2010'' and insert ''April 1, 2010''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to thank the leader for his courtesy and for his help on this legislation. In particular, I wish to thank Chairman BAUCUS and his staff and Senator GRASSLEY and his staff, as well as my staff, Ed Egee in particular, who did a great job of addressing the pension problems in this country.

This amendment gives corporations two alternatives to accept, adopt, and smooth their obligation on pensions. It will raise $3.5 billion against the debt. It will save the pensions of many Americans.

I wish to acknowledge the leadership of Senator BAUCUS from Montana, Senator GRASSLEY, and their staffs for helping us accomplish it.

Also, let me thank my friend and colleague, Senator CARDIN from Maryland, for his good work and cooperation on this issue. Senator CARDIN has long been a leader on retirement issues. I recall in the House supporting a landmark retirement bill that bore his name: the Portman-Cardin Pension Reform Act of 2001.

Almost 4 years ago, I was proud to support the Pension Protection Act of 2006. That piece of legislation adopted a stringent new funding regime for single employer defined benefit pension plans. It raised the full funding target to 100 percent, based the sponsor's contribution requirements on the funded status of the plan, encouraged pre-funding of pension funds through the recognition of credit balances, and included much-needed smoothing of both assets and liabilities.

All of these were positive changes. Unfortunately, just as the Pension Protection Act's stringent funding requirements began to be implemented, the assets of most pension funds were depleted by the economic recession.

The gravity of the situation was reflected in a recent Mercer study of over 800 companies. Mercer found that required cash contributions to pension plans will be more than 400 percent higher in 2010 than in 2009.

Over the last year, dozens of employers who sponsor defined benefit plans have come to me and to many Members of this body asking for relief from the stringent funding rules of the Pension Protection Act. They hope to avoid severe cost-cutting measures. A May 2009 survey indicated that the overwhelming majority of DB plan sponsors—68 percent—will have to cut other expenses, including jobs, in order to make required pension contributions.

Even if the market were to come soaring back tomorrow, this relief would still be appropriate. A February 2010 study by Towers Watson found that even if equities rise by 20 percent

in 2010 and projected interest rates increase by a full percentage point, total 2011 funding obligations would still be approximately triple the level of 2009 funding obligations.

Given the scope of the situation, there is broad agreement that the Senate must act. As such, Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY included targeted funding relief in this tax package.

Our amendment makes small but important changes to the underlying language, mostly affecting the application of the ''cash flow rule.'' Generally speaking, the cash flow rule forces employers to make additional contributions to their plan above the amount they would normally owe.

Fe do not oppose the inclusion of the cash flow rule in the relief package. We agree that that is an appropriate stick in exchange for the carrot of relief.

However, the stick can last up to 7 years while the relief is only available for 2 years. Accordingly, we are urging this Senate to limit these restrictive conditions on the funding relief that we are offering to employers in this amendment.

Sponsors would continue to receive 2 years of relief from the onerous funding obligations imposed by the Pension Protection Act. However, our amendment applies the cash flow rule for 3 years for the 2 plus 7 option and 5 years for the 15 year option—as opposed to 4 and 7 years, respectively.

Our goal here is to achieve a balance. We want to ensure the viability of the pension security system by ensuring that the plans are fully funded. At the same time, we want to make the relief usable to employers so they will be incentivized to continue their defined benefit pension programs.

I continue to support efforts to protect taxpayers by strongly opposing any attempts to break down the wall between the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and general Treasury funds.

I thank Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS for accepting our amendment and thank the staff for their work on the amendment. Cathy Koch and Tom Reeder with Senator BAUCUS; Chris Condeluci with Senator GRASSLEY; Debra Forbes with Senator HARKIN; Greg Dean with Senator ENZI; Femeia Adamson with Senator CARDIN; and Ed Egee with my staff.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there was debate this morning and a lot of talk outside the Chamber regarding the TANF summer jobs program. The objection of a number of Senators raised was that it was paid for over 10 years rather than 5 years. In an effort to compromise this, Senators MURRAY and KERRY agreed that we would drop anything relating to TANF in this amendment and over 5 years pay for summer jobs in the amount of $743 million. As everyone will remember, it was originally $1.5 billion. So this would be lowered to $743 million. It is paid for over 5 years. TANF is not included in any of this, much to the consternation of a lot of us.

I ask unanimous consent that amendment be allowed and that we have another vote on it, if necessary.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GREGG. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I failed to mention this does not violate pay-go.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

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 Baucus substitute amendment No. 3336 to H.R. 4213, the Tax Extenders Act of 2009.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Richard J. Durbin, Roland W. Burris, Kent Conrad, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Robert Menendez, Daniel K. Inouye, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jon Tester, Bill Nelson, Charles E. Schumer, Kay R. Hagan, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tom Harkin.

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 amendment No. 3336, offered by the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS, to H.R. 4213, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes, 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.

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 46 Leg.]

YEAS—66

Akaka	Feingold	Mikulski
Baucus	Feinstein	Murkowski
Bayh	Franken	Murray
Begich	Gillibrand	Nelson (FL)
Bennet	Hagan	Pryor
Bingaman	Harkin	Reed
Boxer	Inouye	Reid
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Johnson	Sanders
Burris	Kaufman	Schumer
Byrd	Kerry	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Snowe
Cardin	Kohl	Specter
Carper	Landrieu	Stabenow
Casey	Lautenberg	Tester
Chambliss	Leahy	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Levin	Udall (NM)
Collins	Lieberman	Voinovich
Conrad	Lincoln	Warner
Dodd	McCaskill	Webb
Dorgan	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden

NAYS—34

Alexander	Ensign	McCain
Barrasso	Enzi	McConnell
Bennett	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Grassley	Risch
Brownback	Gregg	Roberts
Bunning	Hatch	Sessions
Burr	Hutchison	Shelby
Coburn	Inhofe	Thune
Corker	Johanns	Vitter
Cornyn	Kyl	Wicker
Crapo	LeMieux	
DeMint	Lugar	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 34. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BURRIS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAUFMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3381 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3336

(Purpose: To reauthorize the DC opportunity scholarship program, and for other purposes)

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside and that I be permitted to call up amendment No. 3381 and that at the end of my statement, the amendment then be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN], for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. VOINOVICH, proposes an amendment numbered 3381 to amendment 3336.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The text of the amendment is printed in the RECORD of Wednesday, March 3, 2010, under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this amendment that I rise to offer has been cosponsored by a bipartisan group, I am pleased to say: Senators COLLINS of Maine, BYRD of West Virginia, FEINSTEIN of California, VOINOVICH of Ohio, and ENSIGN of Nevada.

The purpose of this amendment is to reauthorize—literally, to save—the Opportunity Scholarship Program or OSP. Some know it as the DC school voucher program. We are offering our amendment to this legislation because without prompt action by Congress, the OSP, I am afraid, will end. The current administrator has advised Secretary Duncan that it will no longer

administer the program absent a reauthorization, and no other entity has expressed the willingness to take over, given the constraints imposed by Congress under the prevailing set of circumstances. Despite the President's stated intent in his budget to continue the program, if only for those students currently participating, even that will become impossible.

This amendment, as I will explain in a moment, will reauthorize this program for 5 years at essentially its current levels. As I will explain in a moment, it is working, and it is immensely popular with families of children and failing schools in the District of Columbia. It is supported by the chancellor of the school system, Michelle Rhee, and by Mayor Fenty. It is warmly endorsed by the families of the students who have benefited from this program as it literally changed their lives. Yet it has run into opposition in Congress, I fear from people who are committed to defending a status quo that is not working.

Chancellor Michelle Rhee is working so hard to reform the school system of our Nation's Capital, the public school system. Why would she be supporting this Opportunity Scholarship Program that will allow some children—low-income children—in the District of Columbia to get this scholarship and go to a private or faith-based school? She said, in terms that were very compelling, as she testified before committees of Congress, the following: That if a parent of a student in a school that literally had been determined to be failing turned to her and said, can my child get a good education in the school the public school system sends her to, she can't now say yes to parents of students who are in these designated failing schools.

And she said, I think with great strength and conviction and honesty—and she is the head of the public school system here—that until she can tell these parents that their children will get a good education in the public schools of the District of Columbia, she cannot in good conscience oppose this plan that will basically enable these children a lifeline while she is fixing the DC public schools—a lifeline to a better education, a better career, a better life.

Her own estimate is that it will take her 5 years more to get the DC public schools to where she wants them and every parent of a child here in the District wants them to be. That is the length of the reauthorization of this program that our amendment would provide.

I understand there will be a point of order raised against our amendment, as well as objections to proceeding to a vote on our amendment, and that, therefore, I will be obliged to withdraw my amendment. It was not possible on this bill to receive the consent necessary to bring up this amendment for a vote, although I am pleased to understand that no objections would likely be raised on the minority side to at least bringing up a vote for an amendment.

I do want to serve notice that I will continue to push for a vote on this matter, because I think it is so critically important. I know there are several bills coming before the Senate, including the reauthorization of the FAA, which will come soon and that will be subject to amendment and, therefore, I will be afforded an opportunity—myself and my cosponsors—to amend those bills and to offer this opportunity scholarship amendment to those bills.

I don't know at this moment that we have the 60 votes to pass this amendment, but what I am committed to doing is making sure we have debate on the amendment and a vote on the amendment so the Senate can be heard and, in that sense, is challenged to take a position on this amendment and this program which, I repeat, has been a lifeline for kids trying to get a decent education and build a better life.

In my view, this amendment did belong on the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act—the underlying bill before the Senate—because, obviously, the opportunity to seek and receive a better education enables our children to be better, more productive workers, to help our businesses and, of course, to grow our national economy. Achievement gaps in our schools have a profound effect on the quality of our workforce and on the future of our economy. Most importantly, the quality of our schools has a profound effect on the quality of the lives of the children who go to better schools and get a better education.

Like so many millions and millions of others in our country today, including, I am sure, a lot of other Members of the Senate, my life was transformed by the public schools of my hometown of Stamford, CT, which gave me an education that enabled me to be the first person in my family to go to college, and then I was able to go to law school after that.

There are within the District of Columbia so many gifted and talented students who are in schools that are developing their gifts or growing their talents by giving them a good education. The OSP takes a limited number of those—and they are low income—and gives them a chance for a better education and a better life.

I regret that I am not going to be able to debate this issue and to get a vote on this amendment on this bill, but we are going to wait for the next opportunity to do so. I do want to make, however, some brief remarks on the substance here.

I have followed the status of the OSP for several years in my capacity as chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. It is one of those strange twists of Senate committee jurisdiction that the governmental affairs part of the jurisdiction of our committee—the traditional historic jurisdiction before homeland security was added—included, according to the wisdom of a previous generation of Senators, jurisdiction over the District of Columbia. So I can tell you we need only listen to the students in the program and their parents—as our committee has had the privilege to hear—to know this program has served as a life changer—not just a game changer but a life changer—for many of these children in this program.

We also have a federally mandated study that documents the success of this program. Despite a lot of misleading statements by those who oppose the program, the science behind this study—an independent study required by a previous act of Congress authorizing this proposal—proves that the program is working. It is one thing to hear the students and their parents talk about how their lives have been changed with the opportunity to go to a school that has made them feel they can be a success and educated them better, but Dr. Patrick Wolf, the lead investigator for the study that was authorized by a previous act of Congress, concluded:

> The DC voucher program has proven to be the most effective education policy evaluated by the Federal Government's official educational research arm so far.

That is an awful lot to be able to say.

So the path this bill has followed, the opposition to it, has been so frustrating. People say this is money that is coming out of the public school budget. The whole design of this original program was to add money in equal parts to the DC public schools—money it would not otherwise have received. It was a kind of compensatory balance: the same amount to the charter schools, which are doing very well here in Washington, and then the same amount to the opportunity scholarship program. So money not from the public schools, but an education opportunity for poor kids in Washington now going to schools designated as unable to educate them, and instead giving them the opportunity to go to better private or faith-based schools.

I thank the Chair and my colleagues for allowing me the time to bring up my amendment. As I say, I look forward to engaging in the very near future in a larger discussion of these issues, and at greater length, by submitting this as an amendment to the next bill that comes to the Senate floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 3381, WITHDRAWN

Pursuant, nonetheless, to the agreement I had with the leadership and my colleagues in the Senate, understanding there was not consent to proceed, I will now withdraw my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, 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. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we earlier had a cloture vote on, what I guess is called the jobs bill. It has some things in it that I think might be helpful to this economy. Continuing certain tax cuts is important. But I have to say, it is very much a disappointment that the legislation spends $100 billion more than we have. In other words, it will add $100 billion to the debt of the United States.

It was a few weeks ago that this Senate voted for a pay-go idea that asserted we were not going to spend money we didn't have and we were going to pay for what we spent. In other words, if we increase spending, we are either going to raise taxes or cut spending somewhere else to keep us on the right track. But we have not done that. This is actually a $140 billion bill.

This bill has $40 billion in costs assumed by the CBO for continuing the tax credits that have been in place, some of them, for 10 years. Those are to be continued, and they score that as costing $40-some-odd billion. But that is paid for. Our Democratic colleagues are prepared to pay for allowing the American people to keep money that is theirs; money that the government hasn't assessed against them and extracted from them over a 10-year period. That is paid for through other increases in taxes and other activities which, so far, offset that. But the $104 billion of new spending is not paid for.

Regardless, the bill is a bill that adds $104 billion to the debt. I don't see how that is a responsible action for our Congress. Because last year, in February, Congress passed an $800 billion stimulus package—the largest spending bill in the history of America, and every penny of it was added to the debt of the United States. It was the kind of bill the likes of which Congress has never, ever seen before. We did that. And that was not long after the $700 billion financial bailout package—the TARP bill. The one thing about the TARP bill is that we always understood we were to get some of it back. And we would have gotten a lot more of it if they had spent it to buy toxic assets, instead of giving billions of dollars to one insurance company; giving a huge amount of money to General Motors, which is unlikely ever to be paid back by that company. Now the government basically owns an automobile company and an insurance company. And that is not anything like what we were told when that TARP bill came before the Senate. I believed at the time, it was so unprincipled and such a dangerous piece of legislation that I opposed it vigorously. But Congress said we had to pass it and it passed. Then we came back in January after the new President was in office. We had to stimulate the economy, and many of us warned that the legislation was not stimulative in nature and it was not going to create the kind of jobs we needed to create. It just was not.

I remember quoting from a Wall Street Journal op-ed by Gary Becker, a Nobel Prize economics winner. He warned the bill was not stimulative enough. But we had to pass it. It was supposed to be for crumbling bridges and infrastructure.

Yet less than 4 percent of the money went to crumbling bridges and infrastructure. Most of it went to social programs, bail out a State, Medicaid—not job-creating things. Mr. Becker told us in his op-ed shortly before the vote, giving his best judgment about what would happen, he said that it was not going to be a job-creating bill; that you should look for well above $1 growth out of an investment of $1 in stimulus funds. Their impression was, he and his team, it was going to be well below $1.

Now we come back this year, we want another stimulus, another jobs bill because the first one did not work. But now we are in a position where we are surging the debt of this country to a degree it has never been done before. This, in many ways, exceeds World War II, when we were in a life-and-death struggle.

These are just the basic numbers. In 2008, the total American public debt was $5.8 trillion. In 2013, according to the Congressional Budget Office, our own experts, based on the 10-year budget the President has submitted that would double to $12.3 trillion. Congress actually ended up passing a 5-year budget very similar to his first 5 years, but this shows the track the President has proposed the country move on. I am not making this up. Then, in 2019, it would go up to $17.5 trillion. CBO is stating that next year's deficit will exceed this year's deficit. The deficit of the year ending September 30 of last year was $1.4 trillion. They are estimating our next year will be about $1.5 trillion.

So, blithely, our leadership walks in today and says we have to extend unemployment insurance, we have to do a number of other things, and we have not figured out a way to raise the money for it or reduce spending on programs that do not work so we will just borrow it too. That is not calculated in these numbers. That was not legislation that was on the agenda or on the books before the Congressional Budget Office made this scoring.

There are other things we know are going to be part of this. I will talk about a few of them. One of the things that is in the legislation before us is what we have come to refer to as the doctor fix. I feel strongly about that. We had passed the Balanced Budget Act in the late 1990s, and it contained the growth of Medicare spending on payments of physicians. As the years went by, we realized pretty quickly that the cuts were too large or at least Congress did not have the will to let them go into effect, so we wiped it out. We did not let the cuts come in.

We have been doing it now for over a decade, Republicans and Democrats—each one had a majority. Instead of facing up to the shortfall in the physicians' reimbursement, we have allowed this problem to grow. What it amounts to is, if Congress does not act, the doctors who are taking care of our parents and grandparents on Medicare will have their payments cut 21 percent. A lot of physicians are losing money on Medicare today. If this were to happen, there would be a massive quitting of taking care of Medicare patients. They would not do it anymore. It is not right. You cannot justify, from any logical approach to medicine, that we should cut physicians by that kind of amount. I think fundamentally we need to restore it and put it on a path that is sustainable and a growth rate instead of a 21-percent cut. We need to wrestle with how to do it.

If you fix the doctor fix, and you allow a modest growth instead of a 21-percent cut over the next 10 years, it will cost the U.S. Treasury $250 billion. That is a lot of money, even by Federal Government standards. Our annual highway bill has been about $40 billion. The annual budget of my State of Alabama is less than $10 billion—$7 or $8 billion for the whole State, including education. That $250 billion is a lot of money. But millions of American seniors are treated every day by physicians and they paid into the Medicare Program for 40 years. They have been told that when they get to be seniors at retirement age, they will get basically free physician services. It is a commitment we made. Maybe it was improvident at the time. Maybe we could have been smarter about the way it was done, but that is what we told them, and I believe we have to honor that in principle today.

This bill attempts to deal with it by extending it, as we have done each time, 1 year. That is what I call a budget gimmick. It is a misrepresentation of the true state of our finances because what will occur is, we will put the money in for this year. It is going to cost $7.3 billion to fix this year's doctors' payments. But you know what the CBO scores when they estimate what our debt will be? They assumed the law will go back into effect next year, and there will be a 21- or maybe then 22-percent or 23-percent cut in physician payments. They will assume that is going to be true for 9 years, leaving about $240 billion extra money that we in Congress can spend—except it is going to be paid. We cannot cut the physicians by that much money. We know we are going to fix it, 1 year at a time. It appears we do not have the courage or the will to fix it permanently like we should, so we will just fix it and we will use that and then they can make the deficit look better than that.

This budget, this number CBO has scored, does not assume the doctors' payments are going to be increased 21 percent. They assume doctors' fees are going to be cut because that is what the law is, unless we act to change it. They make an estimate based on what the law is today, so we can fix the doctors' payments for 1 year, but for the next 9 years they assume we have a lot more money than we have because we are going to fix it every year. This kind of gimmickry is what put us in this fix.

Let me say this: An attempt was made earlier this year to do a doctor fix outside the health care reform bill. That was a very duplicitous act, in my opinion. I have to be frank with my colleagues. Why? What was wrong about that? The President has always said that in health care reform, in fixing our health care problem, what we need to do was deal with physician payments, the SGR. But when they sat in that secret room around here, moving the money around to try to figure out how to present a bill and plop it out on the floor and ask us all to vote for it, they had a problem. They had promised the bill would be deficit neutral. But if they fix the doctor fix, it was going to cost $250 billion. They could not make the numbers work.

Do you know what the Democratic leadership tried to do? They brought it up separately. We are going to pass a bill in the Congress that would have funded the fix of the doctors. Every penny of it goes straight to the debt. But because they took it out of health care reform and sat it over here, they were going to say the health care reform did not cost any money. I can dispute that and it is not accurate, but that is what they did.

But do you know what happened? Thirteen Democrats said no. To their great credit, under, I am sure, pressure, they decided: I am not going to vote for another big debt increase on a bill that is not paid for. We ought to make this paid for. They were listening to their constituents back home and they are concerned about it. I know colleagues on both sides of the aisle are definitely concerned about this deficit. But I just wish to say if it had passed and it would have been another hiding of the debt by doing it in that fashion.

Since that failed, we now have it in this bill for 1 year. It is going to be unpaid for and it will go straight to the debt. I think people who voted against the last doctor fix because it was not paid for and added to the debt should vote against this legislation because it continues to take us in that direction.

Finally, I will say the entire debt process we are on is dangerous to our economy in the long run. This much money being poured into the economy and being unwisely spent—as Mr. Becker warned us a year ago—has to have some positive impact. For heaven's sake, you borrow $800 billion from the future and you pump it into this economy today and now we are talking about another $100 billion we borrow from the future and pump into the economy today—those kinds of actions have to have some positive impact, at least in the short run. But nothing comes from nothing. There is no free lunch. We know somebody will pay. Can anybody dispute that—that anything we take in today and distribute among ourselves and enjoy today somebody paid for?

Who is going to pay for this? Let me tell you. Last year, the interest on the debt of the United States was $187 billion. That is a lot of money. The Federal highway bill is $40 billion. Interest on the debt was $187 billion. Alabama, an average size State of 4 million people, has a general fund budget of less than $10 billion. $187 billion. But because we are tripling the debt in 10 years, in 2019, according to the Congressional Budget Office, in that year alone people still alive and well in the United States and making some money and trying to feed their families will pay $800 billion on the debt in interest—in that year alone, $800 billion.

This is a burden that our economy will be carrying for years. By the way, there is no plan to pay it down. In fact, in 2019, it is projected the deficit will be almost $1 trillion that year. The debt, the deficit, and the shortfall in income over expenditures in 2019 will still be growing. The debt will still be surging.

Greece is in such a terrible fix today; their deficit amounts to about 12.7 percent of the entire gross domestic product of the nation of Greece. They are considered to be very unstable. The economy is thoroughly in danger. They are going through some significant reforms to try to work their way out of it. Our deficit-to-GDP ratio this year is 9.7 percent.

This is one of the highest ratios in the world, and it is a danger that we face. So to get down to the nub of the matter, I am not going to vote for this bill. I am sure some of my colleagues will say: That is because you do not like the unemployed, and you do not want to help them. I do want to help them.

I am sure it is going to be because some of my colleagues will say: You do not want to pay the doctors. You do not like doctors so you are mean and cold-hearted. And: Do not worry about the debt, SESSIONS.

But at some point we have to bring our house under control. Just like a family budget, we cannot continue to spend dramatically more than we take in.

We passed a resolution. This Senate passed a bill that is supposed to limit expenditures through a pay-go mechanism. It was predicted then that people were not serious when they were passing it. This would be the second time we voted in a matter of weeks to break through pay-go, and this is $100 billion.

I would suggest there are a number of things that can be done. One of them is, we can go back and look at the unspent stimulus money. There is about $170 billion not only unspent but unobligated at this point. That money can be utilized to take care of some of these needs we have, and there is no doubt we could do that. We could find other mechanisms to deal with this, and one of the things we are going to have to face up to is that there are a lot of programs in this government that are not returning value for the taxpayers. We are extracting money from taxpayers. We are sending it out to programs that are not producing any legitimate return, and they should be eliminated. When is the last time we have ever eliminated any expenditure in this country where we can see that it has not been effective?

Well, a lot of our reports show that a lot of our government programs are ineffective. There are a lot of things we can do to enhance our productivity as a national government to eliminate this surge in debt and get us off the path we are on that I think leads to financial problems in the future.

A witness before the Budget Committee testified that studies show that this kind of debt with the high interest payments, will pull down our economic growth.

Most people think economic growth is going to get us out of this fix. But if we are burdened with high interest rates, if the U.S. Government is going out in the marketplace and competing with private business to get people to loan you money, it tends to drive up interest rates. It tends to reduce the amount of money available in the marketplace for private business. They predict it would at least reduce the growth by 1 percentage point in the future. When you are talking about 2 percent annual growth, and you drop to 1 percent growth, or 3 percent and you drop to 2 percent growth, this is serious.

So it is no doubt this kind of debt will crowd out spending when we have $800 billion in the tenth year just to pay interest. It will be the biggest expenditure the government has on any account. That is a problem.

So I would say it is time to take this bill back. Let's look at it. Let's see if we cannot contain some of the spending that is in it, and let's see if we cannot pay for the rest of it and produce a bill that we can be proud of that will help people in need without socking it to the debt of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. DURBIN. I do not quarrel with the Senator from Alabama about our national debt and the threat that it possesses. I certainly understand we are borrowing a lot of money from countries overseas, and we want to see that come to an end.

That kind of indebtedness leads to a dependency which is not healthy for

our economy or our future or our children. I certainly would agree with the Senator from Alabama on that.

I was not here for his entire presentation, but there are several things I think should be made clear for the record. The point is, some 9 years ago, when President William Clinton left office, he left office with a national debt, total accumulated national debt throughout our history of about $5.7 trillion. But when he left office, we were in surplus. We were actually generating a surplus in the Federal Treasury, and the surplus was being used to extend the life of the Social Security trust fund. We were adding more and more years of solvency to Social Security because we were generating a surplus.

It is hard to imagine that this was the case only 9 years ago, and yet it was. The government was then handed over to President George W. Bush, a new administration, an administration that ran on a platform of fiscal conservatism and dealing with overspending and the national debt.

What happened at the end of 8 years? At the end of 8 years, the national debt had grown from $5.7 trillion, on the last day that William Jefferson Clinton was in office, to almost $13 trillion when President George W. Bush left office 8 years later. It more than doubled in that period of time.

What happened? First, the situation beyond President Bush's control: 9/11, devastating to our economy. We know what happened. People stopped purchasing, people stopped traveling. There was a general concern about the safety of our country and the certainty of our future, and that took its toll on our economy. There is no question about that. I am not going to go into any suggestion that President Bush was culpable in that regard. He was a victim as we were as a nation on 9/11. But conscious decisions were then made by this administration after 9/11: For instance, the decision to invade Iraq was a decision I did not share. I was one of 23 Senators who voted against the invasion of Iraq. I happen to think that was the right decision to stay out of that war.

But, as a nation, we deciding to go forward. Congress voted that way. President Bush said: We are going to wage this war, but we will not pay for it. We will take the cost of this war and add it to our national debt.

If you look back at history, World War II, for example, most of us remember either reading about or seeing some evidence of war bonds—borrowing from the American people to pay for war. Yet we incurred a massive debt at the same time. Wars are costly.

President Bush initiated this war in Iraq and Afghanistan and paid for neither one. That added to our national debt. He also did something that had never been done in the history of the United States. In the midst of a war, President Bush said we are going to cut taxes. It is counterintuitive.

We know that in a war we need more money, not just for the ordinary course of expenses of government but also because of war costs. Instead, the President cut taxes on the wealthiest Americans, adding to our national debt.

Then came a proposal to modify the Medicare Program for prescription drugs. I thought it was a positive thing. We could have saved a lot of money if we would have built into it competition for the pharmaceutical companies. But the pharmaceutical companies did not want that. They prevailed. We ended up passing the Medicare Pharmaceutical Program, and it cost us about $400 billion, added to the deficit.

Start adding those things up and we realize that at the end of 8 years, a President who had promised to be a fiscal conservative left us with twice the national debt that he had inherited and the weakest economy America had seen since the Great Depression.

When President Obama took the oath of office a little over a year ago, he inherited this weak economy and two wars. He inherited another $1 trillion in debt that came out of this weak economy as soon as he walked into the office. So when my Republican colleagues come to the floor of the Senate and talk about how insensitive Democrats are to our national debt, I have to remind them when they were in control and their President was in control we more than doubled the national debt. We had two wars, unpaid for; we cut taxes on the wealthiest people in America; we added a Medicare Program that was not paid for; we left the economy in shambles; and left the debt for the next President. It was not a welcome that most Presidents would like at the White House.

Now come the Republicans and say: Well, the thing we need to do at this moment in time, with all of our unemployed, is to cut government spending.

I have to say to them, I want to cut out wasteful spending. But if you ask any credible mainline economist, they will tell you that cutting government spending in general is exactly the wrong thing to do when the economy is in recession.

What we need to do is to infuse the economy with investments and spending that will keep aggregate demand growing for goods and services, keeping people in business, hiring people, who then pay their taxes and go on to buy products that help others. That is the nature of the kind of economic activity that brings us out of recession.

So when the Republicans argue to cut spending in the midst of a recession, they are going to dig the hole deeper. There will be less money spent in the economy. There will be less demand for goods and services. Fewer people will be working, fewer businesses surviving, and the recession will get worse instead of better.

So the bill before us is a bill that has several provisions in it, and one of them deals with providing unemployment insurance for those who have no work. Now, I will concede the fact that we never dreamed this recession would go on as long as it has. But for many people, some have been out of work for over a year, some 2 years. They are desperate. There are five unemployed people for every job in America. What we provide is about $1,100 or $1,200 a month—hardly a sum that one can live on comfortably for any length of time in most places in America. But that $1,200 a month keeps families together—barely.

Now the Republicans come to the floor and say this is a serious mistake. Providing unemployment insurance, according to the Senate Republican whip, Senator KYL, creates a disincentive for people to look for work.

Well, I would challenge him. I have talked to the people who are out of work and have yet to find any who believe they are basking in the glow of unemployment insurance. It is barely enough to get by, and most people are exhausting their savings.

Second, this bill is going to provide for additional help to pay for health insurance for the unemployed. If you lose your job, the first casualty is your health insurance. So the President said, we need to have our government pick up 65 percent of the health insurance premiums for the unemployed.

How much do they run? It is $1,200 or $1,300 a month in my State, the average for a family, health insurance plan. So it would eat up virtually every penny of unemployment just to keep your health insurance plan. So we pick up two-thirds of the cost, and the people try to hang on, paying about $400 a month so they can keep their health insurance.

What difference does it make if they lose their health insurance? Well, two things are going to happen if they lose their health insurance. They may qualify for Medicaid, which is a government health insurance plan, which we will ultimately pay for as taxpayers. They will certainly lose their continuation of coverage, so that if someone in their family has a preexisting condition, they may find it difficult to ever qualify for insurance again until they find that job and get into a group policy. If they have a child who is asthmatic or who has a serious illness, they may find that child uninsurable because they have lost their health insurance.

So when Members of the Senate come before us and say they are going to vote against unemployment benefits and health insurance, they are literally voting against millions of Americans who are flat out of luck and have no place to turn and are merely trying to make it and trying to get by.

Part of this measure is paid for in offsets and sources of revenue. I certainly applaud that.

I thank the Senator from Montana, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. But then come the Republicans and say: Well, let's put more

money into this for all of the things included and take it out of the stimulus package.

Remember, the stimulus package was the President's way of trying to keep this economy moving with tax cuts for working families, a safety net for those out of work, money for local units of government that have seen a downturn in revenues, and investments in America's future.

Now, I have seen some of those investments, and I will just say that I think those are investments that will pay off in jobs today and in assets in America and that will serve us for a long time to come.

Two weeks ago I was up on the west side of Chicago, in Austin, where they opened a new family care health center. It is a primary care clinic for those who do not have health insurance or do not have much money, where they can see a doctor. It is going to be the nicest building on the block. It is beautiful. One-fourth of the money came from the President's stimulus package. It put a lot of people to work building it and now has created an asset that will serve that neighborhood and that city for a long time to come.

Two days ago, I was down in Caseyville, IL, 300 miles away from Chicago. I saw another project with about $1.6 million of stimulus money that is going to build a community retirement home in this area. I saw the people out working on the jobs now just this week.

Ultimately, beyond the hundreds who will build this project, some 50 will be full-time employees. We are investing back in the community, in high-speed rail, in highways and bridges, in basic infrastructure, and in things that will serve us for a long time to come.

The Senator from Alabama says: Let's stop doing that. Let's stop putting that money into those investments.

I think that is shortsighted. I think what we need to do is to follow the President's lead and to make the investments in our economy today to get it chugging and moving forward. That, to me, is the first step in reducing our long-term deficit. Until we get out of this recession, get people back to work, paying taxes, the deficit will continue to grow.

What is the second thing we can do to deal with our deficit? Health care costs. Health care costs are going through the roof. I have said before that the mayor of Kankakee, IL, told me last week that she just got the health insurance bill for 2,900 city employees for next year, and the premiums are going up 83 percent. She is going to cut back on coverage, more copays, more deductibles, and hope to get it down to a 50-percent increase. It will mean that in a city that is hard-pressed to meet basic needs, there will be an additional million dollars in health insurance premium costs next year for even less coverage. That story is being repeated over and over across the United States.

On Sunday, at a press conference in Chicago with four small businesses, each one told the same story, that they had reached a point where they couldn't afford health insurance for themselves as owners or for their employees. They told of terrible situations where some of them had children who were literally dropped from coverage because they couldn't continue to pay the high premiums that went through the roof.

The Republican side of the aisle has told us: Stop this debate on health care reform. Let's stop and start over. As the President said the other day, the health insurance companies are not starting over. The health insurance companies are continuing to do what they know how to do, and that is to raise prices.

Goldman Sachs is a firm with which most people are familiar. They put out a report very recently about what they considered the best thing for the health insurance industry. Goldman Sachs said, in this article that was published in the Huffington Post:

> What the firm sees as the best path forward for the private insurance industry's bottom line is, to be blunt, inaction.
>
> The study's authors [at Goldman Sachs] advise that if no reform is passed, earnings per share would grow an estimated ten percent from 2010 to 2019, and the value of the stock would rise an estimated 59 percent. The next best thing for the insurance industry would be if the legislation passed by the Senate Finance Committee is watered down significantly.

This says that the best way to reach higher profitability for health insurance is for us to do nothing. The second best way is to do very little. That is what we are being asked to do by the Republican side of the aisle, either do nothing or do very little, take baby steps, don't really deal with the issue. That is not going to solve the problem.

If we are going to provide competition and choice for small businesses and people buying health insurance, we should offer them what we have as Members of Congress. If it is good enough for us, wouldn't it be good enough for the rest of America? Our plan is pretty good. It is called the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. Eight million Federal employees and their families are in there. It has been in existence for 40 years.

My wife and I each year have an open enrollment period to choose from nine different private insurance plans in my State of Illinois. These are plans that have to meet the basic requirements of Illinois so that they are not plans that are worthless and they are plans that we pick based on our state in life. My wife and I are at a point where we buy the biggest plan, the high-option plan. The Federal Government pays a share of the premium cost; we pay the rest. We would pay less if we had less coverage. But if we don't like the plan, next year we have open enrollment again. We can pick another one. What a great idea for consumers, to be able to pick and choose, go shopping just like one would for an automobile, to pick the one that is right for your family, the one you can afford, the one that gives you the coverage you need.

If that is good enough for Republican and Democratic Members of Congress, Senate and House, why isn't it good enough for America? Why don't we have exchanges just like that available for businesses and individuals to choose from, the best private health insurance plan that meets their pocketbook needs and their health needs? That is what our bill does. Many on the Republican side have condemned it as socialism. The government administers it, at least sets up the plans on the insurance exchange. Guess what. Every Senator's health insurance plan would be socialistic by that definition. I don't see them rushing down to the Secretary of the Senate to cancel their coverage. They love it. I do too. It is the best health insurance you could ask for. To require minimum requirements in terms of what coverage it will have, that is what our plans do. When we say, do that in the bill, they say, there it is, government-run health insurance. It is not. It is private health insurance plans.

There are 50 million Americans without insurance. We provide coverage for 30 million. Those are people who, when they get sick, go to the hospital, get taken care of, and the cost of their care is passed on to everybody else who has health insurance. That is not fair. It costs us a lot of money as individuals. We pay $1,000 a year in extra premiums for the uninsured. Our idea is to bring people under coverage so that when they go to the hospital, their care is paid for, not by us but, in this case, either by private health insurance or by Medicaid, the government health insurance plan.

When we asked the Republicans, if we cover 30 million in our approach, how many do you cover of 50 million uninsured, their answer is 3 million. That is not much of an effort, when you think about it. I can understand why we need to do more.

There are two last points I wish to make. One is that if we are going to deal with health insurance in an honest way, we need to at least tell the health insurance companies that the party is over. First, their antitrust exemption, which they have had for 65 years, has to come to an end. Should they be allowed to collude and conspire on prices and divide up the market at the expense of consumers? We ought to put an end to it. The House voted to do that. Secondly, we have to put an end to the awful practice by many health insurance companies to deny coverage to individuals because of preexisting conditions, for example, or to say, if you get really sick, they will just cut you off in terms of how much they will pay. Those things are gross abuses. They need to change. The Republicans have yet to offer a plan that deals with those gross insurance abuses. Their baby steps don't even deal with the serious issues.

Finally, when it comes to Medicare, 40 million Americans count on it, those who are seniors and disabled. It only has about 9 years of solvency left. Our bill doubles the life of Medicare, another 9 or 10 years of longevity. That is good for seniors and for all of us. We want to cut out the waste, and there is waste. We want to provide basic quality care. But doing nothing, as many Republicans counsel us to do on health care reform, means Medicare will go broke in 9 years. I don't want to be around to see that happen. I want to be part of the solution.

My final point is this: We started off talking about the deficit and debt. If we don't deal with health care costs and bringing them down, we can't raise enough money in taxes to keep up with this skyrocketing cost. State governments, local governments, and the Federal Government will all be faced with this kind of increased bill and increased debt and increased deficit each year. That is the reality of doing nothing on health care reform when it comes to deficit and debt.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a New York Times piece relative to the health care insurance industry, as well as this analysis of managed care by Goldman Sachs and several articles which outline exactly what is going to happen. The health care insurance industry is praying that we do nothing because their profits will continue to skyrocket. That is not fair to the families across America.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Mar. 6, 2010]

OBAMA WIELDS ANALYSIS OF INSURERS IN HEALTH BATTLE

(By David M. Herszenhorn)

WASHINGTON.—To bolster the case for a far-reaching overhaul of the health care system, the Obama administration is seizing on a new analysis by Goldman Sachs, the New York investment bank, recommending that investors buy shares in two big insurance companies, the UnitedHealth Group and Cigna, because insurance rates are up sharply and competition is down.

White House officials on Saturday said that the Goldman Sachs analysis would be a ''centerpiece'' of their closing argument in the push for major health care legislation. The president and Democratic Congressional leaders are hoping to win passage of the legislation before the Easter recess. Republicans remain fiercely opposed to the bill.

The Goldman Sachs analysis shows that while insurers can be aggressive in raising prices, they also walk away from clients because competition in the industry is so weak, the White House said. And officials will point to a finding that rate increases ran as high as 50 percent, with most in ''the low- to mid-teens''—far higher than overall inflation.

The analysis could be a powerful weapon for the White House because it offers evidence that an overhaul of the health care system is needed not only to help cover the millions of uninsured but to prevent soaring health care expenses from undermining the coverage that the majority of Americans already have through employers.

Republicans, however, could also point to the analysis as bolstering their contention that Democrats should be focused more on controlling costs and less on broadly expanding coverage to the uninsured.

The research brief is largely based on a recent conference call with Steve Lewis, an industry expert with Willis, a major insurance broker.

In the call, Mr. Lewis noted that ''price competition is down from a year ago'' and explained that his clients—mostly midsize employers seeking to buy health coverage for their employees—were facing a tough market, in which insurance carriers are increasingly willing to abandon existing customers to improve their profit margins.

''We feel this is the most challenging environment for us and our clients in my 20 years in the business,'' Mr. Lewis said, according to a transcript included in the Goldman brief. ''Not only is price competition down from a year ago,'' he added, ''but trend or (health care) inflation is also up and appears to be rising. The incumbent carriers seem more willing than ever to walk away from existing business resulting in some carrier changes.''

The report also indicated that employers are reducing benefit levels, in some cases by adding deductibles for prescription drug coverage in addition to co-payments, and raising other out-of-pocket costs for employees as a way of lowering the cost of insurance without increasing annual premiums and employee contributions to them.

Kathleen Sebelius, the secretary of health and human services, is expected to discuss the Goldman analysis on two Sunday television talk shows, ''Meet the Press'' on NBC and ''This Week'' on ABC.

In his call with Goldman, Mr. Lewis said beneficiaries were feeling the brunt of the changes to existing policies. ''Visually to employees, they're fairly significant,'' he said.

But the report also sounded cautionary notes that the administration will probably not want to highlight.

Asked by Goldman analysts about the effort to pass major health care legislation, Mr. Lewis said many employers experiencing increases in their insurance costs were nonetheless apprehensive about the president's proposal.

''They're very mixed in their reaction, quite candidly consistent with what we're seeing in the polling numbers by party lines,'' Mr. Lewis said. ''I think most people would acknowledge that there's a need for health care reform; employers continue to be very frustrated. So when they look at what the Obama administration and the Democratic majority state as their goals to increase access and lower cost and rail at what may be termed oligopolistic behavior of carriers in certain markets, I think employers really buy in to that message and have much of that frustration and anger at our lack of solutions.''

And yet, he said, there is little enthusiastic support from employers for the Democrats' proposals.

''Many of them still view the legislation and the partisanship coming out of Washington as possibly the medicine worse than the disease,'' he said. ''So many employer groups that we're talking to feel like it would be a shame to lose an opportunity to do something with respect to health care reform. But many are starting to feel like maybe nothing is better than something in this current environment.''

[From Goldman Sachs, Mar. 3, 2010]

AMERICAS: MANAGED CARE—A FRONT-LINE PERSPECTIVE ON 2010 COMMERCIAL PRICE & PRODUCT TRENDS

TRANSCRIPT FROM OUR SIXTH ANNUAL CALL WITH STEVE LEWIS

We hosted our seventh-annual industry expert conference call with Steve Lewis, regional leader for the employee benefits practice of Willis, the third largest insurance broker in the world. The call provided a front-line perspective on 2010 industry pricing and product trends, with a focus on the key middle-market segment of the industry.

A transcript of the conference call is provided in the body of this report.

INDUSTRY PRICE DISCIPLINE HAS STRENGTHENED FURTHER

Two years ago, Lewis and his team were one of the few industry sources pointing (correctly) to aggressive pricing by the carriers in a lead up to severe margin deterioration experienced in 1H2008. Then, a year ago, Lewis and his team pointed to stronger pricing discipline by most of the public companies (though with some outliers). Now, Lewis and his team find price discipline has strengthened noticeably further.

OUR VIEW IS THAT THE INDUSTRY DOWNCYCLE IS BOTTOMING

We note that the improvement in commercial industry pricing discipline has emerged from multiple industry sources over the past 18 months. Our view is that it reflects a recovery from the severity of under-pricing during the recent industry down-cycle that we think is now bottoming.

With the group, our favorite names are UNH and CI, both CL-Buy rated. That said, ours is a sector call as we see a ''rising tide lifting all boats'' as: (1) the cycle turn shows in reserve building this year, with margin expansion next year, (2) health reform uncertainty recedes, and (3) the headwind to earnings from negative operating leverage eases as we anniversary the severe member drop of 2009.

TRANSCRIIPT OF CONFERENCE CALL WITH WILLIS

Matt Borsch, Goldman Sachs:

Good morning, everyone. Thanks for joining us today for the Goldman Sachs Managed Care Industry Expert Conference Call with Steve Lewis of employer benefit consulting firm Willis. This will represent our 7th annual conference call with Steve Lewis.

Steve and his team have agreed to give us frontline perspective on 2010 managed care pricing and product trends. As background, Willis is the third largest insurance broker in the world with approximately 350 million in employee benefits revenues in North America with a focus on the middle market employer segment.

That focus is particularly valuable given the lack of visibility on the segment from the other health benefit consulting firms. And let me just elaborate on that. The context is that national employer benefit consultants such as Hewitt, Mercer, Towers Perrin, and others really focus their attention on the jumbo employer segment, which is overwhelmingly a fee-based non-risk model.

However, the biggest earnings driver for the managed care companies are the fully insured risk lives, and those are mostly through the small and mid-size employers that buy through health insurance brokers. And we found that the brokers typically lack the scale and sophistication to have a good perspective on macro industry trends.

However, as healthcare coverage has become more and more of a significant outlay for employers, they've needed greater expertise but are often under served by the national benefit consultants that focused on

jumbo employers, so that's where Willis has built its focus, serving as a high service benefit consultant for the middle-sized employers.

With that as an intro, let me reintroduce our guest speaker Steve Lewis, executive vice president at Willis and regional practice leader. As background, Steve has 20 years of experience in the employer benefits industry and previously served as a national account executive with Oxford Health Plans, and also worked previously as a consultant with Hewitt Associates.

With that, I'll turn it over to Steve to kick it off. Following that, I will serve as moderator for a series of topical questions, and then, we will open it up to investor Q&A.

Steve Lewis, Willis HRH:

Good morning, Matt. Thank you again, for hosting us on this call. As always, I enjoy the opportunity to do this with you each year. I also want to publicly acknowledge and thank our team here for their support. The insight that I'll provide today and have previously provided is largely the amalgamation of information that's developed from our team working day in and day out with clients throughout the country.

I would add that my comments on this call will be directly based on my team's experiences and do not necessarily reflect the experience of my Willis colleagues from around the country.

Borsch:

Thank you for that, Steve. Let me jump right in here with, perhaps, the most important question from the standpoint of institutional investors looking at the sector, and that is, what are you seeing in terms of competition between the carriers, specifically relative to last year or two years ago or whatever you want to use as the baseline, has price competition increased or decreased?

Lewis:

As a specific answer to that, we would say, price competition is down from year ago. An overall theme that we would characterize this year, meaning, when I say this year, the just completed January 1 renewals, and continuing up and through today. We feel this is the most challenging environment for us and our clients in my 20 years in the business.

Not only is price competition down from year ago (when we had characterized last year's price competition as being down from the prior year), but trend or (healthcare) inflation is also up and appears to be rising. The incumbent carriers seem more willing than ever to walk away from existing business resulting in some carrier changes.

And that's a significant adjustment from last year where we saw aggressive pricing on the renewal front but not so much on the new business front. And then I'd say the other real theme is we've seen some service levels that have gapped among few of the major players which has further increased switching of carriers.

Borsch:

Let me move on to the next question here. If you look at the landscape, what role do you see Third Party Administrators or TPAs playing in the competitive landscape? And I guess this gets down to a related question if you could address between the employer decision to self-fund or go with the fully insured purchase, are employers shifting one way or the other.

Lewis:

Yes, I think taking the Third Party Administrator piece first, as in prior years, we've seen little to no new penetration in our client base from the TPAs. There's still an occasional place for them in the marketplace, but fewer and farther between in our opinion.

The networks have expanded to the extent across the country that there is now very significant overlap, and the TPA discounts no longer really compete with what the major managed care carriers have been able to do from a network standpoint.

With respect to the second part of your question (related to the self-funding versus fully insured question), our clients primarily seem to want certainty in this economic environment with respect to their healthcare spend.

So, unless they have either a reasonable track record of consistent and relatively predictable claim patterns, clients that we expect to be fully insured are still largely biased in that direction, and those that are on the fence as to whether they should be fully insured or self-funded seem to, again, be biased more towards the fully insured product.

I would add that where we have had increased conversations is with our smaller client segment that are increasingly frustrated with what we call blind renewals, meaning, no claims data, and experiencing large increases on top of no claims data.

As a result, there's absolutely increased interest at the smaller client segment in evaluating potential self-funding with stop loss protection.

Borsch:

Getting back into the topic of the competitive dynamics, can you touch on how criteria other than price play a role in carrier competition, whether that's in fully insured or self-insured or to the extent you draw a distinction, and to the extent that maybe that's changed or not changed a little bit versus a year or two ago?

Lewis:

Yes, I think, as we've talked about in prior calls, price remains king in the middle market, and is probably queen as well. Factors that can be a tie breaker other than price would include network disruption to the specific population; market perception of the competitive carrier's reputation; product flexibility, meaning willingness to allow prescription drug carve-outs; ability to provide detailed reporting in a certain employee population level, and funding arrangements offered. Not just the self-funded versus fully insured argument but some of the hybrids or the more creative solutions within the fully insured marketplace such as minimum premium or participating contracts in the fully insured environment.

Those things taken together can all factor in as tie breakers with respect to how employers are evaluating carriers. But even still, price certainly remained the most significant driver.

I would add one thing; you asked how it's changed from prior years. I think last year on this call, we talked specifically about the playing field that was fairly level on the service end of the equation and as I mentioned at my opening comment, we have seen a bit of gapping with respect to the services at some carriers. And that is driving employers to certainly take a look at what's available on the marketplace. Then again, finding that there's not a lot of aggressive price competition, the service disruption would have to be fairly significant for somebody to move knowing that they're not going to be able to trade down pricing very significantly.

Borsch:

Is it the case that the service disruptions that you've seen in some instances are severe enough to reach the threshold where they switch?

Lewis:

The short answer is yes. We have seen some of that, and I think we've seen it at a lower price threshold than what we would've seen in the past.

Borsch:

Let me move to a slightly different topic here, and obviously, the background here is the severe recession that was certainly having an impact when we talked a year ago. But, now we've been through a lot more pain even though the economy is showing signs of recovery. A lot of the impacts of these types of things are lagged.

So, I guess, it's sort of a general question how significant a role has the recession played in the clients' product managed care strategies. And, what have you seen in terms of the overall group enrollment changes related to that? It's sort of a high level question there, but trying to understand what the impact of the severe recession has been on the way employers look at things, buy things, and on enrollment?

Lewis:

Yes, I'd say, it's a great question and an interesting one particularly as we look at this market. You mentioned the lag factor and the timing of the stock market drop of mid-September 2008 was fairly late in the game to impact many employers' January 2009 strategies. So, most were not making any significant benefit changes, and/or made the specific decision to hold the line when it came to health benefits at the end of the day due to the freezes or cutbacks in other areas such as pay, 401K matches, and staffing levels.

So this year, I think, we saw a lot of employers saying, they were not going to make that mistake again or very early on in 2009 looking back and saying, if I had to do it over again, I probably would've made more drastic changes and not held the line with health benefits.

So, it is a bit ironic that they didn't—a lot of employers chose not to make the change last year when we were in the deepest part of the recession. But this past year the renewal process started much, much earlier for employers even knowing that the sooner they started, the more impact trend uncertainty would have on their renewal.

Strategic planning just started much earlier, and employers wanted to see just about every option under the sun both in terms of pricing, plan design, extreme options, really hedging themselves trying to get some clarity as to what their options were with respect to health benefits, because they didn't have clarity on either the direction of the market, the economy, or even their own specific prospects.

So, as I mentioned at the outset, it was without a doubt the most challenging renewal cycle in my 20 years of this business with employers really struggling with how and what was going to drive their decision combined with the lack of aggressive and competitive pricing in the marketplace.

I think, to your last point about how that may have impacted group enrollment, I'm not sure I have anything significant statistically to share with you today. However, anecdotally, I would say that enrollment is down across our book of business. We looked at 2009 going into the year and planned for the enrollment on our client base to be down 10 percent, and I would say that was fairly accurate.

Borsch:

You alluded to something I just wanted to clarify—it may be that this isn't measurable, but on the question of adverse selection (and, here, we're talking about the employer market, not the individual market), you alluded to the potential that some employees might be more likely not to take up coverage or, in fact, to discontinue employer subsidized coverage, because even though it is subsidized it

can be a very sizable chunk out of their pay for a benefit package that may look less attractive after some of the changes the employers have made.

So, to the extent you can infer if you're seeing any of that (and, related to that, the COBRA uptake), has that been something that you measure? Has it come up in how the carriers have presented their pricing? Finally, do you have any sort of visibility on whether that trend is increasing or abating?

Lewis:

Let me take the first part on something I've alluded to about the potential for adverse selection due to younger, healthier folks dropping and/or not selecting coverage to begin with. You know, I think it depends a bit on the demographics of the population, the type of industry; our clients really span just about every industry out there.

So is adverse selection on the rise in the group market? I would say it is, but I don't have any data to back that up, but just based on the fact that the population is down 10 percent across our book. And we look how the census in those client populations has shifted. I would suggest that there is: I don't want to overstate it because I'm not sure it's significant at this point, but I certainly would see some creep, if you will on adverse selection.

I think that ties to your second point about COBRA uptake. We did not keep specific statistics on the extent of COBRA uptake. But we certainly saw it across the board, in our client base, and we certainly believe that it is impacting the pricing that our clients are experiencing.

Borsch:

Given what you're facing from a more conservative underwriting environment amongst the carriers, how are you leveraging or seeking to leverage current market conditions to your clients' advantage in renewal negotiations?

Lewis:

Well, as stated the outset, and probably ad nauseum at this point and it's been a tough year.

Carriers were very selective in going after new business, and incumbents were willing to walk away from existing clients. So we had to be incredibly creative in our negotiation tactics as well as in our strategic advice with clients. And again, it was something that fortunately for us, in the process, we did start early and while it consumed a lot of energy from all of the stakeholders it was probably the year of creativity.

With respect to negotiation tactics, one of the interesting things is that we seemed to have seen a bit of a bifurcation in the marketplace at the plus or minus 300–employee size.

In the groups under 300 employees, many of them don't have or are unable to get control of their claims data either as a result of the products they've purchased or just underwriting guidelines at the carrier level where they don't have complete control of their claims data. In that under 300–market place, there was very little competition and very high renewals right out of the gates.

However, in the over 300–employee market, if the claims data was available and in a detailed way and you could make a story about that claim's pattern and possibly make adjustments for a spike—a one-time spike. Then, you would see competition pick up. But again, it was very selective and certainly not anything we would characterize as overly aggressive.

Borsch:

This lead in to the next question: Can you generalize about what is the average rate increase that you're observing: both the initial carrier request and the final end point, post negotiation and plan changes? And can you tell us about the extent of plan benefit reductions in achieving final results for your clients?

Lewis:

Averages are tough, you're right, and probably don't tell a very good story and some clients look at that and say, wow, how did you get that average? I must've been the high person. But the range was all over the place and fairly extreme. I'd say we settled in a range, on our book of business, from a 5% reduction to a 50% increase.

But generally speaking, we were in low to mid-teens out of the gates, and this is where the real challenges begin. Because negotiations generated no more than one to one and a half points with no plan changes. And so it's almost like you were getting a first and final and you had to dig through the renewals to find a mistake.

That's less movement than we've had in each of the prior years and certainly, not turned in the right direction from our clients' perspective.

Borsch:

But on the benefit plan changes that your clients have implemented, would you say those are more substantial today than what you saw a year ago?

Lewis:

I would say that incrementally the changes are more substantial, but visually to employees, they're fairly significant. You know, just about everybody did something this year. And it did vary as you would imagine by the extent of the renewal and the existing plan structure, but things like 100% co-insurance are virtually gone.

Borsch:

Yes.

Lewis:

What we saw was a lot of tweaking, where we'd see the employers bifurcating the primary and specialist co-payments, adding prescription drug deductibles on top of co-payments, and really focusing on plan changes first and foremost before looking at impacting employee contributions.

Investor Question:

You talked about client renewal process starting earlier as the planning process started earlier. Does that mean the contracts are actually being signed earlier and therefore the carriers will have more visibility into the premium yield this year compared to previous years?

Lewis:

Great question. The answer is no. The contracts are not renewing any earlier, just the negotiation process. So, in our world, generally speaking, we would look to get a renewal (depending on the size of the group) from 90 to 120 days before the expiration of a renewal.

This year, clients were looking to us (and to a certain extent from the carriers) to extend that to 6 months out: where we start predicting where the renewal is going to end up. And to the extent that the carriers were willing to provide a preliminary renewal, they have to load in a lot of trend because they have to make guesses on the claims going forward.

And then as you move closer to the expiration date, they offset trend with the wrong claims experience. So nobody was renewing or signing contracts earlier, they were just dragging the process out much, much longer from both the carrier side and the employer side.

Borsch:

Let me ask a question, and hopefully, this is isn't repetitive, but in the market studies that you've reviewed, how wide have the gaps been between the different carriers? Have you noted one carrier or groups of carriers relative to the others that have been especially aggressive or perhaps overly conservative that stand out?

Lewis:

The short answer is no. I think in particular situations, we've seen a couple of carriers be more aggressive than others. But I'm putting quotes around more aggressive because we're generally in the three to five percent range between pricing from where an incumbent renewal might be and what might be considered aggressive.

Now, there were few exceptions on some of our larger middle market clients, as I've mentioned earlier, with very clean data, stable business, perhaps a one-year blip with the incumbent that cause the incumbent to get skittish and want to shut the business and a competitor to come in and price it more aggressively. But as a general rule, Matt, we were in a pretty tight range during the market study process.

Borsch:

We've talked in prior years about tracking the gradually growing interest in the consumer-directed health plan products. Where you would say we stand now? Have you seen the uptake increase meaningfully as a result of all the pressure of the last year? And, you know, if you can offer a little bit of a forecast, do you think that may change going into 2011?

Lewis:

Yes. Surprisingly, we have not seen a significant shift towards the consumer directive plan. Across the board, it's now an option for most employer groups. And the clients that have offered it for the longest period of time (call it three-plus years) are now exceeding double-digits, but that's the low double-digits for enrollment as an option.

New offerings continue to generate very low enrollments out of the gates with still almost no full replacements at this point. I think the one shift we have seen is a swing towards health reimbursement accounts and away from health savings accounts that more employer-friendly. And employers are doing more to tie their wellness rewards and strategies to their health reimbursements accounts.

So I'd say if you ask about a crystal ball, really the tying of wellness and to focus on improving the health of a population, then consumer health plans tied to an HRA account is where we see this market moving and really the potential for the biggest surge.

Borsch:

Let me just conclude with one last one I want to throw at you here, Steve. This has been tremendous insight that you've brought for us so I want to thank you. On health reform, obviously, this is a huge thing in the background but it's a practical matter, but it doesn't necessarily have that much day-to-day impact on things.

But to what extent is health reform something that the employers are looking at? Are they talking to you about it? Have you got ''two cents'' on where opinions fall amongst employers about what they would like to see happen relative to what's been presented in Washington?

Lewis:

Yes, we are talking to our clients a lot about it. There is a lot of what I would call academic interest at this stage of the game. They're very mixed in their reaction, quite candidly consistent with what we're seeing in the polling numbers by party lines.

I think most people would acknowledge that there's a need for healthcare reform,

employers continue to be very frustrated. So when they look at what the Obama administration and the Democratic Majority state as their goals to increase access and lower cost and rail at what maybe termed oligopolistic behavior of carriers in certain markets, I think employers really buy in to that message and have much of that frustration and anger at our lack of solutions.

But I would also say that many of them still view the legislation and the partisanship coming out of Washington as possibly the medicine worse than the disease. So, many employer groups that we're talking to feel like it would be a shame to lose an opportunity to do something with respect to healthcare reform. But many are starting to feel like maybe nothing is better than something in this current environment.

Borsch:

This is probably a good place to end our call. Steve, thank you very much. This is really a great frontline perspective on industry trends and I want to thank you and your firm Willis, and also thank our investor clients who dialed in.

Lewis:

Thank you, Matt. I appreciate it.

[From the Huffington Post, Mar. 8, 2010]

GOLDMAN TO PRIVATE INSURERS: NO HEALTH CARE REFORM AT ALL IS BEST

(By Sam Stein)

What's Your Reaction?

A Goldman Sachs analysis of health care legislation has concluded that, as far as the bottom line for insurance companies is concerned, the best thing to do is nothing. A close second would be passing a watered-down version of the Senate Finance Committee's bill.

A study put together by Goldman in mid-October looks at the estimated stock performance of the private insurance industry under four variations of reform legislation. The study focused on the five biggest insurers whose shares are traded on Wall Street: Aetna, UnitedHealth, WellPoint, CIGNA and Humana.

The Senate Finance Committee bill, which Goldman's analysts conclude is the version most likely to survive the legislative process, is described as the ''base'' scenario. Under that legislation (which did not include a public plan) the earnings per share for the top five insurers would grow an estimated five percent from 2010 through 2019. And yet, the ''variance with current valuation''—essentially, what the value of the stock is on the market—is projected to drop four percent.

Things are much worse, Goldman estimates, for legislation that resembles what was considered and (to a certain extent) passed by the House of Representatives. This is, the firm deems, the ''bear case'' scenario—in which earnings per share for the top five insurers would decline an estimated one percent from 2010 through 2019 and the variance with current valuation is projected to be negative 36 percent.

What the firm sees as the best path forward for the private insurance industry's bottom line is, to be blunt, inaction.

The study's authors advise that if no reform is passed, earnings per share would grow an estimated ten percent from 2010 through 2019, and the value of the stock would rise an estimated 59 percent during that time period.

The next best thing for the insurance industry would be if the legislation passed by the Senate Finance Committee is watered down significantly. Described as a ''bull case'' scenario—in which there is ''moderation of provisions in the current SFC plan'' or ''changes prior to the major implementation in 2013''—earnings per share for the five biggest insurers would grow an estimated 10 percent and the variance with current valuation would rise an estimated 47 percent.

The report, a Goldman official stressed, was analytic not advocacy-based. Their job was to provide a sober assessment of the market realities facing private insurers under various versions of health care reform.

''If no reform at all happens you would see the largest rise in EPS,'' a Goldman official acknowledged. ''But what we are doing is just analyzing what the stocks would do under different scenarios.''

The study does note on the front page that the firm ''does and seeks to do business with companies covered in its research reports.'' Those companies include Aetna, Wells Point and United Health.

In the context of the current health care debate, the findings provide a small window into the concerns that have driven the private insurance industry's opposition to reform legislation. Simply put: health care reform is going to hurt their bottom line. No less a prestigious voice than Goldman Sachs is telling them so.

Some insurers, in the end, will be hit harder than others. CIGNA is the lowest of the big five, for instance, because it does little business providing insurance plans to Medicare patients, individuals and families buying health plans directly, or small employers that offer health plans to their workers.

In addition, some reforms are going to hurt the industry more than others. Regulatory changes—such as prohibiting the prejudice against consumers with pre-existing conditions—will have an impact across the board, as will the funding cuts to Medicare Advantage.

Overall, Goldman calculates the probability of reform passing Congress at 75 percent. Though the limitations of Goldman's political prognostications were on full display earlier in the document:

By mid-late October, we expect a cloture vote (60 votes) to bypass a potential filibuster followed by several weeks of debate over proposed amendments on the Senate floor (with a similar process under way in the House). If both the Senate and House are able to pass legislation (perhaps before the Thanksgiving recess), a House-Senate conference negotiation should produce combined legislation for final approval (perhaps by mid-December).

[From Goldman Sachs, Oct. 19, 2009]

AMERICA'S MANAGED CARE—10 YEARS OF HEALTH REFORM

WE HAVE PUBLISHED A NEW 10-YEAR INDUSTRY MODEL

As we near the final weeks for health reform efforts in Congress, we have published a new, interactive 10 year model to forecast potential impact.

WE NOW FORECAST 2010–2019 EPS GROWTH OF 5% UNDER HEALTH REFORM

Under our ''base'' case scenario, we forecast core managed care earnings growth would be cut by 50% over the next decade under implementation of the current Senate Finance Committee reform plan. Specifically, we see sector EPS growth at approximately 5% per year under health reform (2010–2019) as compared to 10% EPS growth with no health reform.

We also consider a ''bear'' case scenario for reform that would drive declining EPS for the sector in aggregate over the next decade. The reform measures that would most negatively impact earnings growth are funding cuts to Medicare Advantage and strict new regulations for the individual and small group business. These would be partly offset by the positive impact of expanded insurance coverage under reform.

UNDER REFORM, 8% EPS GROWTH FOR CIGNA, −2% FOR HUMANA

Under our ''base'' case scenario for reform, our company-level forecasts for 10 year EPS range from a 2% decline per year for Humana (owing to its Medicare Advantage exposure) to growth of 8% per year for CIGNA and Aetna (owing to their concentration of earnings from larger employers).

NEUTRAL ON MANAGED CARE; CIGNA REMAINS OUR FAVORITE

We remain Neutral on core managed care although our bias is increasingly for sector upside given the 20% fall in valuations over the past 5 weeks. CIGNA remains our favorite with by far the least downside risk exposure to health reform even as the stock trades at a valuation discount to the group. We also recommend UnitedHealth and Health Net (both Buy rated).

RISK-REWARD HAS BECOME MORE FAVORABLE WITH LOWER VALUATIONS

Health reform outcomes: probability, earnings growth and implied return.

	Probability	EPS growth 2010–19E	Expected valuation	Variance w/current valuation
No reform	25%	10%	12.5x	59%
Reform ''bull'' case	10%	10%	11.5x	47%
Reform. ''base'' case	55%	5%	7.5x	−4%
Reform: ''bear'' case	10%	−1%	5.0x	−36%
Probability-weighted		6%	8.9x	13%
Current sector valuation			7.8x	

Source: FactSet, Goldman Sachs Research estimates.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for such time as I shall consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me respond to a couple of the remarks of my good friend from Illinois. I listen to this all the time, people talking about during the Bush administration, the costs that have gone up, the deficits and all this stuff. I appreciate the fact that the Senator from Illinois did state that the situation was a little different when President Bush came into office because, of course, 9/11 happened and we ended up in a couple wars. But that is understating the situation.

Right after the Clinton administration—I remember it so well—I was a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee at that time and actually was a member of the House Armed Services Committee when President Clinton first came in. The euphoric attitude everyone had at that time was that the war is over. Remember we talked about the peace dividend and all this stuff. The war is over and we no longer need to have a strong national defense. That is what they were saying, though they used different words. They started cutting our defense system. I have a chart that shows what happened to—the demise of our ability to defend ourselves during the Clinton administration. We went through the same thing back during the Carter administration. People remember the hollow force at that time.

During the Clinton administration, we started degrading our military. It was reduced by 40 percent from what it was when he took office during those 8 years. When I say 40 percent reduction, I am talking about end strength, military expenditures. The problem President Bush had when he came into office was not just that two wars broke out, but they broke out when we had a defense system that had been reduced by 40 percent.

The second thing that happened during that time—and this is by admission—I remember Senator Gore had made the statement prior to that that the recession actually started in March of the previous year before the second Bush administration started. It is kind of an interesting thing. People forget that for every 1 percent drop in economic activity, that translates into about $40 billion of lost revenue. Turning that around, for every 1 percent increase in economic activity, that increases revenues about $40 billion when that happens.

Of course, we started out with a reduced military, negotiating two wars, and with a recession at the same time. Obviously, that had very adverse effects.

Before I get carried away with the remarks of the Senator from Illinois, that he voted against going into the Iraq war, let me remind my fellow Senators that I happened to have been privileged, right after the first gulf war—that was when Saddam Hussein—all the atrocities had taken place, and we had what we called the first freedom flight. That is when we went back into Kuwait to see what the situation was in Kuwait. It was so close to the end of the war that the Iraqis didn't realize the war was over. They were still fighting. You remember they were burning the oilfields and the wind would shift. All of a sudden, it would be daytime, and it would turn into night. I remember going back there. I was with nine other people. There were some Democrats. Tony Coelho, former whip of the House, was there. Alexander Haig, a man we revere, the man I always thought should have been President, was there. We were watching and looking to see the remnants of the first gulf war.

I had a young girl with me who had fled Kuwait. She was a royalty. She was going back. She wanted to see if a palace on the Persian Gulf was still there. When we got there, we found out that it had been used by Saddam Hussein as one of his headquarters. She wanted to go up in her bedroom. She was 7 years old, and she wanted to see if her animals were still there. They had used her bedroom for a torture chamber. There were body parts stuck to the walls. A little kid had his ears cut off because he was caught carrying an American flag.

I can remember the mass graves. We looked at the mass graves where Saddam Hussein had tortured these people. When he had them sentenced to death, some begged to be dropped—eased into the acid vats head first so they would die quicker. I mean, this is the type of thing that was taking place. Here is a guy who had actually murdered hundreds of thousands of his own people up in the Kurd area by the most painful way of dying. So to suggest we should not have gone back in to finish him off I think is unacceptable.

Before I finish responding to the comments made by the Senator from Illinois, I would only mention, when he talked about how George W. Bush came into office and he cut taxes for the rich and all that, I recall one time in history—actually, it has happened several times in history; it happened right after World War I—they passed tax increases to support the war and when the war was over, they said, we can now repeal the taxes. They repealed the taxes, and it didn't reduce revenue, it increased revenue. That is something that was kind of forgotten until one of the great Presidents came along, John Kennedy.

During the Great Society days he said we are going to have to have increased revenue to pay for all of these Great Society programs. He said the best way to increase revenue is to decrease marginal rates, so he did. Remember, he dropped them down from I think 90 percent to 70 percent or something like that, and during the next 6 years taxes went down and we had the increase in the revenue, which was phenomenal. The last time I checked, President John Kennedy was a Democrat, not a Republican. So I don't know how they forgot that along the way.

We saw when Reagan came into office, he actually made those dramatic cuts as well. I remember—I am going from memory now—but the amount of money that came in from marginal rates in 1980 when President Reagan took office was $244 billion. When he left office, it was $488 billion. It doubled in that period of time, the largest tax reductions in history. Revenues increased when tax reductions went down. Anyway, that all ended when the Clinton administration came in. We all remember the 1993 tax increases, the greatest tax increases in about four decades. That is when they increased them on everything.

The bottom line is, yes, he did cut taxes and that had the effect of increasing revenues. I think when we talk about the deficit, as the Senator from Illinois mentioned, that was inherited by this President, President Obama, we have to remember that the deficits during the Bush administration, if you add them all up, were a little bit more than the deficit in the first year of the Obama administration.

As far as his comments about the $787 billion stimulus bill, that wouldn't have been that bad of an idea. I opposed it, of course, but it didn't stimulate. It had all of this social engineering in there, all of the equal distribution of wealth, yet I tried to add an amendment on there which was cosponsored by Senator BOXER to increase, quadruple the amount of money that went into roads and highways. It didn't work. They defeated it. So it could have had the opportunity to do something.

The last thing I would say about the government-run system is I thought it was interesting when the Senator from Illinois talked about the wonderful opportunities I have and he has in choosing from the private sector good coverages. I think what he is describing is what we have today. I agree with what he said in that respect. But when you talk about a system that is very similar to the Canadian system, all you have to do is go up in the northern part of the United States, go to Mayo Clinic and look at the number of people there who have come down from Canada because they can't get the health care they want in that kind of government-run system. So I would agree with my friend from Alabama when he was talking about describing what we are up against.

That is not why I came to the floor this evening. I have come to introduce a bill.

(The remarks of Mr. INHOFE pertaining to the introduction of S. 3095 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3430, AS FURTHER MODIFIED

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding its adoption, the Isakson amendment be further modified, with the changes at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is further modified by striking the word ''ending'' on pages 58, 63, and 67 and inserting the word ''beginning''.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4213 and all postcloture time be considered expired, and upon disposition of the pending amendments, no further amendments or motions be in order; the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 4213, as amended, with the mandatory quorum waived; that if cloture is invoked, then all postcloture time be yielded back, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I voted against waving a budget point of order to the Murray/Kerry amendment on the grounds that it is not paid for and contained terrible welfare and Medicare policies.

The Congress cannot keep spending money it does not have. It is unconscionable to put forth an amendment that is not being paid for at a time of exploding deficits to an underlying bill that already has another $104 billion not paid for.

In addition to adding to the deficit during a fiscal crisis, the underlying Murray/Kerry amendment perpetuates flawed welfare policies that undermine key principles of welfare reform.

The Murray/Kerry amendment perpetuates the fund established in the stimulus bill that, for the first time since the landmark 1996 welfare reform act, rewards States for increasing their welfare caseload and does not require these additional eligible adults to participate in work, education or training activities.

This in turn adds to the current deplorable situation where, according to the latest data we have from the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. average for eligible adults receiving welfare doing nothing is 56 percent.

That is right—on average 56 percent of adults receiving welfare are engaged in zero hours of work, training or education activity. Some States have over 70 percent of eligible adults doing nothing.

That is zero hours of job search. Zero hours of education. Zero hours of substance abuse treatment. Zero hours of job training. Zero hours of subsidized work activities.

I bet if you asked the American people—how many adults on welfare should be doing something to qualify for their welfare check—I bet the answer would be: all of them!

I bet if the American people knew that the majority of adults on welfare were doing nothing, they would be as stunned and appalled as I am.

We need to do better by these families. Allowing them to languish in the soul crushing, deep and persistent poverty of welfare is a travesty. The Murray/Kerry amendment does nothing to address the issue that the majority of adults on welfare are not doing anything to get themselves out of poverty.

That makes no sense, Mr. President, and I cannot support it.

Finally, in addition to the misguided welfare policies, I also had reservations about the use of ''intelligent assignment'' in Part D to pay for this amendment. I fully support efforts to make sure vulnerable populations are in the lowest cost plan that meets their personal health care needs and look forward to continuing to work on this issue in the future. But the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, and MedPAC commissioners have raised concerns that ''intelligent assignment'' could lead to increased disruption, higher costs and little overall improvement for beneficiaries.

Therefore, I opposed waving the Budget Act that would have allowed the Murray/Kerry amendment to undermine welfare policy, advance misguided Medicare policy and increase the deficit.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day—an occasion that celebrates the many contributions women have made to our communities, societies, and nations. Women have made great progress, but the sad reality is that women around the world are not participating equally in business or politics, are not paid the equivalent of their male counterparts, and are more likely to be denied educational opportunities, property ownership, and other basic rights.

The inequities facing women today represent some of the world's greatest global-development challenges. Investing in women is vital to the world's growth potential. I have introduced two bills this Congress that take important steps towards equity and human rights for women worldwide.

In July 2009, I introduced the Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive—GROWTH—Act of 2009. The GROWTH Act is designed to reduce these economic inequities in developing countries. By providing women with the economic resources to start and grow their own businesses, the GROWTH Act would create broad educational, legal, and community-based programs that would promote female property ownership and empower women in their communities.

Today, women account for 64 percent of adults who lack basic literacy skills, 70 percent of the hungry, and 56 percent of those subject to forced labor.

Women typically invest 90 percent of their income back into their household compared to only 30 to 40 percent by men. Developing programs that allow women to increase their education and thrive professionally is good for the family, as well as the woman.

In May 2009, I also introduced the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. This bill sets out to strategically eliminate the harmful practice of child marriage overseas. Child marriage poses a direct threat to investments in education for girls overseas, HIV/AIDS prevention, poverty reduction, maternal and child safety, and human rights.

Too often the potential of children and developing women is crushed by early marriage, sometimes occurring when girls are as young as 7 years of age. Child marriage is a direct challenge to guaranteeing equality and basic human rights to children and developing women around the globe.

International Women's Day calls on us to acknowledge the achievements of women, but it is also a reminder of the sometimes immovable barriers women in many countries still face. I commend my colleague Senator SHAHEEN for submitting S. Res. 433 recognizing International Women's Day. This resolution is a testament to the Senate's commitment to the advancement of women worldwide.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the International Women's Day.

Rooted in the long-term struggle for equality, International Women's Day has been observed since the beginning of the last century, at a time when American women were fighting for basic rights, such as voting or fair employment. We should commemorate the determined and courageous women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

While women have made hard fought and important strides towards equality since then, they continue to face significant obstacles in all aspects of their lives, particularly those living in poverty. Over a billion people worldwide live on a dollar a day or less—and women are most likely to be among them. This is a problem that affects all of humanity—when women are poor, entire communities suffer because they are not free to earn an income, feed their families, or protect themselves and their children from violence. And their efforts are critical to rebuilding countries in peril like Afghanistan and Haiti. Until women around the world have improved access to economic, political and social opportunities, the great challenges we face today will go unresolved.

Indeed, investing in women and girls is one of the most efficient uses of our foreign assistance dollars and best ways to make the world more peaceful

and prosperous. Decades of research and experience prove that women are more likely to invest their income in food, clean water, education, and health care for their children, creating a positive cycle of change that lifts entire families, communities and nations out of poverty. Simply put, when women succeed, we all do.

If we ignore these realities, the results will undoubtedly be negative. The statistics are staggering. A World Bank report confirms that societies that discriminate on the basis of gender pay the cost of greater poverty, slower economic growth, weaker governance, and a lower living standard of their people.

In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, less than 2 out of 10 women have a job with a regular income and lower economic risk. GNP per capita is far lower in countries where females are significantly less well educated than men. Also in sub-Saharan Africa, inequality between men and women in education and employment suppressed annual per capita growth between 1960 and 1992 by 0.8 percentage points per year. This is significant, as a boost of 0.8 percentage points per year would have doubled economic growth over that time period.

But when women's voices are fully included in societies and economies, the reverse is true. According to UNICEF, when women hold decision-making power, ''they see to it that their children eat well, receive adequate medical care and finish school. Women who have access to meaningful, income-producing work are more likely to increase their families' standards of living, leading children out of poverty.''

The World Bank states that, at the macroeconomic level, there is evidence that removing gender disparities spurs growth. According to one estimate, growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa would have been 30–45 percent higher had these regions closed the gender gaps during the school years as fast as East Asia did between 1960 and 1992.

The economic growth that can result from gender equality is exemplified by Eugenia Akuete. Eugenia grew up in Ghana surrounded by poverty and started making products from shea butter because she was looking for a way to earn money to help supplement her family's income. At first the market was difficult—she was only producing a small amount, she lacked necessary business and technical training and it was hard to get the shea butter soaps and lotions to U.S. customers. She eventually received training that focused on women's entrepreneurship.

Now she is earning a steady income and teaching other women to do the same by producing and selling shea butter. She has 10 employees, most of whom are women, who she pays above than the government minimum and going market rate. She also now employs 300 women in northern Ghana who gather nuts for the factory to convert into shea butter. Stressing that they are all connected to each other, she explained that it is in her best interest that everyone produce the best quality possible—so that all communities benefit.

When asked what she would like to tell Americans, Eugenia said that what women like her need most are tools so that they can help each other and themselves.''Yes, we need help,'' she said, ''[but] we are also responsible to other people so that we'll have a multiplying effect. I don't believe in freebies: part of the package of responsibility is that if you are helped you in turn have the responsibility to help someone else.''

As we in Congress and in the administration are moving forward with the vital process to revamp our foreign assistance, we have an opportunity to make women's empowerment a central focus of U.S. foreign policy. With these unprecedented plans as a backdrop, we should remember Eugenia when we are thinking of ways to maximize our foreign aid dollars. Because of the obvious multiplier effect, one of the best ways to do that is to ensure that women are empowered. Women's success always benefits more than one person.

While we should reflect on progress that women have made in pushing for greater rights and equal opportunities, we must be conscious we still have much to do in working towards greater global gender equality. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am committed to continuing to work with my colleagues to put women at the center of U.S. foreign assistance and to marshal all the resources necessary to achieve this goal.

ALASKAN OLYMPIANS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, from February 12 to February 28, Americans were united in cheering on some of our Nation's most elite athletes as they competed at the 22nd Winter Olympics in Vancouver. I commend all of our athletes for their exemplary performance and thank the coaches, the team leaders and the U.S. Olympic staff. With such a talented group of people working together, it is no surprise that the United States won a record breaking 37 medals. Americans watched with an extraordinary sense of pride as our flag was raised and our anthem played, and our fellow countrymen and women competed and won on an international stage. I am especially proud of the seven Alaskans that contributed their talent to their country and competed at these Winter Olympics.

Holly Brooks, the coach turned athlete, participated in her first ever Winter Olympics this year. Holly quickly became a beloved member of the Alaskan community after moving there from Seattle. Her work as a coach at Alaska Pacific University and subsequent Olympic success has been an inspiration to many of Alaska's young skiers. I know that Holly received an outpouring of support during her run up to qualifying for the Olympics from many of her fellow athletes and Alaskans led by her husband who made hundreds of ''Go Holly'' stickers for her supporters to wear. I wish Holly luck in her further competitions and hope that she will continue to be a great role model for the young people of Alaska.

Callan Chythlook-Sifsof is the first Alaska Native to be selected to the U.S. National Ski and Snowboard Team and the first to make an Olympic Team. Growing up in a small rural village on the coast of the Bering Sea, Callan learned to board on the mountains surrounding her home. In 2006, at age 17, she earned a position on the U.S. snowboard team and a bronze medal in her first World Cup Boardercross in Japan. She also received a bronze medal at the start of the 2009 season in the South America Continental Cup. Callan continues to quickly excel and is currently ranked No. 2 in the U.S. and No. 14 in the world in Ladies' Boardercross. I hope she continues to compete for many years to come and hopefully we will see her in 2014 in Sochi.

Jay Hakkinen is a familiar name in Alaska where he has been a professional biathlete for over 13 years and just finished his fourth Winter Olympics. Jay is one of the most accomplished U.S. biathletes in Olympic history and his 10th-place finish in the 20 Kilometer Individual at the 2006 Torino Games previously served as the benchmark for the U.S. in an individual event. Jay has shown his perseverance and persistence throughout his illustrious career as a biathlete. I know this is not the last we have heard of Jay and wish him luck as he finishes out the World Cup season.

Jeremy Teela surpassed Jay's benchmark this Olympic Games with his 9th place finish in the Men's 10 Kilometer Sprint. The 34-year-old biathlete from Anchorage is a three-time consecutive Olympian. However, his service to his country goes beyond his athletic talent as Jeremy is a sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard. As one of five soldier athletes competing in the Olympics, Jeremy and his other servicemembers remind us of the sacrifices that many young Americans have made in service to their country. Jeremy previously earned the bronze medal in the Men's 20 Kilometer in last year's World Cup and I hope he has similar success this year.

Kikkan Randal, the 27-year-old cross country skier from Anchorage, competed in her third consecutive Winter Olympic Games where she had her best-ever finish in the Women's 30 Kilometer Classic—finishing 24th. A former resident of Salt Lake City, UT, she moved at an early age to Anchorage with her family. She is also the niece of former Olympic cross country-skiers, Betsy Haines and Chris Haines, and

in 2007 she became the first American woman to ever win a cross-country World Cup Title.

During his second consecutive Winter Olympic Games, James Southam competed in three events, including the 50 Kilometer Classic where he achieved a personal best finishing in 28th place. James was born and raised in Anchorage and participates in training along with Holly Brooks and Kikkan Randall at the Alaska Pacific University Ski Center. The APU Ski Center was a vital source of support for these Olympic athletes and kept many Alaskans informed of their progress through their facebook page. James, Holly, and Kikkan are a tremendous inspiration for the other skiers at APU and I look forward to hearing of more of their successes over the years.

Our Olympic Silver medalist Kerry Weiland, from Palmer, is a fierce defender on the ice. Her intensity has earned her the nickname Kamikaze Kerry, because she has the ability to take out two players with one hit. Not only did Kerry's defense help lead the U.S. to a Silver medal, but the U.S. Women's Hockey team outscored their opponents 40–2 leading up to the gold-medal game. Kerry is also a dominant force on the U.S. National Team where she was a member of the 2008 Gold Medal World Championship team. She is also the founder and instructor of the Weiland Hockey Development in Ontario where she teaches young women the fundamentals of hockey, inspiring a new generation of female athletes.

I want to thank again all the U.S. Olympic athletes for all of their hard work and dedication. It is difficult to comprehend the high degree of training and commitment required to compete in the Olympic Games and we have watched in awe as they have inspired us with their achievements. As Alaskans, we are exceptionally proud of these individuals. We regard our athletes as role models in many ways, and the sportsmanship that all our American Olympians displayed during these games exemplified some of our Nation's most important values. Our athletes were humble in victory and gracious in defeat, and made all Americans proud. I thank these individuals for being such great ambassadors for Alaska and for America.

STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION TREATY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of our administration's efforts to negotiate a follow-on agreement to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, START. Our negotiating team in Vienna is currently working with the Russian delegation to finalize this agreement, and I look forward to reviewing the treaty when it is submitted to the Senate.

The United States and Russia maintain over 90 percent of the world's approximately 23,000 nuclear weapons. Each of these weapons has the capacity to destroy an entire city; collectively, they can destroy the world. The mere existence of these weapons creates the risk of a nuclear accident, unauthorized use, and theft by a terrorist group. The size and structure of the American and Russian nuclear arsenals reflect an antiquated Cold War mindset that we must move beyond.

It is in the national security interest of the United States to reach an agreement with Russia to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and ensure that strong verification and transparency measures remain in effect. This is the core purpose and focus of the START follow-on agreement.

The START follow-on agreement is an important component of our efforts to work with Russia and other international partners to collectively address the dangers posed by nuclear weapons. These dangers include the vulnerability of nuclear material to theft by terrorists, as well as the risk of nuclear proliferation by other countries.

Ratification of a START follow-on agreement would also be a clear signal that the United States is upholding our obligations under the nonproliferation treaty. It would reaffirm our leadership on nonproliferation issues and demonstrate, as the President has advocated, that we are serious about moving towards a world without nuclear weapons while maintaining a reliable deterrent for so long as it is needed. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity; without a demonstrated effort to fulfilling our nonproliferation responsibilities through a new START agreement, it will be increasingly difficult for the U.S. to secure the international support needed to address the urgent security threats posed by the spread of nuclear weapons.

The Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States concluded that ''terrorist use of a nuclear weapon against the United States or its friends and allies is more likely than deliberate use by a state.'' Our priority, therefore, should be to work together with Russia to reduce the size and vulnerability of our nuclear arsenals, and ensure that proper security and surveillance safeguards are in place.

Unfortunately, today Russia continues to possess huge stores of nuclear materials that are inadequately secured and which, if stolen by terrorists, could be used to destroy an American city. The size of our own nuclear arsenal is also unsustainable, both from a security and cost perspective, and should be tailored to the new 21st century threats we face.

The reductions required by the START follow-on agreement will not adversely affect our national security. The United States could pursue much deeper reductions in the size of our arsenal and still have more weapons that we would ever need. In fact, it is precisely the size of our nuclear arsenal and complex that makes them vulnerable to exploitation by terrorists. There is no longer any compelling national security reason to maintain or expand the size of our nuclear stockpile.

Nor is there any reason to continue to develop new nuclear weapon technologies or warheads. Our brightest experts have concluded that we no longer need new nuclear weapons in order to maintain a credible deterrent. A recent report from the independent JASON Defense Advisory Group concluded that, as a result of our nuclear laboratories' successful life-extension programs, the lifetimes of our nuclear warheads can be extended for decades.

I am encouraged that efforts to negotiate a START follow-on agreement have bipartisan support among national security experts. Notably, the bipartisan Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, headed by former Defense Secretaries William Perry and James Schlesinger, endorsed a follow-on agreement to START. Similarly, Secretary Perry joined with former Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn and former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz to pen an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal calling for the extension of the key provisions of START and further reductions in our nuclear stockpile.

In conclusion, I commend the administration for its efforts to reinvigorate the nonproliferation regime by negotiating a follow-on to the START treaty. We must act now to address the spread of nuclear weapons and materials, which is one of the gravest dangers facing the United States. In a time of terrorism and of rising international concern about Iran's nuclear program, international cooperation remains key to preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. The START follow-on agreement is an essential step towards that goal, and towards a world without nuclear weapons.

HAWAII'S TSUNAMI RESPONSE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I would like to commend the people of Hawaii for their quick response to the tsunami caused by the earthquake in Chile.

On Saturday, February 27, 2010, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile generated a tsunami throughout the Pacific. A tsunami warning was issued for Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the Marshall and Solomon Islands. Additionally, a tsunami advisory was issued for the west coast of the United States and Alaska.

My staff and I monitored the situation closely, and were in contact with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, and the Hawaii State Civil Defense. FEMA was monitoring the situation in Hawaii and the other

territories from the FEMA Region IX office in California and Region X office in Washington State. Supplies for any recovery effort in the Pacific are prepositioned in Hawaii at FEMA's Pacific Area Office warehouse, as well as in Guam and American Samoa. I worked to establish and maintain the FEMA Pacific Area Office headquartered in Honolulu in order to protect our isolated island communities. The office has been essential for preparedness efforts in Hawaii and critical for disaster response throughout the Pacific region.

Equally important, the actions of State and local officials and the people of Hawaii have demonstrated the value of citizen and community preparedness. Thanks to the efforts of the people of Hawaii, we were prepared to save lives and avert considerable damage had a large tsunami come ashore. Around 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, tsunami warning sirens sounded in Hawaii, which notified people to evacuate the low-lying areas. The people of Hawaii followed the directions of our local authorities, stayed calm, and evacuated all shorelines.

Hawaii is familiar with the destructive power of tsunamis. In 1960, a 9.5 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile generated a tsunami that killed over 60 people in Hawaii. More recently, Hawaii faced a disaster of a different kind, in 1992, when Hurricane Iniki caused billions of dollars in damage.

The Chilean earthquake reminded us that when a disaster occurs, we need to be prepared. Because Hawaii is isolated from the rest of the United States, it is even more critical that we are prepared to take care of ourselves. I want to congratulate the people of Hawaii, as well as Federal, State, and local authorities who successfully prepared for and responded to the tsunami.

While I am thankful for the tsunami's minimal impact on my home State, we cannot forget the tragedy in Chile. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by the earthquake.

SATELLITE TELEVISION EXTENSION AND LOCALISM ACT OF 2010

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to urge passage of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, or STELA, as part of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010.

Over the past 15 years, satellite television has grown into a strong competitor to cable by offering consumers in rural as well as urban markets a choice in pay television providers. Where residents once were limited to a single cable operator, satellite providers now offer most consumers an alternative. This has led to price and service competition, which is good for consumers. Congress supported such competition through the passage of the Satellite Home Viewer Act and its progeny, including the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act, or SHVERA. And now Congress has the same opportunity with passage of STELA, which reauthorizes and extends certain communications and copyright provisions.

A decade ago, Congress, recognizing that consumers want access to local news, weather, and community-oriented programming, established a mechanism by which satellite providers could offer local broadcast stations to residents in the local market. This means that when a satellite subscriber in Huntington, West Virginia tunes-in to CBS, PBS, ABC, FOX or NBC, they hear about events in the state capital and see the successes and trials of their neighbors—not the weather in Manhattan.

Recognizing the limits of satellite providers at the time, Congress did not require the companies to offer local channels to every market in the country. Over time, this has created a division between haves and have-nots in which satellite companies are not providing local channels to residents in the smallest markets.

In West Virginia, satellite subscribers in the Parkersburg and Wheeling markets cannot receive local channels from either satellite provider. In certain other markets in the State, only one provider offers local channels. Rural consumers deserve better.

That is why I am particularly pleased that STELA provides incentives to provide local service into all 210 markets across the county, which sets the stage for consumers in even the most rural regions to gain access to local news, sports, and community programming.

Another important provision of STELA changes existing law to promote the carriage of high-definition local public broadcasting stations and to make it easier for statewide public television networks, like that in West Virginia and 14 other States, to reach every resident of the States they serve.

As some broadcast television has become coarser and less informative, the importance of the mission and programming provided by public television has grown. STELA makes sure that more satellite subscribers will have access to the compelling programming available on public television.

Passage of STELA provides us with the opportunity to encourage greater competition and access to quality programming to consumers throughout the nation. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as we move closer than ever to enacting legislation that delivers on the promise of secure and affordable health care across America, it is important to remember what is at stake and whom we are fighting for.

Over the last year, I have told many of my colleagues about the Bord family of West Virginia and their son Samuel who suffered from leukemia.

Stories like the Bords' are a reminder that our work in Congress has a profound and personal impact on millions of lives every day. Each of us brings to this critical work the shared tragic and trying personal experiences of our friends and neighbors back home. They are real: These stories are a picture of people's lives and their pain. And we have an obligation to honor those struggles and sacrifices by working to make things better for everyone. Yet recently, radio host Rush Limbaugh sneered at the Bords' experience, describing it and other stories highlighted during last week's bipartisan health care summit as ''sob stories.'' Always the cynic, he dismissed them entirely, ''Can you believe these stories happen in America?'' These stories do happen in America—every day. And it is a shame that anyone could hear of this heartbreak and fail to recognize what it says so clearly about the terrible burden our failed health care policies have placed on countless families across this country.

Rich and Amy Bord of Fairmont, WV, are two dedicated schoolteachers with health insurance through their employer. Let me repeat that: They have health insurance. Their 9-year-old son, Samuel, suffered from leukemia, and he needed significant invasive medical therapy. They thought they were covered, only to learn that their policy had a million-dollar lifetime cap. A million dollars sounds like a lot of money—and it is—they surely never would have expected to exceed it. But health care costs are spiraling out of control and the reality is, health insurance companies don't want to cover sick people.

In addition to Samuel, the Bords have two young twin sons at home, and the entire family's health care decisions were impacted by Samuel's bills.

After multiple rounds of chemotherapy and a relapse that required additional treatment for Samuel, the Bords reached their insurance fund's cap. Even with the help of my office and from the Public Employees Insurance Agency to get supplemental coverage for the Bords, Samuel still needed surgery and lots of additional care. Soon they would be approaching the next cap on their supplemental coverage. So the Bords were left with only heart-wrenching suggestions—consider getting a divorce so that Samuel would qualify for Medicaid or stop taking their other children to the doctor altogether, even if they get sick, in order to save every penny for Samuel. That is right. Get a divorce or choose one child's health care needs over another's. Those are the suggestions our Nation offered to these caring, hard-working parents with a sick child?

They did everything in their power to save Samuel, but this fall, he passed away—and there are simply no words to ease his family's loss and pain.

I understand that, to many, circumstances like these may seem rare.

But I cannot tell you how many times, over the many years I have served as U.S. Senator and before that, Governor, that I heard families' desperate pleas for help because their medical needs could not be met.

It breaks my heart to think of what the Bords went through: not only the pain of watching their son fight a terrible disease but also the uncertainty of paying for his treatment when the coverage they counted on—and paid for—would run out. For anyone, especially a public figure, to aggressively question and attack a family's extraordinary personal anguish is deeply offensive and morally reprehensible.

No parents should have to spend the precious, fleeting time they have with their child, struggling to navigate a broken system, worrying how they are going to provide care. And no one, especially a child like Samuel, should be forced to walk such a dangerous tightrope between life and death because he or she lacks meaningful health insurance coverage, because of runaway costs, and caps, and exclusions. Yet that growing and deeply felt insecurity runs like a common thread through our entire health care system.

It is these stories—real stories of real people—and the unbelievable pain behind them and the battle of so many West Virginians that drive me to fight for comprehensive health reform every single day. We must listen to these stories, take them in, and never ever forget them.

DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, as I have traveled throughout Rhode Island, I have heard from countless constituents about the sacrifices they have made during these difficult economic times. Many of my constituents have adjusted to the economic climate by cutting back on extras and finding savings where they can.

For seniors living on a limited budget, however, simply cutting back is not an option. I have heard from seniors who have turned off the heat in their homes because oil prices are so high. I have heard from others who are splitting pills and skipping doses because they cannot afford to refill a prescription. These are seniors who have worked hard their whole lives, paid into the system, and believed that they would be able to grow old comfortably. Instead, many are barely scraping by on Social Security benefits that no longer cover their daily living expenses.

Last Wednesday, the Senate had the opportunity to provide some extra help for seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities who rely on Social Security. We voted on an amendment offered by Senator SANDERS, which I cosponsored, that would have provided an extra $250 payment to Social Security beneficiaries. The payment would have been an extension of the financial assistance I successfully fought for as part of the economic recovery package last year, and these funds would plow right through into our economy to help further stimulate demand and economic recovery. Unfortunately, this year, the amendment failed to receive enough votes for passage.

Although a $250 payment may not sound like much to some, for those on a limited budget the extra financial assistance provides peace of mind amid skyrocketing health care and prescription drug costs. The payment would provide added relief for the millions of older Americans who, for the first time since 1975, did not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in their Social Security benefits. Without some extra help, these beneficiaries are hard-pressed to make ends meet.

Just ask Jackie, a North Smithfield resident, who has seen her health insurance premiums increase by double digits this past year and the cost of her prescription drugs continue to rise. At a time when every penny counts, Jackie says the winter months are particularly hard for her. When Jackie hears the oil truck drive by, she cringes knowing that the cost of heating her home is another bill she simply cannot afford.

I also heard from Edward, a senior living in Warren, who is worried how he will make ends meet without the increase in his Social Security benefit. In recent months, he is seen his car and home insurance increase by $200, and other daily living costs, such as heating oil, gas, and groceries, rise significantly. In these tough times, Edward could just use a little help. He writes, ''I just don't understand why Congress cannot do something to help seniors at least maintain a status quo.''

Linda, a Rhode Islander from Providence, survives on only $500 a month. Like so many older Americans, Linda takes multiple prescriptions every day. The out-of-pocket costs for her prescriptions add up, even on Medicare. Between her medical costs, food, heating, and other daily expenses, she can barely make ends meet. Linda would welcome any financial assistance she can get, so that she can save for copayments for visits to the doctor which she knows she will soon need. Linda says she is disappointed that the Senate does not realize how desperately seniors need added financial help.

Like Linda, I am disappointed by the vote this past Wednesday. My colleagues failed to act on an opportunity to help our seniors when they need it the most; at a time when just a little help would go a long way.

For Jackie, Edward, Linda, and seniors across our country facing similar challenges, I will continue fighting to assist older Americans during these difficult economic times. I urge my colleagues join me in standing by our Nation's seniors.

NEW HAMPSHIRE OLYMPIANS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the athletes from New Hampshire who represented our country at the Olympic games in Vancouver.

As I watched the games over those 2 exciting weeks in February, I know I joined all Granite Staters in celebrating New Hampshire's enduring tradition of excellence in winter sports.

More than 125 years ago, in 1882, residents of Berlin, NH, formed the first modern ski club in America.

In 1927, the Dartmouth Outing Club organized the first downhill race in the United States at Mount Moosilauke in New Hampshire's White Mountains, where the Outing Club still hikes to this day. The next year, a Dartmouth professor organized the country's first slalom race.

In the 1930s and 1940s, as skiing grew in popularity, J-bars and chairlifts were added at mountains in Europe, in the West and across New England, but none could rival Cannon Mountain's Aerial Tramway in Franconia, which was built by the New Hampshire State Legislature and continues to be the platform from which millions of visitors first see our White Mountain range.

At the 1960 winter games in Squaw Valley, CA, 37 years after that first race in the White Mountains, a 22-year-old from Center Harbor named Penny Pitou became the first American to win an Olympic medal in downhill. The great ''Skiing Cochrans'' have roots on both sides of the Connecticut River, including Barbara Ann, who won a gold medal in 1972, her brother Bob, and Bob's son Jimmy, who competed in the slalom in Vancouver and grew up in Keene.

There were 12 athletes on the U.S. team in Vancouver who have strong New Hampshire ties. On the Alpine team, Jimmy Cochran was joined by Leanne Smith from Conway and Bode Miller from Franconia, along with Andrew Weibrecht, an environmental studies major at Dartmouth.

Hillary Knight from Hanover competed in her first Olympics as the youngest member of the U.S. Women's ice hockey team. And from just down the road in Lebanon, Nick Alexander competed in three ski jumping events including the normal hill event, known in the sport as the ''NH Individual.''

Kris Freeman from Andover competed in his third Olympic games in Nordic skiing. Kris trains at Waterville Valley, alongside Michelle Gorgone and Hannah Kearney, members of the famous Waterville Valley Black & Blue Trail Smashers Club. Snowboarder Scotty Lago from Seabrook went to his first Olympics in Vancouver after years of practice at Waterville and Loon. My husband Billy would want me to mention that he went to Dover High School with Jim Westcott, father of snowboarder Seth Westcott, who won back-to-back golds in snowboard cross.

The New Hampshire medalists at these Vancouver Games were really spectacular. Scotty Lago spoke with such pride about representing

Seabrook and all of New Hampshire when he won a bronze medal in the men's halfpipe competition. We are all very proud of Andrew Weibrecht, who won bronze in the Super-G, and Hillary Knight, who took silver with her team.

Of course, the State is still celebrating Bode Miller, who, by winning a gold, silver, and bronze medal on the Whistler slopes, became the most decorated American alpine skier in history.

But I am proud of every Granite Stater who represented our country in these Games. As someone in elected office, I can tell you that not every race goes exactly how you would like. What is important is that each of you has achieved so much through focus and hard work, far away from the spotlight. You represent the best of our State.

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize Tyler Walker of Franconia and Chris Devlin-Young of Campton, who will be skiing for Team USA later this week at the Vancouver Paralympic games. The Paralymic games continue to shine as an example to the world of what each of us can achieve. Thank you for representing our State and our country. Good luck.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the University of New Mexico men's basketball team for achieving a second straight Mountain West Conference title.

The team's accomplishments include a school record 28 wins, including 10 road wins this season. In addition, their remarkable achievements include 14 consecutive victories and top 10 rankings in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls.

Renowned for passionate fans, the University of New Mexico men's basketball team dedication to character and teamwork has brought tremendous pride to the people of New Mexico and offers our country a reflection of this spirit.

I also wish to commend the leadership of senior cocaptain Roman Martinez for his excellence in the classroom and his contributions to the community. As an Academic All-American, Roman exemplifies the true character of a student-athlete. Knowing Roman's dedication to service in the community, it is clear that his role in this most worthy pursuit will be even greater in the years to come.

Along with my fellow New Mexicans, I wish these students much success as they prepare to compete in the Mountain West Conference and NCAA tournaments, and I applaud their achievements.•

DR. MIKE LOOPER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Dr. Mike Looper of Greenwood for being named the Agriculture Research Service National Scientist of the Year for 2009. Dr. Looper, an animal scientist at the Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center, is the first Arkansan to receive the Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Research Scientist Award, which goes to the top scientist who has worked for less than 7 years.

I commend Dr. Looper for his research on how improved livestock management can have a positive economic impact on our rural farmers. Through his research efforts, Dr. Looper represents the best of our Arkansas values: hard work, dedication, and perseverance. He also inspires the next generation of Arkansas leaders as an adjunct instructor of biology and physiology at the University of Arkansas.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our Arkansas agriculture community. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing $9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly $15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

I salute Dr. Looper and the entire Arkansans agriculture community for their hard work and dedication.•

RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS RED CROSS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today, during Red Cross Month, I salute the efforts of the Arkansas Red Cross. The men and women who work in support of our local Red Cross chapters are part of a global network that mobilizes during the most devastating of times. They provide comfort and care for those who need it most, whether that need is clothing, shelter, or blood.

The Arkansas Red Cross exemplifies our Arkansas values of humanity, compassion, and a spirit of giving. Many times throughout the years, I have seen the good work of our Arkansas Red Cross first hand. The sacrifice and commitment they make is to be acknowledged and celebrated. On behalf of the people of our State, I thank everyone in the Arkansas Red Cross family, from volunteers to staff members to donors of blood or financial resources.

Since 1943, the President of the United States has proclaimed March as ''Red Cross Month.'' President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation, recognizing the American Red Cross as a true reflection of the humanitarian and volunteer spirit and calling on Americans to ''rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross.''

Mr. President, communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and the Red Cross depends on the support of the public to achieve its mission.•

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN WATTS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Kevin Watts of McGehee, AR, for being named Ginner of the Year by the Southern Cotton Ginners Association. Kevin is an excellent example of Arkansas's agriculture tradition. After working with his father in a cotton gin, Kevin knew by the time he graduated from high school what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing $9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly $15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

Our farm families are critical to our Nation's economic stability. Agriculture is one of the leading U.S. industries in exports, with a trade surplus of $23 billion in fiscal year 2009. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families are able to maintain their livelihoods and continue to help provide the safe, abundant, and affordable food supply that feeds our own country and the world and that is essential to our own economic stability.

I salute Kevin and all Arkansas farm families for their hard work and dedication.•

REMEMBERING DIANA TILLION

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Diana Tillion, of Halibut Cove, AK. I am saddened to report that Diana, a true Alaskan spirit and invaluable public servant, passed away at home, with her family surrounding her, on February 3, 2010, at the age of 81. Diana is remembered by those who knew her as a beloved wife and mother, public servant, teacher, writer, poet, and friend. She is treasured by the people back home as an incredible artist who depicted Alaska's beauty in a unique way. Diana had the ability to create a window through her art—a window into the impressive and untamed landscape of our great State. Any one of her pieces could draw you into that scene and that moment in a meaningful and memorable way.

Alaska is a vast open land full of breathtaking scenery, wild animals, and diverse terrain. It is also a place that is rich in culture. From Alaska's native peoples and the traditions passed down by their ancestors, to the pioneers of the gold rush, to Alaskans who are breaking new ground today—it is not a place for the faint of heart. Alaskans take pride in this, and Diana Tillion undoubtedly understood this sense of pride and shared in it with us.

Diana was born in Paradise, CA on June 1, 1928. She migrated north to the

territory of Alaska at the age of 11 in 1939, when her stepfather and mother found work at the Independence Gold Mine outside of Palmer, AK. In 1942 her family moved to Homer, AK. Before graduating from high school in 1948, Diana had already gained attention and praise for her art. In her teens Diana won a juror's choice award for a painting and was paid $100 a great—amount at that time—to paint a mural of Homer in the old Yah Sure Club saloon. She was recognized as a promising artist and began studying art by correspondence, since, at that time, there was no road access to Homer and the lower Kenai Peninsula. As a young woman, Diana left Alaska to study under the prominent artists of the time in New York, London, and Paris.

In 1952, Diana married an Alaskan commercial fisherman and the love of her life, Clem Tillion. Clem proposed to Diana on their first date, and they spent 59 wonderful years together. Clem and Diana built their life together in Halibut Cove, a small scenic community located on the south shore of Kachemak Bay in Prince William Sound—a 6-mile trip by boat from Homer. The Tillions had four children: William, Marian, Martha, and Vincent. When Alaska celebrated statehood in 1958, Clem became active in the State legislature and served in both the House and Senate. Diana was a key supporter in Clem's political career and successfully moved four children back and forth between Halibut Cove and Juneau when the State legislature was in session. She maintained their education as well as her career in the arts throughout this time. Her son Vincent has said that she ''supported [Clem] wholeheartedly in a way many wouldn't be able to do''. The special friendship between Clem and Diana Tillion was well recognized among political colleagues and friends in Juneau.

In 1958 Diana discovered a new medium, distinguishing herself as the first and only known artist to paint with octopus ink. A biologist friend helped her perfect the extraction process so that removing the ink caused no harm to the creatures found in the lagoon near her home. Once removed, the ink naturally regenerates. Diana was fascinated by how the color of the ink shifted from animal to animal—from purple to gold to green. She built an art gallery in Halibut Cove that drew many visitors and renowned artists to the small community over several decades. It was said that Diana turned Halibut Cove into an ''isolated haven'' for Alaska's artists. Diana's work was featured in a solo exhibit at the Anchorage Museum in 1971 and her work was shown across the country. She published six books, served as the vice president of the Alaska Council on the Arts and taught art at Homer Community College for 10 years. Diana influenced many Alaskans through her compassion for art and public service. Her living legacy is apparent today through her work, family, and those who were fortunate enough to have known her.

You can go through life and meet thousands of people, but it is rare to meet someone as exceptional as Diana. She was a pioneer, in the truest sense of the word. A lover of Alaska and the people. Diana painted her last picture just 8 days before she passed away. She is survived by her husband Clem, their four children, grandchildren, and friends. Alaskans back home, myself included, are proud of the legacy that is Diana's life and work. The person she was and the beautiful art she left with us will forever be cherished.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I am proud to recognize and thank Diana Rutzebeck Tillion for her passion for life and her family, her originality, and years of giving to her community. I extend my condolences and sincere sympathy on her passing to her family, friends, and students.●

TRIBUTE TO CARL TUBBESING

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I honor Carl Tubbesing, executive director of the National Conference of State Legislatures, NCSL, on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of service. Carl's dedication to the ideals of federalism has been steadfast and unwavering during the course of his time at NCSL, and his accomplishments have been many. His tireless commitment to maintaining the balance among Federal, State and local governments undoubtedly has made a positive impact in the lives of many.

I am fortunate to have worked with Carl during my days as chairman of the National Governors Association. Together, we fought to maintain a healthy relationship between Federal and State governments, and to ensure that the folks in Washington adhered to the same ideals of federalism in which we believed.

In 1986, I made a speech as mayor of Cleveland lamenting the fact that while Constitutional federalism was alive in theory, it had died in practice. We have made great progress since I gave that speech more than 20 years ago. The comeback story of federalism and our success in the proper delineation of responsibility from Federal centralization to local control is due, in no small part, to Carl's perseverance and hard work.

Carl's efforts to devolve authority for domestic policy from the Federal to State level paid off, most notably, with the passage of several major pieces of legislation. These include the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Reform Act, welfare reform, and Medicaid reforms.

It is my privilege to recognize Carl Tubbesing for his diligent commitment to federalism and dedicated service to the National Conference of State Legislatures, and to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3092. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building''.

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–4984. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tomatoes Grown in Florida; Decreased Assessment Rate'' (Docket Nos. AMS–FV–09–0063; FV09–956–2 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4985. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4986. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4987. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4988. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations (75 FR 7956)'' ((44 CFR Part 65)(Docket No. FEMA–2010–0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4989. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management

Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations (75 FR 7955)'' ((44 CFR Part 65)(Docket No. FEMA–2010–0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4990. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled '''Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Categories of Archaeological Material From the Pre-Hispanic Cultures of the Republic of El Salvador'' (RIN1505–AC23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4991. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Oregon Chub (Oregonichthys crameri)'' (RIN1018–AV87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4992. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to List the Galapagos Petrel and Heinroth's Shearwater as Threatened Throughout Their Ranges'' (RIN1018–AW70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4993. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for 48 Species on Kauai and Designation of Critical Habitat'' (RIN1018–AV48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4994. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Endangered Species Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the California Red-Legged Frog'' (RIN1018–AV90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4995. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to Chapter 116 which relate to the Permit Renewal Applications and Permit Renewal Submittal'' (FRL No. 9125–9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4996. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to Chapter 116 which relate to the Application Review Schedule'' (FRL No. 9123–7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4997. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Minnesota'' (FRL No. 9125–3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4998. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revisions to Clean Air Interstate Rule Sulfur Dioxide Trading Program'' (FRL No. 9125–2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4999. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination of Attainment, Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana'' (FRL No. 9125–6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5000. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9123–3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5001. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Construction and Development Point Source Category; Correction'' (FRL No. 9118–7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5002. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the EDA Regulations'' (RIN0610–AA64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5003. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, (5) five reports relative to vacancies in the Department of State, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5004. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Investing in Innovation Fund'' (RIN1855–AA06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5005. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnet Schools Assistance Program'' (RIN1855–AA07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5006. A communication from the Deputy Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Paracoccus Pigment; Confirmation of Effective Date'' (Docket No. FDA–2007–C–00456) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5007. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5008. A communication from the Ombudsman, Energy Employees Compensation Program, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5009. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5010. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–319, ''Clean and Affordable Energy Fiscal Year 2010 Fund Balance Temporary Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5011. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18–320, ''Health Care Facilities Improvement Amendment Act of 2010''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5012. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, transmitting the report of proposed legislation containing a series of legislative changes that make certain technical and conforming amendments to trademark and patent law as well as other needed changes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5013. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Data Mining Activity in the Department of State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–5014. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (24); Amdt. No. 3358'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5015. A communication from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Office of the Secretary

of Transportation, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs: State Laws Requiring Drug and Alcohol Rule Violation Information'' (RIN2105–AD67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5016. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commerce Acquisition Regulation'' (RIN0605–AA26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5017. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director for Financial Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Monetary Penalties; Adjustments'' (RIN0690–AA35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5018. 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 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (French Lick, Indiana, and Irvington, Kentucky)'' (MB Docket No. 07–296) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5019. 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 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Markham, Ganado, and Victoria, Texas)'' (MB Docket No. 07–163) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5020. A communication from the Vice President, Government Affairs, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Amtrak's Executive Level 1 salary for 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 649. A bill to require an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission (Rept. No. 111–159).

S. 592. A bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service (Rept. No. 111–160).

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. LANDRIEU:

S. 3089. A bill to require a study and report by the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration regarding the effects of proposed changes in patent law; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3090. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of the saver's credit and to make the credit refundable; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 3091. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from charging a fee for a Certificate of Citizenship for a foreign-born child adopted within the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID:

S. 3092. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building''; read the first time.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 3093. A bill to require semiannual indexing of certain Federal child nutrition programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BUNNING:

S. 3094. A bill to allow individuals to elect to opt out of the Medicare part A benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3095. A bill to reduce the deficit by establishing discretionary caps for non-security spending; to the Committee on the Budget.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 448. A resolution reauthorizing the John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Res. 449. A resolution celebrating Volunteers in Service to America on its 45th anniversary and recognizing its contribution to the fight against poverty; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 450. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 118

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 118, a bill to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 448

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 448, a bill 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. 718

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to amend the Legal Services Corporation Act to meet special needs of eligible clients, provide for technology grants, improve corporate practices of the Legal Services Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 730

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 730, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify the tariffs on certain footwear, and for other purposes.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to award competitive grants to eligible partnerships to enable the partnerships to implement innovative strategies at the secondary school level to improve student achievement and prepare at-risk students for postsecondary education and the workforce.

S. 1425

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1425, a bill to increase the United States financial and programmatic contributions to promote economic opportunities for women in developing countries.

S. 1492

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1492, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 1700

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1700, a bill to require certain issuers to disclose payments to foreign governments for the commercial development of oil, natural gas, and minerals, to express the sense of Congress that the President should disclose any payment relating to the commercial development of oil, natural gas, and minerals on Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the number of children eligible

for free school meals, with a phased-in transition period.

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to ensure that all crewmembers on air carriers have proper qualifications and experience, and for other purposes.

S. 1780

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1780, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the reserve components as active service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2888, a bill to amend section 205 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualifying law school students participating in legal clinics from the application of the general conflict of interest rules under such section.

S. 2993

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2993, a bill to increase the quantity of solar photovoltaic electricity by providing rebates for the purchase and installation of an additional 10,000,000 solar roofs and additional solar water heating systems with a cumulative capacity of 10,000,000 gallons by 2019.

S. 3036

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3036, a bill to establish the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 3058

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3058, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 3059

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3059, a bill to improve energy efficiency of appliances, lighting, and buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 3065

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3065, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the readiness of the Armed Forces by replacing the current policy concerning homosexuality in the Armed Forces, referred to as ''Don't Ask, Don't Tell'', with a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

S. 3069

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3069, a bill to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to provide for the preservation and creation of jobs in the United States for projects receiving grants for specified energy property.

S. 3082

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3082, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize individuals who are pursuing programs of rehabilitation, education, or training under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to receive work-study allowances for certain outreach services provided through congressional offices, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 51, a concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 101st anniversary.

S. RES. 439

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 439, a resolution recognizing the exemplarily service, devotion to country, and selfless sacrifice of Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas in capturing Ahmed Hashim Abed, one of the most-wanted terrorists in Iraq, and pledging to continue to support members of the United States Armed Forces serving in harm's way.

AMENDMENT NO. 3351

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3351 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3356

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3356 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3365

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3365 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3419

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3419 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3434

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3434 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3439

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3439 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3440

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3440 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3447

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3447 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 3089. A bill to require a study and report by the Office of Advocacy of the

Small Business Administration regarding the effects of proposed changes in patent law; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak on an issue that is of great importance to small businesses and independent inventors everywhere—patent reform.

I understand that the Senate Judiciary Committee has been hard at work analyzing what reforms would improve the U.S. patent system. One of these reforms would involve changing the U.S. from a ''first to invent'' to a ''first to file'' invention priority system. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, I want to ensure that Congress' reform will create a patent regime that will not unduly burden small businesses and independent inventors, but instead, enhance their success as innovators in the U.S. economy.

Small businesses represent 99.7 percent of all employers, employing ½ of the U.S. labor force. These businesses are at the forefront of U.S. innovation and have produced over 80 percent of net new jobs in the U.S. economy over the past decade. At a time when our Nation's economy is under stress, we need the help of small businesses in creating new jobs and economic opportunities.

Today, we are living in what some call a ''Digital Age'' with an ever-increasing focus on how to incorporate advanced technology into our day to day activities. When it comes to advanced technology, small businesses are also leading the pack in terms of job growth, producing approximately 40 percent of all high-tech employment nation-wide.

One measurable way of tracking the rate of small business innovation in the U.S. is by analyzing patent statistics. For example, small businesses in the technology sector produce 13 times more patents per employee than large businesses. Additionally, small firm patents outperform those of larger firms in a number of key areas, and tend to be cited more frequently as these patents are more original and more general. These metrics are important indicators of patent value, and indeed small firm patents are tightly linked to growth in the patenting firms.

As you can see, the role that small businesses play as innovators in our economy is critical to our Nation's overall success as an international high-tech leader. In order to properly track and understand how changes to the U.S. patent system will impact our small innovators, I am introducing the Small Business Patent Data Collection Act of 2010. This legislation will direct the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy to conduct a study in consultation with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to analyze how changes to the current system will impact the ability of small businesses to obtain patents, whether the change would create barriers, and how it will impact the costs and benefits to small businesses overall.

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. 3089

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

SECTION 1. STUDY AND REPORT OF PATENT LAW CHANGES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Chief Counsel'' means the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration; and

(2) the term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given that term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Counsel, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall conduct a study of the effects of changing from a first-to-invent to a first-to-file invention priority system under patent law under title 35 of the United States Code.

(2) AREAS OF STUDY.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include examination of the effects of changing from a first-to-invent to a first-to-file invention priority system, including examining—

(A) how the change would affect the ability of small business concerns to obtain patents;

(B) whether the change would create or exacerbate any disadvantage for applicants for patents that are small business concerns relative to applicants for patents that are not small business concerns; and

(C) the costs and benefits to small business concerns of the change.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief Counsel shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report regarding the results of the study under subsection (b).

By Mr. REID:

S. 3092. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building''; read the first time.

Mr. REID. 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. 3092

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

SECTION 1. JOSEPH A. RYAN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, shall be known and designated as the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building''.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. BURR):

S. 3095. A bill to reduce the deficit by establishing discretionary caps for nonsecurity spending; to the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening to announce the introduction of a bill, S. 3095. It is called the Honest Expenditure Limitation Act of 2010. It spells HELP. It is the HELP Act of 2010.

On February 1 of 2010, President Obama released his fiscal year 2011 budget with a funding request of $3.8 trillion. In it he announced a 3-year freeze on discretionary spending for all nonsecurity-related agencies at the fiscal year 2010 levels, which amounts to a total spending level of $460 billion each year for those agencies. Nonsecurity spending is defined as all agencies except the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of State, and one of the national security-related agencies in the Department of Energy. The administration's Office of Management and Budget estimates this initiative will save $250 billion over the coming decade. Keep in mind, that is $250 billion from where it started, which I will address in a minute.

On the surface, this proposal gives the President the appearance of being fiscally prudent—something the American people have been demanding of their government, especially in recent months. But when you look closely at the numbers he has presented, it is clear as day why he is able to offer this spending freeze without batting an eye. For one, discretionary spending has increased by 20 percent in 2 years. Secondly, the massive $787 billion stimulus package provided a substantial spending cushion for nearly every agency, making a spending freeze such as the President's inconsequential.

Let's stop and look at that. We are talking about $787 billion in a stimulus bill, but we are also talking about having increased from fiscal year 2008 to fiscal year 2010 by 20 percent. So what he is doing here is raising it 20 percent and then freezing it. What he ought to do, if he had to raise it 20 percent, is start bringing it down.

Additionally, this spending freeze proposal does too little to improve the long-term fiscal aspects of our Nation. We all know we stand at the edge of disaster. Doug Elmendorf, who is the Director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, recently testified about our Nation's fiscal outlook before Congress and he didn't deliver very good news. I will tell my colleagues what he said. He said that last year our budget deficit was a staggering $1.4 trillion. Remember, just a minute ago I said if you add up all of the—well, let's say that is actually more than all of the last 6 years of the Bush administration deficits. That amounts to less than the $1.4 trillion. So he said last year our budget deficit was a staggering $1.4 trillion, which represented

about 10 percent of the total economy. He expects 2010's deficit only slightly lower at $1.3 trillion or 9.2 percent of GDP.

Looking further out, the average deficit between now and 2020 is forecast to be $600 billion per year. This is all coming from Elmendorf. This is the CBO we are talking about. Additionally, CBO estimates the amount of debt held by the public will skyrocket to $15 trillion by 2020. If it sounds like a staggering number, that is because it is. When you consider the amount of interest we will be paying to China and Japan and others, it is embarrassing: $700 billion each and every year until 2020 and beyond if we do nothing about our rising deficit levels. In other words, if we keep on what we are doing right now with this administration, with the help of the Democratic legislators in both Houses, it is going to be $700 trillion.

Let's do the math and put that in perspective. If $700 billion of interest were paid evenly by every household in the United States today, it would amount to more than $6,000 per household. That is kind of interesting. I always try to do my math. When I was fighting the effort by this administration to have a cap-and-trade bill which would have been somewhere between $300 billion and $400 billion, whether you are talking about the McCain-Lieberman cap-and-trade bill of 2003 or the McCain-Lieberman bill of 2005 or the bills of 2008, or later on the Boxer-Sanders bill, or even going back to Kyoto, it is going to cost somewhere between $300 billion and $400 billion. I understand when we talk about billions and trillions of dollars what we are really talking about. So I do my math all the time and say, How much is this going to cost my average taxpaying families in my State of Oklahoma? It amounted to $3,100 a year. This would have been, if they had been successful in passing a cap-and-trade bill—it is all dead now. They are not going to do it. I don't care what Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and Senator JOHN KERRY say, it is history now. People are not going to pay that kind of thing to get nothing for it.

Back when we were talking about the $700 billion interest that would be paid every year, that is what is going to happen by 2020 with this administration if we let it continue. That would cost each tax-paying family in the United States of America $6,000 per household each and every year after 2020.

Put another way: The entire financial industry bailout—remember the famous bank bailout? I know Republicans were partially responsible for that too. That happened. That vote took place in this Senate on October 1 of 2008. It was back during the Bush administration. It was back when Hank Paulson came in and told everybody that he was going to save our Nation and so Republicans bought into it and many of my good conservative Republican friends voted for a $700 billion bailout. I did not and a few others didn't, but a vast majority did. That is kind of interesting because that $700 billion is the same figure we are using right now that it will cost people by the year 2020—just the interest alone. But the $700 billion that we could spend on interest in 2020 happens each and every year. We don't get anything for it. It is the cost of living having this much debt in the first place.

At this rate, it will become more and more difficult for the government to fund priorities we truly think are important, such as national security and infrastructure spending. For some reason, nobody around here wants to spend money on infrastructure. I know I get criticized. I am considered to be a conservative. I have been rated the No. 1 most conservative Member of the Senate some time ago by the American Conservative Union and just last week by the National Journal. So you are looking at a conservative, but I am a big spender on some things. One is protecting America. That is what we are supposed to be doing around here. The other is infrastructure. We have a crumbling infrastructure system. Look what happened with some of the bridges crumbling down. I guess that was in Minnesota. People died up there. Our infrastructure is crumbling. It is aging. We need to do something about it, but I can't find anyone who wants to spend money on infrastructure. Instead we are spending money on social engineering.

To combat this, several proposals have been recently introduced that I support. In the House, Congressman PENCE and Congressmen HENSARLING introduced a constitutional amendment that would cap the Federal spending at 20 percent of the economy—20 percent of GDP. It is one way of doing this. I think it is a good idea. I am all for it. Additionally, Senator DEMINT introduced an amendment requiring a balanced budget. I am all for that. Some of my colleagues are supporting a year-long earmark moratorium. That is kind of phony. It was reported on Monday that Speaker PELOSI has suggested a year-long earmark moratorium as well. My colleagues need to consider a couple of issues in talking about earmarks.

One, an earmark moratorium does nothing to combat the increasing government spending. In other words, if you have a moratorium on earmarks, it doesn't save a cent. Funding that would have been spent in earmarks will simply be spent by the Obama administration, by their bureaucrats. I suppose it should come as no surprise that Speaker PELOSI supports the Democratic administration fully funding its own priorities.

Secondly, last year's earmarks accounted for only 1.5 percent of discretionary spending—1.5 percent. Where is the focus on the other 98.5 percent? Where is the focus on what I call bureaucratic earmarks? Here is what happens. If you stop earmarks—if you read the Constitution, article I, section 9 of the Constitution, it says what we are supposed to be doing here in the House and in the Senate. We are supposed to be making priorities. We are supposed to be doing the spending, and our Founding Fathers recognize that we do a better job knowing what our needs are in the local communities than the central government does.

If we let the President and the President's budget dictate everything and then we try to make changes within that, people will say, Oh, that is an earmark. Well, wait a minute. If you don't do that, then you are having the unelected bureaucrats in government in the Obama administration do the earmarking. So the President earmarks too. If you don't believe it, look at the Appropriations Conference Report, where the focus is on the vast majority of discretionary spending which is doled out every year by unelected bureaucrats.

I wish more people would understand this, because I find that a lot of the people who hammer and demagog the earmark mantra are the ones who are the biggest spenders and it is a nice way of deviating from your behavior. I think something needs to be done immediately and seriously.

So today I am introducing the HELP Act, as I mentioned. It is called the Honest Expenditure Limitation Program Act of 2010. The bill does three things. One, it places caps on nonsecurity discretionary spending which I define exactly as President Obama's budget does. I do this because I wish to show the similarities between what he said he wants to do and what I want to do. The second thing is it enforces the caps by sequestering any spending above the cap through across-the-board cuts, a process that currently applies to mandatory spending, but not to discretionary. Three, it disallows Congress from evading the sequestration cuts through a 67-vote point of order against any attempt to exempt new spending from this legislation. That is going to make it pretty tough to get through.

Rather than simply freezing the spending as the President wants to do at the 2010 levels—let's keep in mind, first, he increased discretionary spending for a year by 20 percent, and then he wants to freeze it there.

Instead of doing that for 3 years and then allowing spending to explode again, which is what his proposal does, my bill would actually cut discretionary spending for nonsecurity agencies, the same exemptions he has, back to fiscal year 2008 levels. It is cutting it back by 20 percent of what he tries to do, about $400 billion a year. Spending would be frozen for 5 years—not 3 years but 5 years, through 2020. Rather than simply freezing spending levels for only 3 years and at an artificially high level, as the President's proposal does, my initiative would hold the Federal Government more accountable for the next

10 years by creating real, meaningful spending cuts and then placing the cap at reduced levels.

The difference in savings between my plan and President Obama's plan is clearly displayed on this chart.

If we look at the chart, the blue bars represent how nonsecurity-related discretionary spending levels will rise over the next 10 years if allowed to increase. This is according to OMB's numbers.

The red line illustrates the impact of Obama's plan and what will happen if spending is allowed to increase following the 3-year freezing on the estimates of OMB, the Office of Management and Budget. They are nonpartisan, by the way, and very accurate. Clearly, the $250 billion in savings is not substantial when spread over a 10-year period. It really does not tighten the belt at all.

My proposal is represented in the green bars. These are the spending levels. Watch as they go down over the period of time from 2010 to 2020. We phase down spending levels from the high point in 2010 to a more reasonable level between 2011 and 2015 and then stay flat thereafter.

My plan, when compared to the blue bars of doing nothing, will save more than $880 billion over the next 10 years. Let me say that again. By reducing nonsecurity discretionary spending levels, using the same definition of ''nonsecurity'' as the President is using, to 2008 levels and then holding them there through 2020, our Nation can save nearly $1 trillion. When I compare my plan directly with President Obama's, my plan saves $634 billion more than his.

I have made my estimates using the methodologies of the Office of Management and Budget, and they are probably conservative. First off, if you look at the history of discretionary spending, annual increases are far greater than what they assume they are here. Second, we do not estimate how much we would be saving in interest by not having to borrow the spending we are cutting. Overall, this proposal will likely save much more than the nearly $1 trillion we estimate.

If we do nothing to curtail skyrocketing government spending or merely freeze it at an artificially high, elevated level for a few years, as the Obama administration is trying to do, we will find ourselves in a tragic situation. The clock is ticking. Congress is going to have to act.

Some of my colleagues will probably attack this proposal because the hardest thing to do around here is cut spending. Without cutting spending, we only leave one alternative, and that is massively raising taxes. That is not what the American people want, and it would harm our economic recovery.

Around these halls, we seem to forget. Most of the Members of the Senate have forgotten the recess last August when they had all the tea parties out there and people were yelling and screaming and people wanted to get involved. People were getting involved in politics who never had been involved before. They were concerned primarily about two issues. At that time, it was government-run health care and cap-and-trade, which would have been the largest tax increase in the history of this country.

Right now, the Obama administration is saying: I don't care what anybody says, we are going to stay with it; we are going to be tough; we are going to have this government-run health care system and bring back cap-and-trade. They have just completely forgotten what happened.

I have to agree with Senator MCCONNELL. I hope people remember that all the way through the election because that is going to repeat what I remember in 1994.

Others may charge this proposal will harm the government's ability to help citizens in their time of need. But what is important to realize about this spending reduction is that it will have no impact on mandatory spending programs such as unemployment benefits, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Those programs are in need of reform, but this bill does not do that. This bill only affects the agencies identified by President Obama as nonsecurity.

My bill, the HELP Act of 2010, would take President Obama's proposed spending freeze and truly make an impact. Rather than merely freezing spending at the inflated 20-percent increase of the 2010 levels, this would bring it back down to 2008. I think this can be done.

I really do believe the American people are going to start getting involved. They have not forgotten. I was giving a speech in Florida. This particular group was actually Club for Growth. Their group is concerned about spending. I told them some of the things we could be doing, some of the things to watch out for. Watch out for those who say you can have a moratorium on earmarks and somehow affect—if you affected all of that, it would be something like 1.5 percent. My bill affects the other 98.5 percent.

We are going to have to do it right now. If we wait, each month that goes by—as I said, the budget he increased and his deficit was as much as the last 6 entire years of the Bush administration.

This is the HELP Act. It is one that will work, and it is one that has come along at the right time. Now is the time to act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—REAUTHORIZING THE JOHN HEINZ SENATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 448

Resolved,

SECTION 1. JOHN HEINZ SENATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Senate Resolution 356, 102d Congress, agreed to October 7, 1992, is amended by striking section 5 and inserting the following:

''SEC. 5. FUNDS.

''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this resolution $85,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2014.''.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to submit a resolution reauthorizing the John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program. This Congressional fellowship program, created in 1992, is a fitting tribute to my late colleague and dear friend, United States Senator John Heinz. Senator Heinz dedicated his life and much of his Congressional career to improving the lives of senior citizens. He believed that Congress has a special responsibility to serve as a guardian for those who cannot protect themselves. This fellowship program, which focuses on aging issues, honors the life and continues the legacy of Senator Heinz.

During his 20 years in the Congress, John Heinz compiled an enviable record of accomplishments. While he was successful in many areas, he built a national reputation for his strong commitment to improving the quality of life of our Nation's elderly. Pennsylvania, with nearly 2 million citizens aged 65 or older—over 15 percent of the population—houses the third largest elderly population nationwide. As John traveled throughout the State, he listened to the concerns of this important constituency and came back to Washington to address their needs through policy and legislation.

Senator Heinz led the fight against age discrimination by championing legislation to eliminate the requirement that older Americans must retire at age 65, and by ensuring full retirement pay for older workers employed by factories forced to close. During his Chairmanship of the Senate Special Committee on Aging from 1981–1986 and his tenure as Ranking Minority Member from 1987–1991, Senator Heinz used his position to improve health care accessibility and affordability for senior citizens and to reduce fraud and abuse within Federal health care programs. Congress enacted his legislation to provide Medicare recipients a lower cost alternative to fee-for-service medicine, as well as his legislation to add a hospice benefit to the Medicare program.

John also recognized the great need for nursing home reforms. He was successful in passing legislation mandating that safety measures be implemented in nursing homes and ensuring that nursing home residents cannot be bound and tied to their beds or wheelchairs.

The John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program will help continue the efforts of Senator Heinz to give our Nation's elderly the quality of life they deserve. The program encourages the identification and training of new leadership in

aging policy by awarding fellowships to qualified candidates to serve in a Senate office or with a Senate Committee. The goal of this program is to advance the development of public policy in issues affecting senior citizens. Administered by the Heinz Family Foundation in conjunction with the Secretary of the Senate, the program allows fellows to bring their firsthand experience in aging issues to the work of Congress. Heinz fellows who are advocates for aging issues spend a year to help us learn about the effects of Federal policies on our elderly citizens, those who are social workers help us find better ways to protect our Nation's elderly from abuse and neglect, and those who are health care providers help us to build a strong health care system that addresses the unique needs of our seniors.

The Heinz fellowship enables us to train new leaders in senior citizen advocacy and aging policy. The fellows return to their respective careers with a new understanding about how to work effectively with government, so they may better fulfill their goals as senior citizen advocates.

The John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program has been a valuable tool for Congress and our communities since its establishment in 1992. The continuation of this vital program will signal a sustained commitment to our nation's elderly. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this resolution, and urge its swift adoption.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY AND RECOGNIZING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 449

Whereas Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) has made an extraordinary contribution to alleviating poverty and improving American society since the program began in 1965;

Whereas more than 175,000 individuals of all ages and from different walks of life have answered VISTA's call to devote a year of full-time service living and working in low-income communities to help eradicate poverty;

Whereas VISTA members have helped create many successful and sustainable community initiatives, including Head Start centers, credit unions, and neighborhood watch groups, with VISTA alumni going on to serve in leadership positions in government, private, and nonprofit sectors throughout the United States;

Whereas VISTA, which became part of AmeriCorps in 1993 and is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, annually engages more than 7,000 members in helping more than 1,000 local organizations build sustainable anti-poverty programs;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members improve the lives of the most vulnerable citizens in our Nation by fighting illiteracy, improving health services, reducing unemployment, increasing housing opportunities, reducing crime and recidivism, and expanding access to technology;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members develop programs, recruit community volunteers, generate resources, manage projects, and enhance the ability of nonprofit organizations to become and remain sustainable, thereby strengthening the nonprofit sector in low-income communities across the United States; and

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members generate more than $100,000,000 in cash and in-kind resources annually for organizations throughout the Nation, as well as recruit and manage more than 1,000,000 volunteers who provide 10,000,000 hours of community service for local organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the more than 175,000 men and women who have served in VISTA for their dedication and commitment to the fight against poverty;

(2) recognizes VISTA members for leveraging human, financial, and material resources to increase the ability of thousands of low-income areas across the country to address challenges and improve their communities; and

(3) encourages the continued commitment of VISTA members to creating and expanding programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 450

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Levin (Chairman), Mr. Byrd, Mr. Lieberman, Mr. Reed, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Nelson (Florida), Mr. Nelson (Nebraska), Mr. Bayh, Mr. Webb, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Udall (Colorado), Mrs. Hagan, Mr. Begich, Mr. Burris, Mr. Bingaman, Mr. Kaufman.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Conrad (Chairman), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Nelson (Florida), Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Begich.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Lieberman (Chairman), Mr. Levin, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Carper, Mr. Pryor, Ms. Landrieu, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Tester, Mr. Burris, Mr. Kaufman.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3448. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3412 submitted by Mr. LAUTENBERG and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3449. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3450. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3397 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3451. Mr. BAUCUS proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3448. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3412 submitted by Mr. LAUTENBERG and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2, line 9, strike ''section 403(a)'' and insert ''sections 403(a) and 423(b)''.

SA 3449. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill, add the following:

''With respect to the credit for nonbusiness energy property, windows, doors, and skylights that meet the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star standards but that do not meet the standards in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act shall be eligible for a $1,000 tax credit.

''With respect to the credit for nonbusiness energy property, windows, doors, and skylights that meet the standards in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act shall be eligible for a $1,500 tax credit.''

SA 3450. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3397 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 6___. MODIFICATION OF STANDARDS FOR WINDOWS, DOORS, AND SKYLIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE CREDIT FOR NONBUSINESS ENERGY PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 25C(c) is amended by striking ''unless'' and all that follows and inserting ''unless—

''(A) such component is equal to or below a U factor of 0.30 and SHGC of 0.30, or

''(B) for a credit allowable under subsection (a) applied by substituting '$1,000' for '$1,500' in subsection (b), in the case of—

''(i) any component placed in service after the date which is 90 days after the date of the enactment of the American Workers,

State, and Business Relief Act of 2010, such component meets the criteria for such components established by the 2010 Energy Star Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights, Version 5.0 (or any subsequent version of such requirements which is in effect after January 4, 2010),

''(ii) in the case of any component placed in service after the date of the enactment of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010 and on or before the date which is 90 days after such date, such component meets the criteria described in subparagraph (A) or is equal to or below a U factor of 0.30 and SHGC of 0.30, and

''(iii) in the case of any component which is a garage door, such component is equal to or below a U factor of 0.30 and SHGC of 0.30.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6____. PARTICIPANTS IN GOVERNMENT SECTION 457 PLANS ALLOWED TO TREAT ELECTIVE DEFERRALS AS ROTH CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402A(e)(1) (defining applicable retirement plan) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting '', and'', and by adding at the end the following:

''(C) an eligible deferred compensation plan (as defined in section 457(b)) of an eligible employer described in section 457(e)(1)(A).''.

(b) ELECTIVE DEFERRALS.—Section 402A(e)(2) (defining elective deferral) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) ELECTIVE DEFERRAL.—The term 'elective deferral' means—

''(A) any elective deferral described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 402(g)(3), and

''(B) any elective deferral of compensation by an individual under an eligible deferred compensation plan (as defined in section 457(b)) of an eligible employer described in section 457(e)(1)(A).''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

SA 3451. Mr. BAUCUS proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike section 201 and insert the following:

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Section 4007 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(A) by striking ''April 5, 2010'' each place it appears and inserting ''December 31, 2010'';

(B) in the heading for subsection (b)(2), by striking ''APRIL 5, 2010'' and inserting ''DECEMBER 31, 2010''; and

(C) in subsection (b)(3), by striking ''September 4, 2010'' and inserting ''May 31, 2011''.

(2) Section 2002(e) of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111–5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 438), is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''April 5, 2010'' and inserting ''December 31, 2010'';

(B) in the heading for paragraph (2), by striking ''APRIL 5, 2010'' and inserting ''DECEMBER 31, 2010''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''October 5, 2010'' and inserting ''June 30, 2011''.

(3) Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111–5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 444), is amended—

(A) by striking ''April 5, 2010'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2011''; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking ''September 4, 2010'' and inserting ''June 1, 2011''.

(4) Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking ''September 4, 2010'' and inserting ''May 31, 2011''.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

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

''(E) the amendments made by section 201(a)(1) of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010; and''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Extension Act of 2010.

Strike section 211 and insert the following:

SEC. 211. EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COBRA BENEFITS.

(a) EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD.—Subsection (a)(3)(A) of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), as amended by section 3 of the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, is amended by striking ''March 31, 2010'' and inserting ''December 31, 2010''.

(b) RULES RELATING TO 2010 EXTENSION.—Subsection (a) of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), as amended by subsection (b)(1)(C), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(18) RULES RELATED TO 2010 EXTENSION.—

''(A) ELECTION TO PAY PREMIUMS RETROACTIVELY AND MAINTAIN COBRA COVERAGE.—In the case of any premium for a period of coverage during an assistance eligible individual's 2010 transition period, such individual shall be treated for purposes of any COBRA continuation provision as having timely paid the amount of such premium if—

''(i) such individual's qualifying event was on or after April 1, 2010 and prior to the date of enactment of this paragraph, and

''(ii) such individual pays, by the latest of 60 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, 30 days after the date of provision of the notification required under paragraph (16)(D)(ii) (as applied by subparagraph (D) of this paragraph), or the period described in section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the amount of such premium, after the application of paragraph (1)(A).

''(B) REFUNDS AND CREDITS FOR RETROACTIVE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY.—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who pays, with respect to any period of COBRA continuation coverage during such individual's 2010 transition period, the premium amount for such coverage without regard to paragraph (1)(A), rules similar to the rules of paragraph (12)(E) shall apply.

''(C) 2010 TRANSITION PERIOD.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'transition period' means, with respect to any assistance eligible individual, any period of coverage if—

''(I) such assistance eligible individual experienced an involuntary termination that was a qualifying event prior to the date of enactment of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010, and

''(II) paragraph (1)(A) applies to such period by reason of the amendments made by section 211 of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010.

''(ii) CONSTRUCTION.—Any period during the period described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) for which the applicable premium has been paid pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a period of coverage referred to in such paragraph, irrespective of any failure to timely pay the applicable premium (other than pursuant to subparagraph (A)) for such period.

''(D) NOTIFICATION.—Notification provisions similar to the provisions of paragraph (16)(E) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

In section 212, strike ''December 31, 2009'' and insert ''March 31, 2010''.

In section 231, strike ''this title'' and insert ''this Act''.

In section 241(1), strike ''March 1, 2010'' and insert ''March 31, 2010''.

In section 601(1), strike ''February 28, 2010'' and insert ''March 31, 2010''.

In section 601(2), strike ''March 1, 2010'' and insert ''April 1, 2010''.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the nomination of Jeffrey Lane, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by e-mail to Amanda_Kelly@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler or Amanda Kelly.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2010, at 9 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''U.S. Preference Programs: Options for Reform.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled ''ESEA Reauthorization: The Importance of World-Class K–12 Education for Our Economic Success'' on March 9, 2010. The hearing will commence at 2:30 p.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2010. The Committee will meet in room SDG–50 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, TOXICS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Superfund, Toxics, and Environmental Health of the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2010, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAJORITY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 450, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 450) to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 450) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 450

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Levin (Chairman), Mr. Byrd, Mr. Liberman, Mr. Reed, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Nelson (Florida), Mr. Nelson (Nebraska), Mr. Bayh, Mr. Webb, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Udall (Colorado), Mrs. Hagan, Mr. Begich, Mr. Burris, Mr. Bingaman, Mr. Kaufman.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Conrad (Chairman), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Nelson (Florida), Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Begich.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Liberman (Chairman), Mr. Levin, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Carper, Mr. Pryor, Ms. Landrieu, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Tester, Mr. Burris, Mr. Kaufman.

NOMINATION REFERRED

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Robert A. Harding to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, received by the Senate on Monday, March 8, be referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; that upon the reporting out or discharge of the nomination, it then be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days; that if the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has not reported the nomination at that time, then the committee be discharged and the nomination be placed on the Executive Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 308, H.R. 3433.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3433) to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of the non-Federal share of the costs of wetlands conservation projects in Canada that are funded under that Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3433) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 449, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 449) Celebrating Volunteers in Service to America on its 45th anniversary and recognizing its contribution to the fight against poverty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 449) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 449

Whereas Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) has made an extraordinary contribution to alleviating poverty and improving American society since the program began in 1965;

Whereas more than 175,000 individuals of all ages and from different walks of life have answered VISTA's call to devote a year of full-time service living and working in low-income communities to help eradicate poverty;

Whereas VISTA members have helped create many successful and sustainable community initiatives, including Head Start centers, credit unions, and neighborhood watch groups, with VISTA alumni going on to serve in leadership positions in government, private, and nonprofit sectors throughout the United States;

Whereas VISTA, which became part of AmeriCorps in 1993 and is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, annually engages more than 7,000 members in helping more than 1,000 local organizations build sustainable anti-poverty programs;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members improve the lives of the most vulnerable citizens in our Nation by fighting illiteracy, improving health services, reducing unemployment, increasing housing opportunities, reducing crime and recidivism, and expanding access to technology;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members develop programs, recruit community volunteers, generate resources, manage projects,

and enhance the ability of nonprofit organizations to become and remain sustainable, thereby strengthening the nonprofit sector in low-income communities across the United States; and

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members generate more than $100,000,000 in cash and in-kind resources annually for organizations throughout the Nation, as well as recruit and manage more than 1,000,000 volunteers who provide 10,000,000 hours of community service for local organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the more than 175,000 men and women who have served in VISTA for their dedication and commitment to the fight against poverty;

(2) recognizes VISTA members for leveraging human, financial, and material resources to increase the ability of thousands of low-income areas across the country to address challenges and improve their communities; and

(3) encourages the continued commitment of VISTA members to creating and expanding programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3099

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand that S. 3092, introduced earlier today by Senator REID, is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3092) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive, in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the ''Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building.''

Mr. DURBIN. I now ask for the second reading, and I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10; 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 a period of morning business until 2 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4213, as provided for under the previous order; and, finally, I ask that time during any adjournment or period of morning business count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, tonight we were able to reach agreement to complete action on the tax extenders legislation tomorrow afternoon. Under the agreement, at approximately 2 p.m. all postcloture debate time will expire and the question will be on the substitute amendment. Once the substitute amendment is agreed to, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the bill, H.R. 4213. If cloture is invoked, the Senate would then proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, as amended. Therefore, Senators should expect up to three rollcall votes beginning at 2 p.m.

The majority leader would like to begin consideration of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization legislation tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:46 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

CHERYL A. LAFLEUR, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2014, VICE SUEDEEN G. KELLY, TERM EXPIRED.

PHILIP D. MOELLER, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2015. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

LAWRENCE J. PIJEAUX, JR., OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2014, VICE A. WILSON GREENE, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CAROL M. POTTENGER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(C) AND 9336(B):

To be colonel

CAROLYN ANN MOORE BENYSHEK

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be colonel

RONALD J. DYKSTRA
LOUIS H. JORDAN
WILLIAM M. KEHRER
STEPHEN A. TOWN

To be lieutenant colonel

SCOTT E. ARMSTRONG
LARRY D. GLIDEWELL
DOUGLAS R. LEWIS
THARNELL M. THOMAS

To be major

COOPER D. BOWDEN
LAURALEE FLANNERY
JOSEPH G. GOVOCEK
THOMAS W. HAAS
COREY W. HARRIS
CARDELL J. HERVEY
KRISTOFER S. LABOWSKI
SEAN M. LAVIGNE
TIMOTHY J. LEMLEY
PAUL L. MAHER
PATRICK L. MALLETT
RICHARD J. NAMETH
SCOTT C. NAYLOR
JEFFREY ORTOLI
CHRISTOPHER R. REID
MATTHEW W. ROMAN
JOHN D. SHANNON
DEIDRA E. SIDDALL
SCOTT H. SINKULAR
JAMES L. WILKINSON
ANTHONY T. WILSON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

JAMES H. JONES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

ENRIQUE G. MOLINA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

SCOTT A. CARPENTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

CHRISTOPHER C. RICHARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

JACOB C. HINZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

STANLEY E. HOVELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

RIVKA L. WEISS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

SHAWN M. STEBBINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

HENRY D. LANGE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 531:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTIE M. QUIETMEYER

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO ALEX KAPITANSKI, THE FLAG MAN OF OCEANSIDE

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent whose efforts have touched thousands of Americans over the last seven decades. Mr. Alex Kapitanski, more commonly known as ''The Flag Man,'' recently passed away on February 17, 2010. Mr. Kapitanski holds a great legacy not only in my district of California, but across the United States.

A fixture at civic events, Mr. Kapitanski embodied love of country with his passion in providing American and state flags for display at thousands of events from school graduations, to parades, to countless military services. A resident of Oceanside since 1950, Mr. Kapitanski once estimated that he provided flags to more than 37,000 events and hung more than 3.5 million flags. He once said, ''I'll probably die with a flag in my hand.''

His unwavering patriotism and commitment to his purpose has been recognized by presidents, generals and even Pope John Paul II. Just recently, Mr. Kapitanski, was honored in a special Presidents Day salute at the Oceanside Public Library and presented a proclamation from Oceanside Mayor Jim Wood with a film tribute and of course, plenty of flags on display.

Born on March 23, 1923, in West Rutland, Vermont, Mr. Kapitanski carried the spirit of the American flag from his early youth. His inspiration to begin collecting flags came from watching the superior conduct and community involvement of the legionnaires. At age 11, he hung his first flags by decorating the American Legion Post in his home town.

Mr. Kapitanski loved his country and served it with distinction at many levels. As a combat photographer during World War II, his primary mission was to go behind enemy lines to photograph enemy positions and gun emplacements. The military newspaper ''Stars & Stripes'' once featured a photo of him bringing in a German soldier he had captured behind the lines while photographing a position in Normandy. The photo was sent by wire service to nearly every newspaper in the United States and beyond. During this time, Mr. Kapitanski received numerous commendations and awards for his heroism including a Silver Star from General Dwight D. Eisenhower and a Bronze Star from General Courtney H. Hodges.

With a passion to teach the meaning and significance of our nation's flags to area youth, Mr. Kapitanski's work truly came from the heart. Although he is no longer with us, his spirit will live on in the youth he determinedly sought to inspire. In a 2007 interview he said, ''My goal is to motivate the younger generation to preserve our freedom.'' He will certainly be remembered for his devotion to his work, his strength of character, and his steadfast efforts to pass on his love of country and patriotism to upcoming generations.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to go to the Kapitanski family who will take up their father's cause to honor his memory. He is survived by four sons, Alex of Carlsbad, and Edwin, Albert and Allen of Oceanside; a daughter, Emilyann Ransom of Oceanside, and eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues please join me in paying tribute to the Flag Man, Mr. Alex Kapitanski, who will surely live as a symbol of the great work that can be done when we strive to achieve. He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the many Americans he inspired over his long and rich life.

IN HONOR OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to rise today to honor the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) for their meaningful work and the imprint the organization has made on our nation. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has a rich history and has played an important role throughout America's Civil Rights Movement.

The work of the SCLC is based on the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The SCLC ensures that his dream continues to come true across the nation. In Virginia's First Congressional District, Gloucester County is home to Holly Knoll, a true American treasure. Just recently I visited Holly Knoll, which is not only the birthplace of the United Negro College Fund, but is also the site of a giant 400 year-old Oak tree where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. penned his famous ''I Have a Dream Speech.'' This groundbreaking speech was written to spark American drive and passion in order to overcome the struggle of freedom and equality for all of our nation's citizens.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) from 1957 to 1968, a precursor to the SCLC. At its first convention in Montgomery, AL in August 1957, the Southern Leadership Conference became the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The SCLC has perpetuated Dr. King's mission through their advocacy on education, leadership, voter registration, and civil rights issues.

Dr. King's dream is made a reality by the great efforts of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. The hope for equality for children of all races, creeds, and backgrounds is a struggle which endures and one that the SCLC addresses by their continued work and faithfulness.

Dr. King challenged the nation on August 28, 1963 when he stated in his speech ''We can never be satisfied.'' He also said, ''My friends, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal'.''

Today I am honored to recognize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the collective efforts of its leadership and volunteers to make certain Dr. King's dream is a reality across the nation and throughout the world.

RECOGNITION OF ELFORD, INC. FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elford, Inc. for a century of dedicated service to the Columbus area. Elford has remained true to its core values of integrity, consistency, and responsibility, while providing first-rate construction services to businesses, hospitals, schools, and other organizations throughout central Ohio.

In 1910, Edward ''Pop'' Elford founded Elford, Inc. with the goal of providing honest, high-quality service through dedicated construction professionals. One hundred years later, Elford has grown to over 200 employees while staying true to its roots by building lasting relationships through expert advice and guidance on each of their projects. The company's commitment to excellence has been recognized with numerous awards and honors including the City of Columbus EOC Prime Contractor of the Year, the Governor's Award for Excellence, the Association of General Contractors Build Ohio Award, and the American Subcontractors Association Outstanding Contractor Award.

In addition to providing superior project planning, general contracting, and building management services, Elford, Inc. has committed itself to improving the surrounding community. The company donates generously to many charitable and community-building organizations and the Elford employees carry on the values of this century-old construction company by donating their time to various causes including the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, local hospitals and health centers, Hospice, the Rotary Club of Columbus, and local teams and clubs that benefit Columbus' youth. Elford also strives to promote diversity within their business and partners with and mentors local minority and women-owned businesses.

For 100 years, the honesty, dedication, and commitment to excellence that characterized ''Pop'' Elford has carried on through the high-

quality and reliable services that Elford provides in central Ohio. I am proud to recognize and honor Elford for a century of service to the Columbus area and for its record as a company that has positively shaped our community.

HONORING MRS. FRANKIE DRAYTON THOMAS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude that I recognize her for the tremendous inspiration she provided to the South Florida community—specifically to the Broward Democratic Party.

Mrs. Thomas was born in West Palm Beach, Florida to Iola and Frank Drayton. She attended public schools and graduated in 1946 as an honor student from Industrial High School. In order to further her education, she attended Howard University in Washington, DC and graduated in 1950. She received a Master's degree in Public Administration from Florida International University. Subsequent to that time, she returned to West Palm Beach and became the first black college trained social worker hired by the Department of Public Welfare. She enjoyed a fruitful and productive career as a social worker having worked both in the State of Washington and Florida. In 1995, she retired from the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as Director of Resource Development and Volunteer Services.

In an effort to complement her professional achievements, Mrs. Thomas was involved in many political, social and family endeavors such as co-founder, national president and executive director of the Charmettes Inc., which has 19 chapters both nationally and internationally; founding president of the Northwest Democratic Club in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Board of Directors of the Urban League; the first African-American female in the nation to be head of the Board of Directors of South East Hospice; and Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America.

Additionally, Mrs. Thomas was on the management team of the Democratic Broward County Executive Committee and served as the First Vice-Chair of the Democratic Party. She also served as Parliamentarian for the Broward County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She organized and executed many political forums and helped with many campaigns including Governor Bob Graham, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS, many of the Broward County Commissioners and School Board Members, Sheriff Ken Jenne, Attorney General Bob Butterworth, and President William J. Clinton.

Mrs. Thomas was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. She is survived by her husband, James Thomas Sr. This union produced two children, James Thomas Jr. and Iola Thomas Mosley, and seven grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Frankie Drayton Thomas. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Thomas for her invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida community. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives. While she will indeed be missed, her legacy will live on and the outstanding contributions she made to the betterment of Broward Democratic Party will never be forgotten.

GRAND OPENING OF THE GUILD OF AMERICAN PAPERCUTTERS

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Grand Opening celebration of the Guild of American Papercutters National Museum which will take place on March 20, 2010 in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

The twenty-two year old guild has partnered with Laurel Arts at the home of the Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, and will bring to the area the ancient art form of papercutting, which dates back to Fifth Century China. The Guild of American Papercutters (GAP) museum will feature a number of exhibits and artwork created by past and present guild members as well as the international community. Such exhibits will feature artwork from Polish, Dutch, German, Swiss, Mexican, and Israeli artists.

The Guild currently retains over four hundred members, in which every state in the United States is represented. Before the new two hundred sixteen square foot gallery was completed, the GAP held traveling exhibits in a number of locations throughout the country, beginning with its 1989 debut at the Hershey Museum of American Life in Hershey, Pennsylvania. In their new gallery, the GAP plans to hold regularly scheduled hands-on workshops and guest presentations to further introduce this artistic technique to the ninth district of Pennsylvania.

I ask my fellow colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating this achievement of the Guild of American Papercutters, and wish them the best of luck and continued success in their new National Museum. May it be a creative outlet for generations of artists to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARBLE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATING THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the House's attention today to pay recognition to the congregation of Marble City Baptist Church, which celebrated their 100th anniversary this year.

Marble City Baptist Church, formerly the Gantt's Quarry Baptist Church, like so many other congregations across East Alabama, has been a staple in the community since it came into existence. In 1968, the church received the new name we know today. Pastor Dr. Michael Trull plays a substantial role in helping the church lead its ministry.

On February 13, Marble City Baptist Church held a reunion from the day into that night. This gathering brought close to 300 people back to the church. The following Sunday, a congregation close to 400 people came together for the 100-year anniversary service.

All of us across Talladega County and East Alabama are deeply proud of this congregation at this important milestone. We congratulate them on their 100th anniversary and wish them all the best in their next 100 years of ministry in the Sylacauga community.

RECOGNITION OF THE COLUMBUS COMPACT CORPORATION

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its service to the city of Columbus, Ohio. The Columbus Compact Corporation, or the Compact, is a nonprofit community development organization that works to improve the quality of life in the central city neighborhoods of Columbus. On March 10, 2010, Columbus Compact Corporation will celebrate its 15th anniversary of serving central Ohio residents and businesses.

The Compact's mission is to act as both a catalyst for positive change and agent for the growth and development of central city Columbus. Since 1999, the Compact has led the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-designated "Columbus Empowerment Zone." This program implements community redevelopment strategies and directs resources to rebuild the city's most distressed urban neighborhoods, making Columbus a happier, healthier, and more desirable place to live, work, and play.

The Compact also lends money to new and existing businesses to create jobs and bring vital goods and services to Columbus. Over the last 15 years, the Compact has focused on developing real estate in concentrated areas and on a scale that allows for larger redevelopment in the neighborhoods of Columbus while enhancing the variety and quality of the housing stock.

The Columbus Compact Corporation strives to improve the city of Columbus by strengthening neighborhoods and encouraging people to reach their full potential. The Compact is continually working towards creating a healthy, thriving central city that is filled with successful and economically secure individuals, families, and businesses. I am proud to recognize and honor the Columbus Compact Corporation for its 15 years of dedication to improving the quality of life in the city of Columbus.

STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA, MINNEAPOLIS CHAPTER AT THE MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valuable resource available to Minnesota veterans; the Student Veterans of America Chapter at the Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC).

The Minneapolis group operates as a chapter of the national non-profit organization. The Student Veterans of America have three primary missions: 1) Develop student veterans groups on college campuses and coordinate by region between existing groups; 2) connect student groups with resources; and 3) advocate on behalf of student veterans at the state and national level. Since their establishment, the Minneapolis chapter has consistently achieved these goals. Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe are welcomed by the staff at the Minneapolis chapter. Veterans are able to discuss issues, receive assistance, and share common bonds with fellow veterans who are experiencing the stress of integrating into an academic environment. Whether they ultimately transfer to another college or begin their professional careers, veterans who attend the Minneapolis Community and Technical College have a high graduation rate.

As a Nation, we owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans, who have served, and continue to serve, our country and I am proud to announce that veterans are receiving the respect and assistance they need from the Minnesota Chapter of the Student Veterans of America. MCTC is hosting an event to honor student veterans on March 10 as one of the many ways we express our appreciation for student veterans. I encourage my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to find ways to honor student veterans in their communities.

The post-9/11 G.I. Bill passed by Congress has allowed more veterans an opportunity to achieve their academic goals. Organizations such as the Student Veterans of America, and the additional benefits available through the G.I. Bill, help to ensure that our veterans achieve their goals. I want all student veterans to know that I am grateful for their service and proud of their achievements. I wish them nothing but success and prosperity in their future endeavors.

HONORING MR. WALLY HUCKNO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Wally Huckno. Mr. Huckno served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 10.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Huckno served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Huckno is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MILITARY SERVICE OF TIBOR RUBIN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tibor "Ted" Rubin, a prominent U.S. Army Veteran and POW during the Korean War whose selfless and heroic actions earned him the Medal of Honor. Madame Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Mr. Rubin and share his story which serves as an inspiration to all Americans.

Having been born in Hungary in 1929, at age 15 Mr. Rubin was sent to Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria where he survived the next 14 brutal months of captivity. Tragically, his father perished in Buchenwald while his mother and sisters faced the gas chambers at Auschwitz. When Mauthausen was liberated by the U.S. Army in 1945, Mr. Rubin immigrated to the United States with a vow to show his appreciation to the country that gave him his freedom, and saved his life.

Mr. Rubin joined the army in 1950 and served as a rifleman with I Company, Eighth Regiment, First Cavalry Division, fighting in the Republic of Korea. Once there, Mr. Rubin hit the ground running and it wasn't long before he was recognized for his bravery and readiness to accept the most dangerous of missions. In one such mission, Rubin secured a route of retreat for his company by single-handedly defending a hill for 24 hours against waves of North Korean soldiers.

In November of 1950, after sustaining shrapnel wounds from a grenade, Mr. Rubin and others in his company were captured by the Chinese, who were fighting with the Korean Communist government. Despite the extreme conditions of low temperatures, shortages of food and medicine, all in the face of capture, this is where Rubin's selfless heroism truly shined. Mr. Rubin continually risked his life as he snuck out nightly to forage food for his fellow prisoners, especially the sick and dying. His fellow prisoners credit him with saving 35 to 40 lives by this brave and daring endeavor.

Mr. Rubin spent a total of two and a half years in the North Korean prisoner of war camp. Yet in the face of these unthinkable circumstances, Mr. Rubin distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism time and again. His harrowing acts of bravery and extraordinary devotion to his brothers in arms resulted in numerous recommendations from his Commanders for the Medal of Honor, among other prestigious awards. Regrettably, Mr. Rubin's deserved recognition was met with unwarranted obstruction due to his religious beliefs.

After more than 50 years of waiting, Mr. Rubin was finally given the acknowledgment he rightfully deserved. On September 23, 2005, President Bush awarded Mr. Rubin with the Medal of Honor—the highest military decoration awarded by the United States Government—for his many acts of valor throughout the Korean War.

Even to this day, at the age of 81, Mr. Rubin continues to inspire fellow veterans and service members as an active keynote speaker for military and Jewish communities across the United States. Most recently he has spoken to troops at Fort Hood, First Calvary, the California state military reserve, as well as to the 100 new soldiers enlisting in the five branches of the military service in Century City, California. In May of this year he will be speaking to the Army National Guard in Mississippi.

There is no question that Mr. Rubin has an unshakeable love for his adopted homeland of America. We are truly grateful for his demonstrated courage, compassion, and selfless military service.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to please join me in honoring all those brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and the valiant service of Mr. Tibor Rubin.

HONORING SPECIALIST ALAN N. DIKCIS

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor a true American hero—U.S. Army Specialist Alan N. Dikcis, a native of Wheatfield, New York.

Sadly, this past Friday, March 5, while serving his second tour of duty, Specialist Dikcis lost his life when he was struck by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan.

Specialist Dikcis enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Niagara-Wheatfield High School in 2006, and had hoped to spend his career in the service.

He enjoyed spending his time outside, whether it was going for a hike or riding his motorcycle or four-wheeler, and he enjoyed spending time with those he loved—his family and friends.

As Specialist Dikcis's stepmother recently said, "Alan loved being in the Army. He was proud of his work. He made us proud, he made his daughter proud."

I ask that the house join me in thanking Specialist Dikcis for his honorable service to our great nation, and extend our condolences to his family and friends, who had Alan taken from them far too soon.

HONORING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF MR. FONTAINE BANKS

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to

honor the military and public service of a true legend in Kentucky, Mr. Fontaine Banks. Throughout his many decades of service, Mr. Banks has made countless contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and to our nation.

Mr. Banks showed his desire to serve the public at an early age, starting out as president of the Student Government Association at Belfry High School, and later, serving as the president of the Student Council at Berea College.

But Mr. Banks' sense of service extended far beyond his education. Two weeks after graduating from college, Mr. Banks volunteered for the Marine Corps and reported to Parris Island. After basic training, he was deployed to Cho-do Island to fight in the Korean War, where he served two tours of duty in the fall of 1952 and the spring of 1953. He fought courageously with his fellow men and sustained injury while on the battlefield.

After his tour ended, Mr. Banks returned home to Kentucky and transitioned to the Marine Corps Reserve where he reached the rank of Colonel. He then began his civilian career with IBM and the Kentucky Department of Education, where he quickly moved up in state government. Mr. Banks eventually served as chief of staff to Governors Bert Combs and Ned Breathitt. To this day, he is the only person ever to serve as chief of staff to two Kentucky governors.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Banks has served his country in so many ways: in combat in Korea, as a Marine Colonel, as a public servant, and as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He is a fine example of a man dedicating his life to making the lives of those around him better. Mr. Banks has made a career of exemplary service, both to his state and country, and it is with great pride that we thank him for his service today.

TESSA GRAYBILL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tessa Graybill. Tessa is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Tessa's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Tessa has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Tessa can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Tessa Graybill for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOSPEL AM 1490 WMBM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Gospel AM 1490 WMBM. Since its inception in 1995, WMBM's leadership and staff have continued to serve as an important communications tool for the south Florida community. The listeners are fortunate to have a radio station committed to keeping them informed and entertained.

Acquired by New Birth Broadcasting, Inc. on March 10, 1995, WMBM has remained the only 24-hour gospel station in the Miami-Dade area. For the past 15 years, WMBM has distinguished itself through the breadth and depth of its programming, as well as through its unwavering dedication and service to its many listeners throughout the 17th Congressional district.

With talk programming such as Spirit and Soul: Compassion, Business Showcase: Business in the Black, Business Showcase, Tuesday Talk, Spirit and Soul: Victorious Life Management, Spirit and Soul: Sister to Sister, and Spirit and Soul: Brother to Brother—it is quite clear of WMBM's commitment to provide up-to-the-minute news, empowering its listeners, and playing inspirational and encouraging gospel music.

Moreover, as the first Black-owned and operated radio station in South Florida, WMBM currently has a coverage map of over 1,500,000 homes and businesses. WMBM is also one of the first radio stations to stream its broadcast via the internet.

In 2007, WMBM was the recipient of the Stellar Award Radio Station of the Year, which is a premier gospel event that recognizes and honors African-American artists, companies and organizations in the field of gospel music.

Madam Speaker, please join me in applauding and honoring the 15th Anniversary of Gospel AM 1490 WMBM as it celebrates 15 years of dedicated fellowship through its radio station. WMBM has forged an impressive reputation for quality programming and integrity. It is my hope that WMBM continues to stand as a beacon of resolve, inspiration and worship for many years to come. I wish them many more years of outstanding achievement.

THANKING MR. MICHAEL DOUGLASS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in December 2009, we rise to thank Mr. Michael Douglass for 34 years of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mike began his career at the House in 1975 as a Sales Clerk in the Office Supply Store. Mike's leadership, dedication, and positive attitude were visible to his management and he moved up to become a Sales Clerk filling orders for delivery and then he moved into the Accounting Department. Mike eventually became the Supervisor of the Accounting Department in Office Supply, where he was responsible for the server, software, and business accounting process in the Supply Store. Later he took these skills to play a key role in implementing the House's first fully computerized purchasing system, which continues in use to this day. His people skills were essential to the successful rollout of that system (Procurement Desktop).

Mike eventually became responsible for configuring the purchasing system so that users could purchase goods and services in compliance with best practices and the Office of Inspector General recommendations. With his role in developing recommendations for implementing the system that will replace the current financial system, Mike's valuable contributions to the House community will continue long after he has left. Mike is known by his colleagues for his sound business judgment and problem solving skills. He is also known for his quick wit and fairness.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Michael for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Michael many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY WORKING DOG PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the unsung heroes of our ongoing military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq: the Military Working Dogs (MWDs). For over 60 years, military dogs have been working, serving, and risking their lives alongside our brave servicemen and women around the world. Like their handlers, these Military Working Dogs have served this country with honor and distinction, keeping our country safe both at home and abroad.

During World War I, many dogs, beginning with the first military dog, Sergeant Stubby, served alongside American forces overseas. On March 13, 1942, the Army Quartermaster Corps officially recognized and incorporated the so-called K–9 Corps. Between 1942 and 1945, over 10,000 dogs were trained in the War Dogs program. Military dogs have continued to play an important role in the U.S. Armed Forces through the 20th century and into the 21st. Today, these four-legged soldiers serve alongside our soldiers overseas, searching for explosive components, drugs, and IEDs. As they do every day in our homes and yards, these dogs have proven to be man's best friend on the battlefield as well.

I became aware of the important work of Military Working Dogs through Frank Yevchak, a constituent from Hewitt, NJ and founder of Support Our Four-Legged Soldiers. Frank and his organization have sent thousands of dollars of supplies to MWD handlers stationed in Balad, Iraq. Supplies range from cooling vests and blankets to toys and treats—whatever the

handlers need to keep the dogs comfortable and able to complete their important jobs. Frank also includes letters and cards from local students in the care packages. Most recently, Frank has partnered with Macopin Middle School in West Milford. In the fall and winter, the ''Paws of Love Campaign'' at the school was able to raise $1,200 for our soldiers and canine companions.

As a dog owner, I understand the important traits of loyalty, courage, and dependability that these dogs give to our Armed Forces. Today, one day shy of the Military Working Dogs' 68th birthday, I recognize the important work of Military Working Dogs and thank their owners, trainers, handlers, and supporters for all they do for our soldiers and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING DIANNE VILLANO, FOUNDER OF SUPPORT OUR MARINES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Dianne Villano, the founder of Support Our Marines, Inc., in St. Pete Beach, Florida, who has dedicated herself to sending packages and correspondence to Marines who are stationed overseas. For the past four years, Ms. Villano, the owner of a local fitness company, has gone out of her way to actively support the troops, donating over 30 hours a week of her time to directing her non-profit organization.

After losing her fiancé during the September 11th terrorist attacks, Ms. Villano began supporting the troops in 2005 by sending mail and packages to those serving overseas. In 2007, she officially founded Support Our Marines in order to send packages to Marines on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Her initial contact with the Marines began when she discovered a Web site where Marines posted facts about their living conditions, experiences, and general needs while they were on duty overseas. She chose to focus her efforts on Marines stationed on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan, because often, servicemembers in remote locations rarely receive packages. Since founding her organization, Ms. Villano has sent over 4,500 boxes of food and other items requested by the troops, between 40 and 60 packages a month, to over 115 contacts within the Marines who then distribute the items within their companies.

Additionally, Ms. Villano works diligently to secure funding for her organization to pay the costs to ship packages overseas. Support Our Marines is a registered nonprofit in Florida and Ms. Villano recently filed for 501(c)(3) status in order to be able to more actively solicit donations. Currently, she funds much of the mailing and acquisition costs with her own paychecks.

Ms. Villano also works to raise awareness about deployed Marines by competing in triathlons and running events while wearing military gear weighing about 20 percent of her body weight. She has competed in over 20 events, each of them with photographs of fallen Marines attached to her military gear and each in honor of a specific Marine from units she has adopted.

Recently, Ms. Villano was honored by being named as the first runner-up for the local Jefferson Award for Public Service which recognized her outstanding community service and dedication to the troops. She chose to present her award to a wounded Marine who had inspired her during her work for the Marines and presented it to him at the James A. Haley Memorial Hospital where he was recovering from a head injury. Additionally, she has been named as an associate member of the local Marine Corps League and has received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Department of State.

Madam Speaker, Ms. Villano is an extraordinary, selfless woman who deserves to be recognized for her outstanding service to the troops and for her continuing efforts to support them. I would like to thank her for her hard work and dedication as she continues to devote her time and attention to our heroes on the front lines of the war on terror.

CONNOR HAYES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Connor Hayes. Connor is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Connor's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Connor has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Connor can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Connor Hayes for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

MANUEL RAYMOND ''RAY'' SOUZA

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ray Souza as he is completing his term as President of the Western United Dairymen.

Mr. Souza is respected throughout California as one of the foremost experts on dairy policy and is a passionate advocate for California dairy producers. He is a well-known and respected leader in his local community, the California dairy industry, and in national organizations. He is the owner and operator of Mel-Delin Dairy in Turlock, California, a family dairy established by his grandfather in 1930. He started as a teenager with a 4–H cow that he purchased at an auction and has been making their living on milking cows ever since.

Mr. Souza takes an active role in his local community. He is a member of numerous community organizations including the Turlock Chamber of Commerce, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and many others. Mr. Souza was recognized as the Chamber's Ag Leader of the year in 1994. Mr. Souza was appointed to the Stanislaus County Fair Board in 1996, a position he still holds.

Mr. Souza has been a member of the Western United Dairymen since its inception in 1984. He has served on the board of directors for over 10 years and is currently completing his second term as President. In this capacity he has testified before Congress on issues related to the dairy industry and advises members of Congress on real world impacts of dairy policy decisions. The quality of leadership that Mr. Souza has provided to the Western United Dairymen has been critical to the success and growth of the organization.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Mr. Ray Souza, for his leadership, dedication, and outstanding service to Western United Dairymen.

A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ''BILL'' REILLEY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to a fine American, William ''Bill'' Reilley, Sr., on an occasion when he and his business have received a prestigious honor: the International Circle of Excellence Award for 2009.

His success has been recognized by the industry. In 2001, Bill was named the International Dealer of the Year, an honor awarded to one International dealer who exhibits the highest commitment to best-in-class customer service. He was a multi-finalist for the American Truck Dealers' Dealer of the Year and the Wisconsin Truck Dealer of the Year awards. With this most recent award, Bill has received the Circle of Excellence Award a total of 15 times. The Circle of Excellence awarded by the International dealer organization of Navistar, Inc., honors International truck dealerships that achieve the highest level of dealer performance with respect to operating and financial standards and most importantly, customer satisfaction. It is the highest honor a dealer principal can receive from the company.

He started his career with International Harvester in 1963 and eventually left to become the International dealer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Bill's business acumen has successfully positioned the company for continued success, growing Lakeside International, LLC, from one location to six while concurrently increasing revenues from $14 million to more than $100 million annually. Lakeside International employs 200 people in all. The company remains a family venture with Bill's son, Bill Reilley, Jr., being named successor, assuring consistent leadership and growth for years to come.

Bill has achieved this level of accomplishment and recognition through many years of hard work and service to his industry and community. He recently transitioned from his leadership role as board chairman of St. Anne's Center for Intergenerational Care in Milwaukee, a nationally recognized facility. He

continues to dedicate his time and talents to St. Anne's as an Honorary Board Member, so that the center can continue to benefit from his leadership and commitment. Above all, he is committed to his family that includes Patricia, his wife of 43 years, his son Bill, Jr., his daughter Amy, his son-and-daughter-in-law and nine grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I am honored to pay tribute to Bill Reilley for his contributions to the Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Bill Reilley has acquired a lifetime record of accomplishment and contributed much to his community, State and Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 75, 76, and 77, I was unavoidably detained from voting due to flight complications from Montana to Washington, DC. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 75, "nay" on rollcall 76, and "yea" on rollcall 77.

HONORING ALCALDE NIELS CHEW

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Representative LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor Alcalde Niels Chew, who was bestowed the title of honorary mayor of the City of Sonoma because of his commitment to his community and its citizens. The naming of an Alcalde, which means "magistrate" or "mayor" in Spanish, is a tradition that began in 1975 as a way to acknowledge the citizen of the year.

Niels is best known for his generosity, humility and his unwavering dedication to the causes he believes in, which is why he was selected from a long list of candidates. According to Niels, his father is responsible for instilling in him the value of service.

"During the Depression, no one in need ever came to our house and left empty handed," he said.

Niels embraces quite a history of community service to the City of Sonoma, dating back to 1984 when he and his wife Susan first moved to Sonoma. Since then, Niels has graciously shared his warehouse with many area nonprofits who have stored their food and clothing donations in his facility.

As owner of Dowling Miner Magnets until 2004, he provided opportunities to Becoming Independent to train and support people with developmental disabilities.

Currently, Niels serves on the board of the Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation, Operation Youth, and the Sonoma Overnight Shelter. He was formerly the president of Kiwanis of Sonoma Plaza and trustee of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District.

One of his most notable and impactful service endeavors has been his continuous support of the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance as a dedicated mentor and founding board member. He is even credited with starting the organization because he added the organization's executive director to his payroll at Dowling Magnets so she could kick-off the mentoring program.

As a result of his initial investment, what began as a 10 hour weekly commitment at Flowery School blossomed into an organization that has been successfully connecting caring adults with at-risk students for more than 12 years.

"He has a heart the size of a continent, especially where kids are concerned," said Ms. Kathy Witkowicki, Executive Director of the Mentoring Alliance. "We could never put a value on all that he has contributed to the Mentoring Alliance over the years, because it's priceless."

Madam Speaker, Niels Chew's commitment to service is a powerful example of the positive difference one person can make. We are thankful for the charitable contributions made by this humble and thoughtful leader and philanthropist and we wish him continued prosperity as he spends time with his children and grandchildren.

COURTNEY DARR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Courtney Darr. Courtney is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Courtney's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Courtney has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Courtney can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Courtney Darr for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. HERTA ADLER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Herta Adler, known to Memphians as the "matriarch of the local Jewish community." She was born to Mr. and Mrs. Adolf and Mathilde Arfeld on September 27, 1915 in Diez, Germany.

Mrs. Adler was 24 when she witnessed the burning of her synagogue on Kristallnacht, or Night of Broken Glass. On this night, dozens of Jews were killed and sent to concentration camps, including many of Mrs. Adler's friends and family. In 1948, Mrs. Adler was able to move to Lisbon, Portugal where her brother was in business, because the government granted residency to family members of established residents.

From Portugal, Mrs. Adler made her way to New York City, where she met her husband, Dr. Justin H. Adler. They married in 1943 and relocated to Memphis not long after. The two were known as avid collectors of art and Judaica. Mrs. Adler, in particular, was known as a philanthropist who supported all kinds of artistic and cultural organizations, reminding others that "charity is the fist that we give for having a good life." In the early 1990s, the Adlers donated a large collection of Jewish ritual art to Temple Israel, which is located in Memphis, TN, helping to create the only Judaica museum in the region. In 1992, the Adlers also contributed their extensive pewter collection, which spans 400 years, to Dixon Gallery and Gardens where it is part of the permanent collection.

In addition to her passion and appreciation for art, Mrs. Adler was known for her interest in the people around her. She befriended and supported several young Memphis artists and centered much of her life on Temple Israel, where she was a member for more than 60 years. Mrs. Adler and her husband were also founders of Beth Sholom Synagogue, a Conservative Synagogue in the Memphis region.

Mrs. Herta Adler passed away on Friday, February 12, 2010 and was laid to rest on Monday, February 15, 2010. She was 94 years old. She is survived by her daughters Hedda A. Schwartz, a residential and commercial real estate executive, Susan Adler Thorp, a respected journalist, and her son Michael Adler, an accomplished attorney—all of Memphis. I will always remember Mrs. Adler for her devotion to shaping the cultural and Jewish life of Memphis, Tennessee.

CENSUS AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of H. Res. 1096, which encourages all individuals in the United States to participate in the 2010 Census and expresses support for the designation of March 2010 as Census Awareness Month. This important legislation will help achieve an accurate count of the United States population and ensure that communities across the country have the schools, infrastructure, and other vital resources they need to thrive.

I thank Chairman TOWNS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank the author of this legislation, Congressman REYES, who has taken the time to increase public awareness on this crucial issue.

Mr. Speaker, an accurate count of all individuals living in the United States, as required by the Constitution, is critical to ensure the well-being of cities and communities throughout the country. The Census helps guarantee the accurate and fair composition of voting districts at the Federal, State, and local levels and the proper allocation of Federal resources

to communities. Census data also helps city planners identify changes in population so that they can place schools, fire and police stations, and other city services in locations that will best serve their residents. Finally, accurate census data is essential to the long term prosperity of our country, as it is used by businesses to make effective decisions regarding investments and growth.

It is crucial that we increase public awareness of and achieve full participation in the 2010 Census. It is estimated that approximately 16 million individuals—the equivalent of nearly 27 Congressional districts—did not participate in the 2000 Census. Low-income communities—the communities that rely most on a fair distribution of resources and services—are at risk of being undercounted in this year's Census and, consequently, underserved for the next decade. This important legislation will help ensure that all communities get their fair share of resources and are equipped to achieve prosperity and growth.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H. Res. 1096.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED COUNCIL OF UW STUDENTS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Council of UW Students on its 50th anniversary. Founded in 1960, the United Council of UW Students has served as a champion for student rights and a tireless advocate for protecting access to higher education in Wisconsin.

A non-partisan, non-profit, student-driven organization, United Council employs grassroots techniques to ensure that the voices of students on every University of Wisconsin System campus are heard by our state government. With chapters across the state, United Council gives UW students an important and necessary seat at the table during the policymaking process.

Since its inception, the United Council has worked on a variety of issues including merging the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin State University systems, increasing student rights and the ability of students to participate in the formation of university policy, and addressing affordability and access to a college education.

Ensuring that all university students have access to an affordable, quality higher education is essential to Wisconsin's economic future and the nation's position in the global economy. I am proud of the legacy of the United Council and its history of fighting for these vital goals.

For 50 years of advocacy on behalf of the students of the University of Wisconsin System, I would like to thank the United Council of UW Students for its service and wish all the members and advocates continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes on March 4, 2010 and would like the record to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 90: "yes."

SHELBY CLAY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Shelby Clay. Shelby is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Shelby's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Shelby has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Shelby can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Shelby Clay for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

IN MEMORIAM—THE HONORABLE FRANCISCO CASTRO ADA

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who served our country, and who served the Northern Mariana Islands, with great honor and distinction. The Honorable Francisco Castro Ada passed away on March 2nd; and he is being accorded a state funeral this week on the island of Saipan.

Francisco Ada was born in 1934 during the Japanese administration of the Northern Marianas. He came from humble beginnings, but always strove to improve himself—and in the process contributed much to our community.

Following World War II he went to Guam to attend high school. This was before there was any high school in the Northern Mariana Islands. To obtain more than a basic education required leaving home.

Diploma in hand, Mr. Ada returned to Saipan and taught for two years in a public school. But convinced of the need for a college education Mr. Ada secured a scholarship to the University of Hawaii at Manoa and earned a Bachelor's degree in political science. There, he also demonstrated the political skills that would serve him throughout his life: he won election as president of the International Students Association.

Upon his return from college in 1961, Mr. Ada again took up teaching at Saipan Intermediate School, but within a year his education and charisma landed him a position as public affairs officer for the Marianas District Government. The Marianas District was one of the geographical components of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the United States.

Promotion came quickly. Over an eight year period Francisco C. Ada moved from economic and political programs officer to district political affairs assistant, then to assistant district administrator for public affairs. Trust Territory officials took due regard of Mr. Ada's work ethic, his administrative savvy, and his exemplary leadership skills. And in 1969 he was appointed Administrator for the entire Marianas District, overseeing all the operations of local government.

Arguably his most important and far-sighted achievement during his seven years as District Administrator was building the Saipan International Airport. This modern facility on the capitol island ushered in our next thirty-five years of development, allowing Saipan to grow as a business center and as a destination for tourists from around the Pacific. To manage this critical piece of public infrastructure Ada set up an airport authority, independent of the need for local government support, that continues to be a model in our islands. Fittingly, on the airport's 25th anniversary, it was named Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

Francisco Ada's years as Administrator coincided with a yearning for self-government and a change of political status in the Marianas. People wanted closer political ties with the United States and twice tried to restore the historical unification with Guam. Then, a 1975 plebiscite overwhelmingly approved commonwealth status under the sovereignty of the U.S.

Ada oversaw the subsequent transition from Trust Territory Government to Commonwealth. But he also saw that he could have a place in the newly forming government. He left his post with the Trust Territory and ran, successfully, on the Democratic Party ticket to be the first Lieutenant Governor of the new Commonwealth.

Those early years set the course for the fledgling government. Mr. Ada was an active participant in the passage of new laws; negotiations and agreements with Federal agencies; the design and construction of public infrastructure; and adjustment by all to self-governance.

For the first time in anyone's memory, the islands' prospects for success or failure squarely rested on the shoulders of the people and new leaders of the Commonwealth. Francisco C. Ada lived up to that historical challenge and fulfilled the people's trust.

But it is easy to say of government officials that they served the general good. Let me tell you of my own experience of Francisco Ada working for the good of individuals, as well. I recall Mr. David Indalecio, who worked on Mr. Ada's staff, keeping the office clean and maintained. Mr. Indalecio did not have a high school diploma. Maybe he didn't need one to do his job. But Francisco C. Ada had a commitment to education—for himself and all those around him. Mr. Ada encouraged Mr.

Indalecio to complete his schooling, and with that support Mr. Indalecio did graduate from high school. The story does not end there, however. Because Mr. Indalecio himself then went on to leadership in our community. He was elected to the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, where he served with distinction.

Francisco C. Ada served the public throughout his career, but he never lost touch with the personal aspect of life—his family. His wife and seven children kept him anchored during the stormiest of times; and he gave them an example and the guidance that make the Ada family one of our most distinguished: a doctor, lawyers, public servants, each leaders in their own right, and in many ways Francisco C. Ada's greatest legacy.

Madam Speaker, thank you for this time to remark on the honorable and much esteemed Francisco Castro Ada. He will always be remembered for his dedication, fairness and tireless capacity to make the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a better place for all.

God bless him and his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, on March 4th, 2010, I was absent for one rollcall vote because I was attending a meeting on healthcare at the White House. If I had been here, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote 90.

RECOGNIZING GENE SCHULTZ

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Elmwood Park resident Gene Schultz on his sterling driver-safety record and subsequent induction into the United Parcel Service Circle of Honor. Gene's induction commemorates 25 accident-free years as a UPS delivery driver. Gene's accomplishment is especially impressive when we consider that his job requires him to be behind the wheel of a truck for many hours each week.

Gene grew up as the 14th of 15 children in Chicago's Galewood neighborhood near Harlem and Grand Avenues. He has lived with his wife Theresa in Elmwood Park for the last 11 years. Mr. Schultz serves as a model for responsible driving in the city of Chicago and deserves commendation for his consistent safety record. It is with great pride that I recognize Gene Schultz for his contribution to the safety of Chicago's roadways.

HONORING RICHARD W. SNOWDON III FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN'S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard W. Snowdon III, as he concludes his service as chair of the board of directors of the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Mr. Snowdon has a long and distinguished record of service to Children's National Medical Center, having served as chair of the hospital's foundation from 2002–2005 and most recently as chair of the board from 2006–2009.

Children's National Medical Center is an integral part of the fabric of Washington, DC. Founded in 1870 as a home for civil war orphans, Children's National has grown into a 283 bed academic medical center devoted to meeting children's health care needs locally, regionally and nationally. The hospital's growth and success have been dependent on strong, visionary leaders, such as Mr. Snowdon.

Under Mr. Snowdon's chairmanship, Children's National was thrice named to the Leap-Frog Group's list of top hospitals for quality and safety; immunization compliance of school-aged children in the District of Columbia went from one of the lowest in the country to the highest; the hospital opened a state-of-the-art, family-centered inpatient tower; and perhaps closest to his heart, Children's National released a comprehensive assessment of pediatric health in the District of Columbia. The report's findings will help Children's National target resources to address some of the most pressing health concerns facing our children, including asthma and obesity.

Mr. Snowdon is an attorney in the firm of Trainum, Snowdon & Deane. In addition to his service to Children's National, he is or has been a trustee, director or member of numerous civic organizations, including the Anthony Francis Lucas-Spindletop Foundation, The Langley School, the National Children's Museum, the Community Foundation of Greater Washington, the D.C. Advisory Committee of the Local Initiative Support Corporation, the National Cathedral School for Girls, the Washington Cathedral, the Black Student Fund, and the Federal City Council. Mr. Snowdon received a B.S. from the Syracuse University College of Business Administration and a J.D. from The George Washington University National Law Center.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and commending Richard W. Snowdon III for his outstanding leadership and in thanking him and his wife, Catharine, for their commitment to the children of the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

JERALD L. MORLOCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jerald L. Morlock. Jerald is 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, Great Rivers Council Troop 99, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jerald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jerald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jerald has displayed dedication and perseverance with this significant achievement, values which will stay with him throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jerald L. Morlock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOUIS GELDER & SONS COMPANY OF BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louis Gelder & Sons Company of Benton Harbor, Michigan, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on Thursday, March 11, 2010.

Since 1910, Louis Gelder & Sons has proudly supplied the folks of southwest Michigan with tractors and other agriculture equipment and supplies. Today, operated by Bruce and Joe Gelder, the company is a fourth-generation family-run business.

The story of Louis Gelder & Sons begins in Millburg, Michigan, only a few miles away from their current location. Like many small businesses, their long history speaks to the power of the American entrepreneurial spirit, having endured two of the deepest economic recessions in modern history. Our Nation has faced many challenges and changes over the past century, but Louis Gelder & Sons has stood the test of time.

Behind great companies with this kind of endurance you will always find great people. The folks at Louis Gelder & Sons work as a team, which makes all the difference between a good company and a great one.

The long success of Louis Gelder & Sons is a remarkable achievement, and we are all very proud to see them continuing to provide service to the people of Michigan. Congratulations to the Gelder family and their employees. Here's to the next 100!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is $12,546,372,001,879.73.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was $10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by $1,907,946,255,585.93 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the League of Women Voters, which celebrated its 90th anniversary on February 14, 2010.

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has worked to increase understanding of major public policy issues, encourage informed and active participation in government, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. With organizations in every state and hundreds of local chapters across the country, the League is one of the strongest grassroots activist networks in the country.

Throughout its history, the League has played a vital role in transforming our society and preserving responsive government. Whether fighting McCarthyism, helping to end segregation, protecting our environment, organizing our Nation's presidential debates, strengthening the Voting Rights Act, or upholding the decision in Roe v. Wade, the League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of nearly every major policy issue in the last 90 years. Through its dedication to good, responsible government, the League has been influential in overseeing the passage of Congress' most important pieces of legislation, including the Social Security Act and child labor laws.

The League's decentralized structure enabled it to keep pace with our Nation's dynamic societal changes in the last century, ensuring that its legislative priorities reflected the needs of society and critical issues of concern. Today, the League remains true to its mission of education and advocacy, focusing on global climate change, health care reform, and voting rights for the District of Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the achievements of the League of Women Voters and the contributions it has made to our Nation and to American history. Its efforts honor the legacy of the women who assembled at Seneca Falls, New York over 160 years ago. With the same courage and belief in equality, the League of Women Voters continues to make history.

IN RECOGNIZING OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PEANUT BOARD

HON. BOBBY BRIGHT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. BRIGHT. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, March 10th, the National Peanut Board (NPB) celebrates 10 years of work on behalf of America's 10,000 peanut farmers, including the 500 who live in my district. Before this organization was created, there was no national effort by growers to market American-grown peanuts, spur new product development and innovative new uses, or to carry out an issues management program. Through several major strategic initiatives, the NPB's grower-funded check-off program has made measurable progress toward its goal of increasing demand and consumption since the launch of its promotion, marketing and advertising campaign.

Highlights from the National Peanut Board's past ten years will be showcased on March 10th at an event at the historic Eastern Market in Washington, D.C. featuring dishes created by celebrated chefs. They plan to honor one of America's most iconic and beloved foods. From savory to sweet, peanuts will be used in traditional and innovative dishes from a variety of cuisines at this special event celebrating this essential and deeply rooted part of America's food culture.

Since its inception, NPB has played a vital role in promoting peanuts. To stimulate consumer demand for American-grown peanuts over the last decade, NPB has extolled the value, nutritional attributes, versatility, portability, and great taste of American-grown peanuts, peanut butter and peanut products. NPB has undertaken marketing programs domestically and internationally to reach that goal, working to spark new uses for American-grown peanuts and peanut butter and to encourage the creation of innovative peanut products.

These programs are working. Since the start of NPB's programs in 2000, total peanut usage has increased more than 15 percent when compared to levels of usage in the 1990s. Peanut butter consumption alone has increased even more dramatically—over 20 percent during the same period, according to USDA Stocks and Processing reports.

Through partnerships with other commodity groups, manufacturers, and foodservice, NPB brings American-grown peanuts where they have never been before. NPB's targeted foodservice initiative actively promotes the culinary value of peanuts and peanut products by positioning them as versatile ingredients that can add nutrition, flavor, texture and appeal to any meal. In fact, listings of peanuts on the menus of the 200 restaurant chains have increased by 146 percent over the past seven years, according to Food Beat, Inc.

Production research funding is also at the forefront for the National Peanut Board. Over the past 10 years, NPB has invested more than $14.4 million in peanut production research to help create crop efficiencies, improve crop quality and reduce production costs. Additionally, the NPB is the only commodity board investing in food allergy research, outreach and education and has allocated more than $7 million to this cause.

Furthermore, the NPB played a pivotal role during the 2009 salmonella crisis, most notably by hosting a two-day consumer and media outreach event in Vanderbilt Hall in Grand Central Terminal in New York. Through direct interactions, NPB and its partners educated consumers, conveyed the concerns of peanut farmers, and facilitated a steady market recovery for peanut butter.

Nearly half the peanuts grown in the United States are harvested within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, Alabama. As the Representative of the district which ranks fourth in the country in overall peanut acreage, I understand the importance of organizations like the NPB. Ten years of hard work and positive results for America's peanut farmers is a remarkable achievement. In honor of their 10th Anniversary, I commend the National Peanut Board for all of their hard work and past achievements, and wish them continued success in the future.

JACOB A. FRANKLIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jacob A. Franklin. Jacob is 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, Great Rivers Council Troop 99, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jacob has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jacob has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Jacob has displayed dedication and perseverance with this significant achievement, values which will stay with him throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jacob A. Franklin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING GAIL KROHN OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today the Second District of Texas recognizes Ms. Gail Krohn for her service to the Nederland Independent School District as she retired earlier this month. For 43 years, she has helped forge the minds of countless students, preparing them for an ever-changing and demanding world.

Gail was born in Kentucky and moved around through five different states before she and her family settled in Hull-Daisetta, TX. They stayed until she graduated from Lamar State College of Technology. Soon thereafter, she embarked on a long and fruitful career working with children in the Nederland Independent School District.

She began her career as a reading teacher at C.O. Wilson Middle School but was destined for a leadership role. Gail would eventually become principal of Central Middle School before taking over the role of Superintendent in 1997. Though she no longer worked with children on a daily basis, Gail made sure that the classrooms in Nederland always empowered students to achieve their dreams.

Numerous times throughout her career, Gail received recognition for her excellence in the

classroom and for her work with students. The Region V Education Service Center named her Outstanding Principal while the Council on Exceptional Children presented her with the Will L. Smith Award. Similarly, Lamar University inducted her into their Administrator's Hall of Fame.

The Second Congressional District of Texas honors Ms. Gail Krohn for her many years of service to the Nederland Independent School District. The lessons and ideals that she taught will resonate with students and generations for years to come.

And that's the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF VIRGINIA PIERCE AND THE WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS OF WORLD WAR II

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and achievements of Virginia Pierce from Alturas, California. During World War Two, Mrs. Pierce flew as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). These aviators were the first female flyers to be trained on U.S. Military aircraft. During the time when the need of the country was greatest, these brave women flew fighter, bomber, transport and training aircraft in the defense of American freedom and liberty.

I was a proud cosponsor of the legislation that recognized these women's service, and I rise today to recognize Virginia Pierce and congratulate her on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

IN CELEBRATION OF EBBY HALLIDAY'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ebby Halliday Acres as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday today. Ebby has truly made a lifelong impact on the Dallas community and real estate industry through her many entrepreneurial and philanthropic endeavors.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was founded in 1945 by Ebby and her beloved husband, Maurice Acers. Their company began with only fifty-two homes in North Dallas, and has since grown to become one of the largest privately owned residential real estate firms in the country. Success for Ebby Halliday is not simply a result of her hard work and entrepreneurial spirit. She is notorious for the personal care and attention she gives to her employees, agents, and buyers. She has received numerous awards recognizing her professional success over the years. To name a few, Ebby received the Horatio Alger Award in 2005, the Visionary Award from Foundation Fighting Blindness, and the Linz Award in 2008.

Ebby is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating her time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. St. Paul Medical Center, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the Communities Foundation of Texas are only three of the many nonprofit organizations and causes that have been personally touched by Ebby's love for her community and dedication to making the City of Dallas a better place.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Ebby as she celebrates her ninety-ninth birthday. May we all strive to match Ebby's passion for improving our communities and her unwavering commitment to success.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Peace Corps Week that is celebrated from March 1 through March 7, 2010.

The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to the early 1960s, when then Senator John F. Kennedy inspired Americans to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. The Peace Corps celebrated its 49th anniversary on March 1st.

As of September 30, 2009, 7,671 Peace Corps Volunteers are making significant and lasting contributions to improve the lives of individuals and communities in 76 countries. Since 1961, nearly 200,000 Volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world and in their local communities in the United States when they return home.

The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grass-roots level in the developing world.

That is why I strongly support federal funding to ensure a strong and vibrant Peace Corps program.

Throughout its history, the Peace Corps has adapted and responded to the issues of the times. In an ever-changing world, Peace Corps Volunteers have met new challenges with innovation, creativity, determination, and compassion.

Peace Corps Volunteers work in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, Europe, the Pacific Islands, and the Middle East. Volunteers have made contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, information technology, education, health and HIV/AIDS, youth, and the environment.

Peace Corps Volunteers will arrive in Indonesia in spring 2010 and will work as English teachers in high schools and at teacher training institutions. In mid-2010, Peace Corps Volunteers will return to Sierra Leone after a 16-year absence. Volunteers will focus on secondary education and work with their host communities on grassroots initiatives and community development projects.

Peace Corps Volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries. Their work around the globe represents a legacy of service that has become a significant part of America's history and positive image abroad. Their desire to make a difference has improved the lives of millions of people around the world as well as here in the United States.

Peace Corps Volunteers provide hope and meaningful assistance to people affected by HIV/AIDS. The tireless efforts and dedication of Volunteers have made the Peace Corps a key partner in the global response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Peace Corps Volunteers are uniquely suited to work in HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention because they are trained in the local language, live and work in the communities where they serve, and know how to share information in a culturally appropriate way.

Peace Corps Response provides returned Peace Corps Volunteers the opportunity to serve again in rewarding, high-impact, short-term assignments. Since its inception in 1996, this program has sent more than 1,000 returned Volunteers into the field in over 40 countries. Peace Corps Response Volunteers are deployed to crisis situations such as disaster relief following natural catastrophes, as well as to nonemergency interventions such as HIV/AIDS awareness.

Through Peace Corps service, Volunteers worldwide learn more than 250 languages and dialects, and they receive extensive cross-cultural training that enables them to function effectively at a professional level in different cultural settings. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are leaders in all sectors of our society.

My home state of Colorado is a very service-oriented state and its first lady, Ms. Jeannie Ritter, wife of Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, was a Peace Corps volunteer who served in Tunisia in a center for the disabled.

My district, the Second Congressional District of Colorado, has a strong tradition of volunteerism and I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize in particular the great work of 38 constituents who are currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers in countries like Togo, Costa Rica, Peru, Zambia, Honduras, Malawi and the Dominican Republic, among others. Thank you very much for your contributions to the people and communities of these nations and for serving as ambassadors of peace, hope and opportunity.

In addition, I am very proud that the University of Colorado at Boulder—our state's flagship higher education institution—ranks second in the nation among colleges and universities for the most alumni joining Peace Corps in 2009 with 95 active volunteers and continues its great tradition of national and international service. Historically, the University of Colorado at Boulder ranks 5th for most alumni Volunteers in America, with 2,206 alumni having served as Peace Corps Volunteers since 1961.

It is indeed fitting to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and honor its Volunteers, past and present, and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the National Peace Corps Week and the 49th anniversary of this wonderful program.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor Thursday afternoon.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall numbers 87, 88, 89, and 90, and "aye" on rollcall number 91.

HONORING BROTHER JOE ADAMS

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brother Joe Adams for his outstanding service as chaplain to the Kentucky State government. On March 16, 2010, the Kentucky House of Representatives will celebrate Brother Adams' retirement after twenty-eight years of service.

Brother Adams was born and raised in Kentucky, and began preaching at the age of fourteen. In 1966, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Serving for four years, Brother Adams spent his last year in Vietnam.

Following his service to his country, Brother Adams enrolled in Western Kentucky University to study Accounting and began preaching in Simpson County. He later pursued a master's degree in Child Development and Family Living, but soon realized he was being called to devote his life to full-time ministry.

Brother Adams has been a pastor at several Baptist churches across Kentucky. Since 1983, he has dedicated himself to working with community and State officials through the God and Country Ministry. In addition to his duties as chaplain to the Kentucky State government, Brother Adams has contributed to the Commonwealth as a member of numerous boards and committees, including the Bardstown/Nelson County Chamber of Commerce, the Bardstown Public Housing Tenant Relations Committee, the Non-Public School Commission, and chairman of Christian Home Educators of Kentucky.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Brother Joe Adams for his service to our country and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He has touched thousands, literally being the hands and feet of his Lord Jesus Christ reaching into many dark places with the light of truth, hope, and love. May God richly bless him as he and Saundra enter the next chapter in their lives of service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, March 4, 2010, I was unable to be present for the recorded vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1079, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 91.

JOSEPH FINNERTY: A JOB WELL DONE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, mixed emotions describe the way I and the people of New Bedford feel about the retirement of Joseph S. Finnerty, as Executive Director of the New Bedford Housing Authority. Running a housing authority and a city is no easy job, as people well know. But Joe Finnerty has never been one to complain about this task for which he volunteered and which he has performed in an extraordinary fashion for thirty-five years. No one can begrudge him his retirement after all that service in such a demanding position, but Joe can't begrudge us our feelings of regret that he's leaving. As Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Joe Finnerty has served not just the residents of public housing, but all of the people of New Bedford, by the great contributions he has made to the quality of life for those residents and for the city as a whole.

Madam Speaker, tomorrow, March 10th, some of Joe's close friends, who know well what an extraordinary asset he has been to the city and people of New Bedford, are gathering with him to provide a well-earned salute. As you know, our business will keep me here in D.C. at that time, so I am taking advantage of this forum to send him my best wishes, not simply personally, but because the example of a man who has dedicated so much of his life to the important job of running a public housing authority, and done it so well, ought to be held up for those who sometimes become unduly pessimistic about the good that can be done in government. And I ask that the article by Jack Spillane, from the New Bedford Standard Times, be printed here for that purpose.

[Jan. 26, 2010]

RETIRING HOUSING CHIEF LOOKS BACK ON REIGN WITH PRIDE

(By Jack Spillane)

Few people in New Bedford have positively affected more people's lives over the last 35 years than Joseph S. Finnerty.

Entrusted with the housing care of thousands of low-income city residents since 1975, Joe Finnerty has presided over an era in which the city authority rebuilt much of its aging public housing stock, de-leaded more than 2,000 units, and put into motion rebuilding projects that will eventually make scores of housing units accessible to the disabled.

Under the leadership of the 73-year-old Finnerty—who will retire at the end of this month—the New Bedford Authority has, for decades, provided stable and reliable housing for thousands of low-income city residents.

But it's something else that Finnerty—a member of a political family long active in city and local Democratic politics—seems most proud of. During Finnerty's long tenure as executive director, the New Bedford Housing Authority did not lose any of its public units to market-rate housing. (Any apartments lost to demolition have been replaced by other units elsewhere in the city.)

That's a monumental achievement in an era when housing rental rates far exceed the ability of people who work in minimum-wage jobs to afford any type of housing.

Finnerty is a staunch defender of the need for government-sponsored public housing.

"I don't see why you don't want to provide housing that's affordable to people so that they can raise their families," he said.

Public housing's biggest beneficiaries are the elderly, children and the disabled, he noted. "It provides affordable rents so that a family is not struggling to maintain a decent environment."

Finnerty's philosophy notwithstanding, it's not unusual to hear local complaints that New Bedford possesses too much government housing, that people are moving down from Boston because the housing is more affordable in New Bedford and Fall River.

Finnerty says he doesn't understand the attitude.

It would not be progress, he said, to return to the massive slum and tenement districts that blighted American cities in the 1930s and 1940s.

"We can do a lot better than that now, and we are doing better," he said.

"Public housing is no different than public health. It's no different than public transportation. It's a vital part of an urban community," he said.

"There are judges, university presidents and community leaders who grew up in public housing, or who for a significant time in their lives lived in public housing," he noted.

And the cities, Finnerty said, take responsibility for most of the public-housing stock necessary to their surrounding towns and suburbs. (By and large, suburban communities have limited their public housing to elderly units, leaving their own low-income families and disabled to relocate in the cities.)

Finnerty seems like a model for what a good, low-end, urban private landlord should have been.

He touts the importance of mixing working tenants with non-working ones in public housing. And he was always a no-nonsense manager who made it clear to bad public-housing tenants that he would evict them. (He's even been consulted by private owners of low-income housing about how to keep developments safe and secure.)

"Public housing is not a right, it's a privilege," he said.

Many public housing tenants are ambitious, working two jobs, and some eventually get themselves out of public housing, Finnerty said.

"People who live in public housing are not different. They are intelligent people. Their character is the same as the people who live in non-public housing."

The job of a housing authority in a city the size of New Bedford (just short of 100,000 people at the last census) is not a small one.

There are some 4,355 government-supported housing units in New Bedford that were either directly or indirectly under Finnerty's management—more than 2,500 federal and state units, and an additional 1.600-plus Section 8 vouchers for private housing.

Finnerty, who worked for 13 years as a teacher and coach in the Fairhaven school system, originally thought he would preside over the housing authority for a comparatively short period. A political appointee of popular former Mayor John Markey, he thought he would return to public education, perhaps as a principal or superintendent.

(Finnerty, by the way, was one of the founding members of the board that built Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School and is a former trustee at both UMass Dartmouth and Southeastern Massachusetts University.)

But at the housing authority, Finnerty said there were always important projects proceeding and he wanted to oversee them to completion.

"I saw it (the public housing stock) as really an investment for the city," he said. "And it was definitely needed."

STATEMENT FOR PETER HAKIM OF INTERAMERICAN DIALOGUE

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Peter Hakim for his tremendous work in leading the Inter-American Dialogue for over 16 years. It is impossible to fully express in words what he has accomplished as President. As a leader, Peter has facilitated discussion, cooperation and understanding of some of the toughest issues confronting our hemisphere and generated conversations among leaders that inevitably bettered our ability to work together. Whether on drug policy, immigration, the plight of Afro-Latinos or countless other issues, I have seen the fruits of his labor and I believe the legacy of success will be a model for future leaders to follow. Although Peter will now move on as President Emeritus, I am heartened to know that Michael Shifter will continue the momentum. Michael's role at the Dialogue has already shown us his exemplary work on the policies affecting the Americas. His work as president of the organization will no doubt be exemplary as well.

The list of Peter's accomplishments is long and my time is short, but I will end with this: I wish all the best to Peter and look forward to Michael Shifter now running with the baton.

HONORING PETER HAKIM

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Peter Hakim for his service at the Inter-American Dialogue. Peter has testified in front of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee several times and has always been a passionate advocate for issues in Latin America. His personal insight into the inner workings of Latin American politics has been both constructive and resourceful to our Subcommittee and to Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, the Inter-American Dialogue is an organization that brings an incredible amount of information to the discourse on freedom in Latin America. Through discussions and lectures, the Dialogue has brought greater awareness to the current issues facing Latin America.

I would also like to honor Mr. Michael Shifter, the new President of the Inter-American Dialogue, upon his appointment to this important role. I'm sure the Dialogue will benefit greatly from Michael's leadership and experience, and I look forward to working with both Michael and the Dialogue as we work toward greater freedom, security and prosperity in Latin America and the hemisphere.

THANKING PETER HAKIM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Peter Hakim for his 16 years of outstanding service as President of the Inter-American Dialogue. Under Peter's leadership, the Inter-American Dialogue has become a top center for policy analysis on U.S.-Latin American relations.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, I have benefited enormously from the first-rate work of the Inter-American Dialogue. My colleagues and I—and our staffs—consistently count on the Inter-American Dialogue's superb analysis of U.S.-Latin American relations.

Peter Hakim testified at my first hearing as Subcommittee Chairman in 2007, and I am pleased that he is closing out his tenure as Dialogue President as a witness at my hearing on U.S. Policy toward the Americas in 2010 and Beyond. His insights are extremely useful to me as I carry out oversight of our policies toward Latin America and the Caribbean. My colleagues and I have also greatly benefited from the dinner discussions organized by Peter and the Inter-American Dialogue where we debate key hemispheric issues. I am pleased that Peter will continue to serve the Inter-American Dialogue as President Emeritus, and I look forward to working with him in the coming years.

I also would like to commend Michael Shifter on his selection as the next president of the Inter-American Dialogue. Michael, who has served as the Dialogue's Vice President for Policy for several years, is clearly the best person for the job. Michael is no stranger to the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee himself. He has testified before my Subcommittee at hearings on the Colombia-Ecuador border crisis and Honduras. His essays and opinion pieces are published in a wide array of top U.S. and Latin American publications, and are a great resource for all of us in Congress.

I congratulate Peter Hakim and Michael Shifter and wish both of them and the Inter-American Dialogue many more years of success.

HONORING USC PRESIDENT STEVEN SAMPLE

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I, DIANE WATSON, along with Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BONO MACK, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. CHU, Mr. DREIER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. VISCLOSKY, rise today to honor University of Southern California's 10th President, Steven B. Sample. After 15 years of dedicated leadership, President Sample will be retiring this August.

Steven Sample led an institutional rise at USC that is unparalleled in American higher education, helping the university become a highly selective undergraduate institution. He drove faculty excellence to new levels. Not only did he create a network of global scholars and programs, but he also focused on building successful partnerships in local neighborhoods to spur economic and educational development. During his tenure, USC earned 20 national championships in men's and women's intercollegiate sports. In addition, he completed the largest fund-raising campaign in the history of higher education.

Under Sample's leadership, the University of Southern California attracted increasingly accomplished students, with SAT scores rising 300 points. Applications have nearly tripled since 1991. USC is now among the top five universities in the number of National Merit Scholars and first in the country in the number of international students.

By training, Steven B. Sample is an electrical engineer and a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His patents in the field of digital appliance controls have been licensed to practically every major manufacturer of appliance controls and microwave ovens in the world. More than 300 million home appliances have been built using his inventions.

President Sample's The Contrarian's Guide to Leadership, a Los Angeles Times best seller, was named one of six ''must-reads'' for leaders by Harvard Management Update of the Harvard Business School.

Sample donates all royalties to a scholarship fund for USC undergraduates. This book is translated into a leadership course that Sample teaches to Trojans every year.

His outreach has created numerous jobs locally. The University of Southern California became the largest private employer in the City of Los Angeles. It was ranked in the top five of a survey titled ''Great Colleges to Work For'' by the Chronicle of Higher Education in 2006, under Sample's leadership.

As a past chairman of the Association of American Universities, Sample understands the importance of intellectual collaboration. That is why he founded the Association of Pacific Rim Universities. Sample has also dedicated himself to promoting Los Angeles as the de facto capital of the Pacific Rim with its strong entrepreneurial-based businesses and commerce, the busiest seaports in the United States, creativity and intellectual capital, and unparalleled diversity.

Steven Sample's presidency of the University of Southern California has significantly benefitted the City of Los Angeles, the State of California, and, most important, thousands of Trojan students.

Kathryn Sample is her husband's most trusted ally and advisor and has dedicated herself unreservedly to helping strengthen USC's position as a world-class research university. They have two daughters, Michelle Sample Smith and Elizabeth Sample, and two grandchildren, Kathryn and Andrew Smith.

CONGRATULATING THE 2008 NATIONAL MEDAL OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION LAUREATES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise as the proud sponsor of

House Resolution 935, congratulating Drs. John E. Warnock and Charles M. Geschke of Adobe Systems, Dr. Esther Sans Takeuchi, Dr. Forrest M. Bird, and IBM Corporation as the recipients of the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation. The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is the highest honor for technological achievement bestowed by the President on leading innovators in the United States.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation has been awarded annually since 1985 and recognizes outstanding contributions to America's economic, environmental, and social well-being through the development of technological products, processes, and innovation.

The purpose of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation is to recognize those who have made lasting contributions to America's competitiveness, standard of living, and quality of life through technological innovation. By highlighting the national importance of technological innovation, we hope to inspire future generations of Americans to prepare for and pursue technical careers to keep America at the forefront of global technology and economic leadership.

The 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation Laureates include innovation and achievement in the display and dissemination of information, lifesaving medical technology, and computer design and development.

I'm particularly proud that two of the 2008 Medal recipients, Drs. John E. Warnock and Charles M. Geschke, hail from my district in San Jose, California. Drs. Warnock and Geschke, through their work at Adobe Systems, pioneered innovations that were crucial to the revolution in desktop publishing that began in the 1980s and continues today. The advances in desktop publishing had, and continue to have, a profound effect on the way we create and communicate information across mediums such as print, video, and Internet. It is fitting that today we recognize two individuals who have been influential in informing how we create, communicate, and interact with information; the work of Drs. Warnock and Geschke played a prominent role in ushering in what we know as ''The Information Age.''

As a Member representing Silicon Valley, I know firsthand how technological and scientific innovations provide invaluable contributions to our society. Research and innovation have long been key drivers of our economy, particularly in the Bay Area. Advances in science, medicine, and technology will continue to shape our economy and our world. Therefore, it is vital that we encourage and recognize those who lead the way in these critical areas—those like our 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation Laureates. It is my hope that in spotlighting the very best in technology and innovation, we provide encouragement to the next generation of students, researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and businesses to continue to invest their time, energy, expertise, and resources into creating the next era of technological achievement. It is through innovation and advancement in science and technology that we will continue to be a leader in the global economy, protect our environment, and improve the lives of all Americans.

Again, I am proud to join my colleagues in honoring the 2008 recipients of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, and I urge the passage of the resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD AND LOCAL RESPONDERS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a resolution recognizing the heroic efforts of the West Virginia National Guard and local responders.

On Thursday, February 18, 2010, the heroic actions of West Virginians brought about the highly successful rescue of 17 military personnel who were on board a U.S. Navy helicopter—participating in the Operation Southbound Trooper X annual military exercise, which went down in deep, snow-covered, and very rugged terrain in Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

The remarkable rescue was an outstanding and highly coordinated effort on the part of many highly trained professionals as well as private citizens, who worked under very difficult conditions to reach the crew and personnel on board the aircraft, many of whom had been injured in the crash.

West Virginians are the best neighbors for whom you could ever wish. It is a truth that has been proven time and again. This heroic rescue effort was, thankfully, a rare event, but it was not at all out of character for our State. In fact, it was merely illustrative of the best of West Virginia.

The swift response; astounding skills and abilities; enormous courage; and, profound determination of all those involved in the rescue operation—from those who serve in and lead our West Virginia National Guard; to our local fire, rescue, law enforcement and first responder units; and the countless volunteers, families and neighbors nearby—most certainly made the difference between life and death.

While no expression of gratitude would ever be sought for such selfless acts, the hope that one good turn deserves another never dims with West Virginians.

On behalf of my fellow West Virginians, I'm pleased to introduce the following resolution to honor their good deeds, and to illuminate them as a beacon for others.

HONORING ALCALDE NIELS CHEW

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative MIKE THOMPSON, to honor Alcalde Niels Chew, who was bestowed the title of honorary mayor of the City of Sonoma because of his commitment to his community and its citizens. The naming of an Alcalde, which means ''magistrate'' or ''mayor'' in Spanish, is a tradition that began in 1975 as a way to acknowledge the citizen of the year.

Niels is best known for his generosity, humility, and his unwavering dedication to the causes he believes in, which is why he was selected from a long list of candidates. According to Niels, his father is responsible for instilling in him the value of service.

''During the Depression, no one in need ever came to our house and left empty-handed,'' he said.

Niels embraces quite a history of community service to the City of Sonoma, dating back to 1984 when he and his wife Susan first moved to Sonoma. Since then, Niels has graciously shared his warehouse with many area nonprofits who have stored their food and clothing donations in his facility.

As owner of Dowling Miner Magnets until 2004, he provided opportunities to Becoming Independent to train and support people with developmental disabilities.

Currently, Niels serves on the board of the Sonoma Valley Hospital Foundation, Operation Youth, and the Sonoma Overnight Shelter. He was formerly the president of Kiwanis of Sonoma Plaza and trustee of the Sonoma Valley Unified School District.

One of his most notable and impactful service endeavors has been his continuous support of the Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance as a dedicated mentor and founding board member. He is even credited with starting the organization because he added the organization's executive director to his payroll at Dowling Magnets so she could kick-off the mentoring program.

As a result of his initial investment, what began as a 10-hour weekly commitment at Flowery School blossomed into an organization that has been successfully connecting caring adults with at-risk students for more than 12 years.

''He has a heart the size of a continent, especially where kids are concerned,'' said Ms. Kathy Witkowicki, Executive Director of the Mentoring Alliance. ''We could never put a value on all that he has contributed to the Mentoring Alliance over the years, because it's priceless.''

Madam Speaker, Niels Chew's commitment to service is a powerful example of the positive difference one person can make. We are thankful for the charitable contributions made by this humble and thoughtful leader and philanthropist and we wish him continued prosperity as he spends time with his children and grandchildren.

IN CELEBRATION OF SAN MATEO COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN ''STREETS ALIVE''

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, every American can do something to address some of the most pressing issues facing our nation today—health care, energy independence, the obesity epidemic—simply by riding a bicycle or taking a walk.

That is why I commend the County of San Mateo and other cities in the 12th Congressional District of California for joining in the ''Streets Alive'' celebration as part of World Health Day festivities on April 11, 2010. This worthwhile endeavor is part of ''1000 Cities, 1000 Lives,'' an international project to enlist 1000 local governments around the globe to open streets and public spaces to pedestrians and bicyclists as a worldwide message of cooperation and commitment to healthy and active living.

I have the extreme privilege of representing one of the most beautiful areas in our nation, yet too many of us only see it while stuck in traffic. This is an excellent opportunity to slow down, get some exercise, visit with neighbors and soak in the local treasures that attract so many to the Peninsula in the first place.

Madam Speaker, I commend the forward-thinking leaders of San Mateo County for participating in such a worthwhile event and urge my constituents and all Americans to celebrate World Health Day on April 11 by biking or walking through their community. They and the world will be healthier for it.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1273–S1319

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3089–3093, and S. Res. 448–450. **Page S1311**

Measures Reported:

S. 649, to require an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 111–159)

S. 592, to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 111–160) **Page S1311**

Measures Passed:

Majority Party Membership: Senate agreed to S. Res. 450, to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen. **Page S1318**

North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Senate passed H.R. 3433, to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of the non-Federal share of the costs of wetlands conservation projects in Canada that are funded under that Act, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S1318**

Volunteers in Service to America 45th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 449, celebrating Volunteers in Service to America on its 45th anniversary and recognizing its contribution to the fight against poverty. **Pages S1318–19**

Measures Considered:

Tax Extenders Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1284–86, S1288–S1303**

Adopted:

Baucus Amendment No. 3429 (to Amendment No. 3336), to provide an explanation of the budgetary effects of legislation considered by the Senate. **Page S1285**

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 44), Coburn Amendment No. 3358 (to Amendment No. 3336), to require the Senate to be transparent with taxpayers about spending. **Pages S1284, S1285**

Lincoln Modified Amendment No. 3401 (to Amendment No. 3336), to improve a provision relating to emergency disaster assistance. **Pages S1285, S1288–91**

Reid Amendment No. 3417 (to Amendment No. 3336), to temporarily modify the allocation of geothermal receipts. **Pages S1285, S1288–91**

Baucus (for Isakson/Cardin) Further Modified Amendment No. 3430 (to Amendment No. 3336), to modify the pension funding provisions. **Pages S1285, S1288–91, S1302–03**

Baucus (for Merkley) Modified Amendment No. 3372 (to Amendment No. 3336), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant market-related contract extensions of certain timber contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and timber purchasers. **Pages S1288–91**

Baucus (for Warner/Crapo) Modified Amendment No. 3442 (to Amendment No. 3336), to ensure adequate planning and reporting relating to the use of funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. **Pages S1288–91**

Baucus (for Whitehouse) Modified Amendment No. 3365 (to Amendment No. 3336), to require the Comptroller General to report to Congress on the causes of job losses in New England and the Midwest over the past 20 years and to suggest possible remedies. **Pages S1288–92**

Baucus (for Rockefeller) Modified Amendment No. 3371 (to Amendment No. 3336), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions. **Pages S1288–92**

Baucus Amendment No. 3451 (to Amendment No. 3336), to make technical changes. **Pages S1288–92**

Withdrawn:

Lieberman Amendment No. 3381 (to Amendment No. 3336), to reauthorize the DC opportunity scholarship program. **Pages S1292–93**

Pending:

Baucus Amendment No. 3336, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S1284–86, S1288–S1303**

Baucus (for Webb/Boxer) Modified Amendment No. 3342 to (Amendment No. 3336), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on excessive 2009 bonuses received from certain major recipients of Federal emergency economic assistance, to limit the deduction allowable for such bonuses. **Page S1285**

Feingold/Coburn Amendment No. 3368 (to Amendment No. 3336), to provide for the rescission of unused transportation earmarks and to establish a general reporting requirement for any unused earmarks. **Page S1285**

McCain/Graham Amendment No. 3427 (to Amendment No. 3336), to prohibit the use of reconciliation to consider changes in Medicare. **Page S1285**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 45), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to waive section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, FY08 Congressional Budget Resolution, with respect to Reid (for Murray/Kerry) Further Modified Amendment No. 3356 (to Amendment No. 3336), to extend the TANF Emergency Fund through fiscal year 2011 and to provide funding for summer employment for youth. Subsequently, the pay-as-you-go point of order that the amendment would cause or increase an on-budget deficit for either of the applicable time periods set out in S. Con. Res. 21, was sustained, and the amendment thus fell. **Pages S1284, S1285–86**

By 66 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. 46), 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 Baucus Amendment No. 3336, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1292**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, and all post-cloture time be considered expired, and upon disposition of the pending amendments, no further amendments or motions be in order; the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; Senate then vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill, as amended; that if cloture is invoked, then all post-cloture time be yielded back, and Senate vote on passage of the bill. **Page S1303**

Harding Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Robert A. Harding, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, received by the Senate on Monday, March 8, 2010, be referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; that upon the reporting out or discharge of the nomination, it then be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for a period not to exceed 30 calendar days; that if the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has not reported the nomination at that time, then the Committee be discharged and the nomination be placed on the Executive Calendar. **Page S1318**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Cheryl A. LaFleur, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2014.

Philip D. Moeller, of Washington, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2015.

Lawrence J. Pijeaux, Jr., of Alabama, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2014.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Page S1319**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S1309**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1309–11**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1311–12**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1312–16**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1308–09**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1316–17**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S1317**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1317–18**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—46) **Page S1285, S1286, S1292**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:46 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2010. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1319.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Ken Salazar, Secretary, and David Hayes, Deputy Secretary, both of the Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the Food and Drug Administration, after receiving testimony from Margaret Hamburg, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States European Command, United States Africa Command, and United States Joint Forces Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Admiral James G. Stavridis, USN, Commander, United States European Command/Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, General William E. Ward, USA, Commander, United States Africa Command, and General James N. Mattis, USMC, Commander, United States Joint Forces Command, all of the Department of Defense.

FINANCIAL TRANSMISSION RIGHTS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine financial transmission rights and other electricity market mechanisms, after receiving testimony from Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Gary Gensler, Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission; Garry Brown, New York Public Service Commission, Albany, on behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; Vincent P. Duane, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Norristown, Pennsylvania; Joseph T. Kelliher, FPL Group, Inc., Washington, D.C., on behalf of the Edison Electric Institute and the Electric Power Supply Association; and Michael W. Henderson, Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Little Rock.

U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY LAWS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Superfund, Toxics and Environmental Health concluded a hearing to examine business perspectives on reforming U.S. chemical safety laws, after receiving testimony from Kathy Gerwig, Kaiser Permanente, Oakland, California; Charlie Drevna, National Petrochemical & Refiners Association (NPRA), Washington, D.C.; Neil C. Hawkins, The Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Michigan; Beth D. Bosley, Boron Specialties, Valencia, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA); Howard Williams, Construction Specialties, Inc., Muncy, Pennsylvania; and Linda J. Fisher, DuPont, Wilmington, Delaware.

U.S. PREFERENCE PROGRAMS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States preference programs, focusing on options for reform, after receiving testimony from Eric Norris, FMC Corporation, Charlotte, North Carolina; and Edward Gresser, Democratic Leadership Council, Jeffrey S. Vogt, AFL–CIO, and Gregory Simpkins, Leon H. Sullivan Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization, focusing on K–12 education for economic success, after receiving testimony from Andreas Schleicher, Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Paris, France; Dennis Van Roekel, National Education Association, and John Castellani, Business Roundtable, both of Washington, D.C.; and Charles Butt, H–E–B, San Antonio, Texas.

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATION VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a joint hearing with the House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine a legislative presentation from Veterans of Foreign Wars, after receiving testimony from Thomas J. Tradewell Sr., Sussex, Wisconsin, and Robert E. Wallace and Eric Hilleman, both of Washington, D.C., all of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held a closed meeting on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community. Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 4783–4799; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 250; and H. Res. 1144–1154, 1147–1154, were introduced. **Pages H1219–20**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1220–22**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1146, providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 248) directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan (H. Rept. 111–428);

H.R. 3239, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to submit a report on the effects of the Merida Initiative on the border security of the United States, with an amendment (H. Rept. 111–429, Pt. 1); and

H.R. 4506, to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges (H. Rept. 111–430). **Page H1219**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Edwards (MD) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1173**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:44 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1175**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Massa, where he resigned as Representative for the 29th Congressional District of New York, effective 5 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2010. **Page H1175**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of Representative Massa of New York, the whole number of the House is adjusted to 431. **Page H1175**

Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance—Reappointment: The Chair announced on behalf of the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, the joint reappointment on March 5, 2010 of Alan V. Friedman of California, Susan S. Robfogel of New York and Barbara Childs Wallace each to a five year term on the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance; and in addition, the joint designation of Barbara L. Camens of Washington, DC as Chair. **Page H1175**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Supporting the designation of National Robotics Week as an annual event: H. Res. 1055, to support the designation of National Robotics Week as an annual event; **Pages H1177–80**

Congratulating Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith for being awarded the Nobel Prize in physics: H. Res. 1069, to congratulate Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith for being awarded the Nobel Prize in physics, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 402 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 93; **Pages H1180–81, H1208–09**

Honoring John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM Corporation for receiving the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation: H. Res. 935, to honor John E. Warnock, Charles M. Geschke, Forrest M. Bird, Esther Sans Takeuchi, and IBM Corporation for receiving the 2008 National Medal of Technology and Innovation, by a ⅔ recorded vote of 402 ayes with none voting "no", Roll No. 94; **Pages H1181–82, H1209–10**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to assist the Mexican Government in fighting the drug cartels: H. Res. 1032, amended, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to assist the Mexican Government in fighting the drug cartels and curbing violence against Mexican and United States citizens, both in the United States and abroad; **Pages H1190–93**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should continue to assist the Government of Mexico in fighting the drug cartels and

curbing violence against Mexican and United States citizens, both in the United States and abroad.''.

Page H1193

SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 4624, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 125 Kerr Avenue in Rome City, Indiana, as the ''SPC Nicholas Scott Hartge Post Office''; Pages H1200–01

Recognizing the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States: H. Res. 1036, to recognize the contributions of Korean Americans to the United States; Pages H1201–03

Captain Luther H. Smith, U.S. Army Air Forces Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 4547, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 119 Station Road in Cheyney, Pennsylvania, as the ''Captain Luther H. Smith, U.S. Army Air Forces Post Office''; Page H1203

Congratulating Silver Lake College for 75 years of service as an undergraduate institution of higher education: H. Res. 1142, to congratulate Silver Lake College for 75 years of service as an undergraduate institution of higher education; and

Pages H1205–06

Expressing support for designation of the week of February 28 through March 7, 2010, as ''School Social Work Week'': H. Res. 1091, amended, to express support for designation of the week of February 28 through March 7, 2010, as ''School Social Work Week''. Pages H1206–07

Recess: The House recessed at 5:08 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Pages H1207–08

Suspension—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act: H.R. 3650, amended, to establish a National Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Program, to develop and coordinate a comprehensive and integrated strategy to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, and to provide for the development and implementation of comprehensive regional action plans to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 263 yeas to 142 nays, Roll No. 92.

Pages H1182–88, H1208

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rule. Further proceedings were postponed:

Expressing condolences to the families of the victims of the February 27, 2010, earthquake in Chile: H. Res. 1144, to express condolences to the families of the victims of the February 27, 2010, earthquake in Chile, as well as solidarity with and support for the people of Chile as they plan for recovery and reconstruction; Pages H1188–90

Recognizing the plight of people with albinism in East Africa and condemning their murder and mutilation: H. Res. 1088, amended, to recognize the plight of people with albinism in East Africa and to condemn their murder and mutilation;

Pages H1193–95

Recognizing the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece: H. Res. 1107, to recognize the 189th anniversary of the independence of Greece and to celebrate Greek and American democracy;

Pages H1195–98

Prevent Deceptive Census Look Alike Mailings Act: H.R. 4621, amended, to protect the integrity of the constitutionally-mandated United States census and prohibit deceptive mail practices that attempt to exploit the decennial census; and

Pages H1198–H1200

Commending The Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for its victory in the 2010 Rose Bowl: H. Res. 1047, to commend The Ohio State University Buckeyes football team for its victory in the 2010 Rose Bowl. Pages H1203–05

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Flake announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution. Pages H1211–12

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1175.

Senate Referral: S. 2961 was held at the desk.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1208, H1208–09, H1209–10. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Committee Meetings

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on National System of Public Lands: Bureau of Land Management Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request. Testimony was heard from Bob Abbey, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Select Defense Oversight Panel met in executive session to hold a hearing on

National Reconnaissance Office Budget. Testimony was heard from Bruce Carlson, Director, National Reconnaissance Office.

DEPLOYMENT EFFECTS ON MILITARY CHILDREN

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on reviewing studies of the effects of deployment on military children. Testimony was heard from Leonard Wong, Research Professor, Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, Department of Defense; and a public witness.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing entitled ''Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs): Their Unique Role and Challenges Serving Lower-Income, Underserved and Minority Communities.'' Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Treasury: Michael Barr, Assistant Secretary, Domestic Finance; and Donna Cambrell, Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI); and public witnesses.

DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(c) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a non-record vote, a closed rule. The rule provides for three hours of general debate on H. Con. Res. 248, directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan, with 90 minutes to be controlled by Rep. Kucinich or his designee and 90 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution. The rule also provides that the concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard by Representative Kucinich.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense health programs, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the National Nuclear Security Administration, 10:15 a.m., SD–116.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 2 p.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine U.S. government efforts to counter violent extremism, 10 a.m., SR–222.

Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the Active, Guard, Reserve, and civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program, 10:30 a.m., SR–232A.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine the military space programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program, 2:30 p.m., SR–232A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine advancing American innovation and competitiveness, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine S. 1696, to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study of video game console energy efficiency, and S. 2908, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to require the Secretary of Energy to publish a final rule that establishes a uniform efficiency descriptor and accompanying test methods for covered water heaters, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine S. 2895, to restore forest landscapes, protect old growth forests, and manage national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon, S. 2907, to establish a coordinated avalanche protection program, S. 2966 and H.R. 4474, bills to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and S. 2791 and H.R. 3759, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant market-related contract extensions of certain timber contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and timber purchasers, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine new directions in global health, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy and Global Women's

Issues, to hold hearings to examine the future of U.S. public diplomacy, 3 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Patrick K. Nakamura, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, Gwendolyn E. Boyd, of Maryland, and Peggy Goldwater-Clay, of California, both to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, and Sharon L. Browne, of California, Charles Norman Wiltse Keckler, of Virginia, and Victor B. Maddox, of Kentucky, all to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, and Gary Blumenthal, of Massachusetts, Chester Alonzo Finn, of New York, Sara A. Gelser, of Oregon, Ari Ne'eman, of Maryland, Dongwoo Joseph Pak, of California, Carol Jean Reynolds, of Colorado, Fernando Torres-Gill, of California, and Jonathan M. Young, of Maryland, all to be a Member of the National Council on Disability, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the lessons and implications of the Christmas day attack, focusing on watchlisting and pre-screening, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine corporate spending in American elections after Citizens United, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gary Scott Feinerman, and Sharon Johnson Coleman, both to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and William Joseph Martinez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry, hearing to review USDA's information technology systems, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Food and Drug Administration, 10 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, on Economic Development Administration, 10 a.m., H–310 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Defense, on Air Force Posture, 1:30 p.m., H–140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, on Fiscal Year 2011 Budget for DOE Nuclear Nonproliferation, 2 p.m., 2362B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, on Fiscal Year 2011 Budget for the Department of the Treasury, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on FEMA—Preparing for Disasters and Minimizing Losses, 9:30 a.m., 2362B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Science for America's Lands, Water and Biota: U.S. Geological Survey Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request, 9:30 a.m., and on Reclaiming Abandoned Mines and Regulating Surface Coal Mining: Office of Surface Mining Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request, 11 a.m., B308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, on Department of Labor Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Overview, 11 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on Fiscal Year 2011 House of Representatives Budget, 10:15 a.m., H–144 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies, on Navy/Marine Corps Budget, 10 a.m., H–143 Capitol

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, on Sustainability in Practice, 9:30 a.m., and on HUD and DOT's Sustainability and Livability Initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request, 11 a.m., 2358A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, on Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Budget Requests from the U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Joint Forces Command, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces, hearing on Army acquisition and modernization programs, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions, hearing on H.R. 413, Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act of 2009, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3125, as amended, Radio Spectrum Inventory Act; H.R. 3019, Spectrum Relocation Improvement Act of 2009; and H.R. 1258, as amended, Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Drug Safety: An Update from the FDA," 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled "Regulation of Money Service Businesses," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity and the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, joint hearing entitled "Approaches to Mitigating and Managing Natural Catastrophe Risk: H.R. 2555, Homeowners' Defense Act," 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on The Google Predicament: Transforming U.S. Cyberspace Policy to Advance Democracy, Security, and Trade, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, and the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, joint hearing on International Worker Rights, U.S. Foreign Policy and the International Economy, 2 p.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing on U.S. Policy Toward the Americas in 2010 and Beyond, 2:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, oversight hearing on proposed settlement of the Corbell v. Salazar Litigation, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science and Technology, hearing on Fiscal Year 2011 Research and Development Budget Proposals and EPA and NOAA, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on the National Science Foundation's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Request, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to mark up the following: H.R. 3976, amended, Helping Heroes Keep Their Homes Act of 2009; H.R. 3948, amended, Test Prep for Heroes Act; H.R. 4592, amended, To provide for the establishment of a pilot program to encourage the employment of veterans in energy-related positions; H.R. 1879, amended, National Guard Employment Protection Act of 2009; H.R. 4667, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2010; and a discussion draft, To amend title 38, United States Code to make certain improvements in the services provided for homeless veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, followed by a hearing on Structuring the VA of the 21st Century, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, hearing on MIP and Service Elements Budget for Fiscal Year 2011, 10 a.m., and executive, hearing on Covert Action Budget for Fiscal Year 2011, 3 p.m., 304 HVC.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, hearing entitled ''The Clean Energy Recovery: Creating Jobs, Building New Industries and Saving Money,'' 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 2 p.m.), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4213, Tax Extenders Act, and upon disposition of the pending amendments, vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon, and if cloture is invoked, vote on passage of the bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 10

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 4573—Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act; (2) H. Res. 1087—Honoring the life of John H. ''Jack'' Ruffin, Jr.; (3) H. Res. 1115—Expressing appreciation for the profound dedication and public service of Enrique ''Kiki'' Camarena on the 25th anniversary of his death; (4) H. Con. Res. 249—Commemorating the 45th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the role that it played in ensuring the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; (5) H. Res. 1081—Supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month; (6) H. Res. 1061—Honoring the heroic actions of Court Security Officer Stanley Cooper, Deputy United States Marshal Richard J. ''Joe'' Gardner, the law enforcement officers of the United States Marshals Service and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and the Court Security Officers in responding to the armed assault at the Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse on January 4, 2010; and (7) H.R. 4783—To accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of the victims of the earthquake in Chile, and to extend the period from which such contributions for the relief of the victims of the earthquake in Haiti may be accelerated. Consideration of H. Con. Res. 248—Directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan (Subject to a Rule).

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