

## NOT VOTING—17

Braley (IA)	Hastings (WA)	McCarthy (NY)
Duncan (TN)	Israel	Pastor (AZ)
Filner	Jackson (IL)	Pingree (ME)
Frelinghuysen	Johnson, Sam	Turner
Giffords	Jones	Whitfield
Hanabusa	Long	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1845

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Madam Chair, on rollcall 337, I was away from the Capitol region attending the Civil Rights Freedom Riders' 50th Anniversary Celebration. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Stated against:

Mr. TURNER. Madam Chair, on rollcall No. 337, I was unavoidably detained and did not vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mrs. CAPITO, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1216) to amend the Public Health Service Act to convert funding for graduate medical education in qualified teaching health centers from direct appropriations to an authorization of appropriations, had come to no resolution thereon.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McKEON. 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 H.R. 1540.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 269 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1540.

□ 1849

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military per-

sonnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, with Mr. WOMACK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. McKEON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, which overwhelmingly passed the Committee on Armed Services on a vote of 60-1. In keeping with the committee's tradition of bipartisanship, Ranking Member SMITH and I worked collaboratively to produce the bill and solicited input from each of our Members.

The legislation will advance our national security aims, provide the proper care and logistical support for our fighting forces and help us meet the defense challenges of the 21st century. The bill authorizes \$553 billion for the Department of Defense base budget, consistent with the President's budget request and the allocation provided by the House Budget Committee. It also authorizes \$18 billion for the development of the Department of Energy's defense programs and \$118.9 billion for overseas contingency operations.

The legislation we will consider today also makes good on my promise, when I was selected to lead the Armed Services Committee, that this committee would scrutinize the Department of Defense's budget and identify inefficiencies to invest those savings into higher national security priorities. We examined every aspect of the defense enterprise, not as a target for arbitrary funding reductions, as the current administration has proposed, but to find ways that we can accomplish the mission of providing for the common defense more effectively.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 achieves these goals by working to:

Ensure our troops deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world have the equipment, resources, authorities, training and time they need to successfully complete their missions and return home safely;

Provide our warfighters and their families with the resources and support they need, deserve and have earned;

Invest in the capabilities and force structure needed to protect the United States from current and future threats, mandate physical responsibility, transparency and accountability within the Department of Defense; and

Incentivize competition for every taxpayer dollar associated with funding Department of Defense requirements.

Mr. Chairman, I know there have been many questions raised by the ACLU and others relating to a provi-

sion in our bill dealing with the 2001 authorization for use of military force. I would like to address some of those concerns now.

Section 1034 of the NDAA affirms that the President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against nations, organizations, and persons who are part of or are substantially supporting al Qaeda, the Taliban and associated forces.

It also explicitly affirms the President's authority to detain certain belligerents who qualify under this standard I just described, which Congress has never explicitly stated. It's important to note that the U.S. Supreme Court has accepted the President's authority to detain belligerents as within the powers granted by the AUMF.

Moreover, the language in section 1034 is very similar to the Obama administration's interpretation of the authorities provided pursuant to AUMF, in particular, a March 13, 2009, filing in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. While U.S. courts have accepted the administration's interpretation of the AUMF, it is under constant attack in litigation relating to the petitions filed by Guantanamo detainees.

Because of these ongoing challenges, the administration's interpretation may receive less favorable treatment over time if Congress refuses to affirm it. Section 1034 is not intended to alter the President's existing authority pursuant to the AUMF in any way. It's intended only to reinforce it. I believe that our men and women in uniform deserve to be on solid legal footing as they risk their lives in defense of the United States.

Finally, some have suggested section 1034 was included in the dark of night. I note that this language was originally included in the Detainee Security Act of 2011 introduced on March 9 and was discussed during a committee hearing on March 17. We have sought input from the administration, as well as Ranking Member SMITH, his staff and numerous outside experts. Moreover, the process used to craft this legislation is historic in its transparency. In fact, a copy of my mark was distributed to committee members' offices 5 days before our markup. The legislation, including funding tables, was posted online nearly 48 hours in advance of our markup.

It's also noteworthy that there are no earmarks in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. Every Member request to fund a defense capability was voted on and includes language requiring merit-based or competitive selection procedures. To those who are concerned that members may unduly influence the Department of Defense to direct funds to a particular entity, I can only recall the words of my good friend, the former chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Ike Skelton, who would say, Read the amendment. What does it say? If DOD chooses to violate the law and the text of a provision in the