

the EAC. That's an amazing statement in light of the fact that the EAC has been sued for political discrimination—the very agency that's supposed to take care of fairness and do things in these issues gets sued for political discrimination. So that is hardly an argument to say that it can't be transferred.

We are looking at transferring the essential functions of the EAC over to the FEC with the personnel and funding that's necessary to do that job. It's a very responsible and adult thing to do to take care not only of spending issues, but we have an agency that is spending 51.7 percent of its budget on administration and management, not in program administration, not in taking care of grants, those have come and gone. So here we are in that situation of an agency that needs to be eliminated.

And I want to make it clear that in no way, by eliminating the EAC, are we doing anything to repeal or have any intent to do away with HAVA. That is something that came about in a bipartisan effort, and it will remain and shall remain as we move forward. But the EAC was created and funded for a 3-year period. Nine years later, we have one of the most inefficient agencies that we will probably ever see. It is beyond tweaking and correcting to do that.

I want to say that we all believe it is essential in our country that everyone has a right to vote and has access to vote and that no one be disenfranchised. In no way does that have any impact in a negative way. In fact, it will make the election process more efficient to do away with an agency like this. It is a Federal agency that has long outlived its usefulness. And if we look at the people that are on the ground in the States, the Secretaries of State in each of our States, that NASS would pass a resolution, not once, but twice, that this agency needs to be done away with—we need to follow that great advice of those that are most intimately familiar with what's going on.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 672 eliminates wasteful spending in a responsible way. In particular, H.R. 672 would transfer the Election Assistance Commission's Office of Voting System Testing and Certification to the Federal Election Commission, while maintaining the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) current role in the accreditation of laboratories to test voting equipment. The bill continues the formal mechanisms for input into the development of Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVGs) by maintaining the current Technical Guidelines Development Committee (which NIST, chairs), and replaces several committees with a streamlined 56-member Guidelines Review Board composed of state and local election officials and other key constituencies including federal representatives.

The Committee on Science, Space, and Technology is the Committee of jurisdiction

over the scientific and technological aspects of voting reform including research, development, and testing of voting machine standards. These responsibilities have been assigned by the Help America Votes Act (HAVA) of 2002 to NIST. Within HAVA, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee created provisions to ensure that proper technical standards would be developed to improve voting technology and that a reliable system would be set up to test equipment against those standards. These activities allow states and localities to participate in the standards development process and to trust the systems they choose to invest in. Both are preserved in the legislation we are considering today.

I thank Representative GREGG HARPER (R-MS) and his staff for recognizing the importance of maintaining a pathway for the development of voting standards and ensuring the quality of voting equipment in H.R. 672.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 672.

Today our national debt is 14.344 trillion dollars. Any time we have the opportunity to save taxpayers \$33 million over five years, while improving the efficiency of our federal government, we should take it.

Those against this bill have said that elections officials from across the country have called for the agency to be protected. Well, I happen to have been a Secretary of State for the State of Colorado, and I am calling for this Agency to be eliminated. In fact, the National Association of Secretaries of State has passed two resolutions calling for the EAC's termination.

The EAC's election research function is obsolete. It has completed 4 of the 5 federally mandated election studies, and the one outstanding study is six years overdue and mired in interagency controversy.

The agency spends over 50% of its budget on administrative costs. EAC's budget request for 2012 is for 5.4 million dollars to manage programs totaling 3.4 million dollars.

The EAC does not register voters, nor does it have any enforcement authority over laws governing voter registration.

This bill will transfer the EAC's remaining valuable service, its voting system testing and certification program, to the Federal Election Commission (FEC), which is better equipped to perform these functions more efficiently.

It is time to, as this bill does, terminate the EAC promptly and responsibly.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 672, 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. GONZALEZ. 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.

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THE WAY IT IS ON AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN LIBYA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the war in Libya continues. It is the third war the United States is in. In my opinion, this war is unconstitutional because Congress has not approved it. It also violates the War Powers Resolution, because even after the time limit has expired, the President still engages troops overseas without congressional authority. And this war is not in the national security interests of the United States. Administration officials say so.

This is a war that is sponsored by NATO. It is said we need to help NATO out. Well, if NATO wants to continue this war, let them. The United States is footing this bill, and it has cost us \$750 million already.

The President says Muammar Qadhafi is a bad guy and he has got to go. We don't know what is going to replace him. We may have an oppressive regime replaced by an extremist radicalized regime. Who knows? But this war is not in the interests of the United States, and it is now Congress' responsibility to cut off the funds for this war, because this war violates the United States Constitution and it is not in the security interests of the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

MARINE SGT. JEREMY E. MURRAY POST OFFICE

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marine Sergeant Jeremy Murray.

Today on this House floor we renamed the Post Office in Rootstown, Portage County, Ohio, where Jeremy grew up. He served our country during several tours to the Middle East, and at 28 years old he lost his life.

His mother has worked at this post office for 11 years, so it was a special day today for us to, in a very small way here in the House of Representatives, say "thank you" to him for his service and to thank his parents, Pam and Harold, for raising such a great young kid who would be willing to go off to war because his country asked him and serve us in such a noble way.

So, today I rise to say thank you to Jeremy, thank you to his parents, thank you to Rootstown, and thank you to Waterloo High School that instilled in him these values, a terrific young man whom we honor here today and we honor with this post office.