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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 16, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT J. DOLD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We pause in Your presence and ask guidance for the men and women of the people's House.

Enable them, O God, to act on what they believe to be right and true and just, and to do so in ways that show respect for those with whom they disagree. In this, may they grow to be models and good examples in a time when so many in our world are unable to engage gracefully with those with whom they are at odds.

May the Members realize that Your congregation is wider and broader than ever we could measure or determine. Help them, and help us all, O Lord, to put away any judgments that belong to You and do what we can to live together in peace.

As we approach this next recess, bless our great Nation, and keep it faithful to its ideals, its hopes, and its promise of freedom in our world.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CHRISTMAS IN ATHENS, TEXAS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the piney woods of east Texas, the small town of Athens in Henderson County is getting ready for the holidays. A group of local volunteers with Keep Athens Beautiful has placed a nativity scene on the far corner of the courthouse square. It has been there for the last 10 years with no complaints from residents.

But a group of out-of-towners, not from Athens, not even from Texas, but from a thousand miles away in Wisconsin, have self-righteously objected to the nativity scene. The antireligious hate group demands baby Jesus be evicted from the courthouse lawn.

The county judge politely said no local citizen has complained about the scene, and he really doesn't care what somebody from Wisconsin thinks. He even invited other religious groups to use the courthouse square, but no one has asked to do so.

The county officials don't appear to be succumbing to the intimidation tactics of the bigoted group that wants to censor religion. County commissioner Joe Hall made it clear: ''We will remove the nativity scene when hell freezes over. It's not going anywhere.''

And that's just the way it is.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION AND PAYROLL TAX CUT

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, Congress should not be waiting until the 11th hour to act on behalf of the American people. And yet here we are with the Federal emergency unemployment compensation program and the payroll tax cut scheduled to end in just a couple of weeks, which will cause tremendous harm to the American people.

This holiday, thousands of Rhode Islanders are wondering whether they will be able to afford to stay in their homes, afford to go grocery shopping, and whether they will be able to afford their heating and electricity bills. Americans are being left with real uncertainty because of the failure of this body to act responsibly.

It's a shame that extending emergency unemployment compensation and the payroll tax cut have become the latest victims of partisan politics. But it's not too late to act to provide families with a measure of assurance that they will be able to meet their basic necessities in the weeks to come.

I've heard from many of my constituents about the devastating impact that

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ending unemployment benefits or a tax increase will have. Let's get it done.

THANK YOU IRAQ VETERANS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2003 the United States military and its allies began operations to remove Saddam Hussein from power, who was a ruthless dictator and a threat to stability in the Middle East, undermining world peace. Yesterday, the United States military successfully concluded its military involvement in Iraq. We have victory in Iraq for the people of Iraq to build upon.

As a proud father of two sons who served in Iraq, I want to offer a heartfelt thank-you to every American servicemember who served in the country and their families. I want to thank and assure the family members of the servicemembers who lost their lives—exemplified by Major Trane McCloud—and those who are wounded warriors, fighting for freedom, that their sacrifice and their military families will always be cherished.

Secretary Leon Panetta in Baghdad said: ''Iraq has made remarkable progress over the last 9 years.'' Army General Lloyd J. Austin, III, Commander of U.S. Forces in Iraq, praised servicemembers and families for meeting our national objectives and giving Iraq hope for a prosperous future.

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

NATION BUILDING

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we marked the end of the war in Iraq. I join with all of my colleagues in expressing our gratitude to those Americans who served when their country called. We owe it to our returning veterans to do everything we can to make sure that the economy they are returning to is strong and prosperous.

The United States spent $62 billion nation building in Iraq. The end of the war will generate enough savings to put a downpayment on nation building we need to do right here in America. An aggressive investment in infrastructure, rebuilding our roads, bridges, rails, and water systems can generate the economic activity we need to reduce unemployment. A $1.2 trillion investment will create 27 million jobs over 5 years. This growth will both reduce the debt and deficit.

We have deferred infrastructure investments in America for too long. We get a D grade from the Society of Civil Engineers. The Chamber of Commerce predicts $362 billion in lost growth over the next 5 years will occur unless we repair our infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do everything we can to ensure that our returning veterans have an opportunity to work and to rebuild this Nation right here at home.

CONGRATULATING BOY SCOUT TROOP 121

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, Boy Scout Troop 121 of Granite Bay, California, will conduct its 200th Eagle Scout Court of Honor and induct its 212th and 213th Eagle Scouts.

During its 43 years of existence, Troop 121 has produced an entire generation of young men who have gone on to become upstanding family men, respected businessmen, and leaders of our community. And that's what I particularly want to salute today: the work of the Boy Scouts of America, as exemplified by Troop 121.

The hiking and camping and outdoor activities might make Boy Scouting appealing and enjoyable, but what makes it admirable and elevated is not that it produces good campers, but that it produces good citizens. It inculcates timeless values and virtues that forge solid citizens who contribute far beyond their numbers to the strength and stability of our society.

Troop 121 has done this for 43 years, and it is my pleasure and honor to commend them on their good work.

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RECOGNIZING THE HARDWORKING STAFF OF GEORGIA'S 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, we all know that many senior citizens in our country have trouble getting the Social Security and Medicare benefits they've paid for throughout their working life, and many veterans have trouble receiving the benefits they've earned through their service and sacrifice in protecting our country. However, because of the hard work of my district staff, folks in my district recovered over $3.5 million in benefits that they were entitled to but were not getting from the Federal Government in just the last year alone.

This shines a light on a big problem with our Federal Government. Our constituents shouldn't have to appeal to their Congressman to get the benefits they're entitled to. We need to work together to make the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs work better so that none of our constituents will have to get their Congressman to help them get their benefits.

Until we get to that point, I'm proud that I have a talented and hardworking staff who may report to me but who work for the people of Georgia's 12th District.

ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight a newer technology called enhanced oil recovery. When an oil well runs dry, half as much oil remains underground, unable to be extracted using traditional means. This is where enhanced oil recovery comes in. EOR, as it's called, pumps CO_2 into the ground, and oil which is trapped can be extracted safely and cost effectively.

Now, enhanced oil recovery is not hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. It is a process that displaces oil and allows it to be extracted. The Department of Energy states that enhanced oil recovery can yield as much as 80 billion barrels of oil, decreasing our needs to import by as much as one-third. And for those seeking to reduce atmospheric CO_2, enhanced oil recovery provides the sequestration of carbon capture and sequestration.

As importantly, enhanced oil recovery employs thousands of Americans while generating royalty payments to local, State, and Federal governments. Enhanced oil recovery creates jobs, increases energy security, and potentially benefits our environment, and is a technology to be supported as much as we can.

CHINESE CURRENCY MANIPULATION

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

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, over the past several weeks, we have heard a lot of rhetoric about how this House has passed so many jobs bills that are sitting in the Senate waiting for action. But I want to talk about one bill that actually passed the Senate, and it is waiting in the House for action, and that is going after countries that manipulate their currency, of which China is the largest violator.

The bill has been sitting in committee since February with no Republican action. A discharge petition has sat at this desk for the last 5 months with no Republican action. It remains just 30 signatures shy of forcing action on Chinese currency manipulation, which estimates show could create 1.5 million jobs in this country.

So I want to urge the citizens of this country to call their Republican Congressmen to urge this Republican House that as they open their presents over this holiday season and they open those boxes and find those little tags that say ''made in China,'' call your Republican Congressman, call this Republican House, and say thank you, thank you for putting party before

country. Tell them, put country before party. Don't put China's economy before the United States'.

ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, as a small business owner, I know that it's tough to get access to capital. If a company doesn't have the resources it needs to grow and expand, then it's virtually impossible to hire new workers.

Yesterday, the Financial Services Committee had a hearing where we examined a bipartisan bill, H.R. 3606, which would make it easier for companies to access capital markets and ease the overwhelming regulations that these young businesses encounter. This is exactly the type of bill that both sides can agree on, and I certainly urge my colleagues to support it.

Without a doubt, by allowing companies access to the markets, we give them the opportunity to succeed, and, in turn, they will have the opportunity to create additional jobs, which is what we desperately need.

Bill after bill has been passed out of this body and gone over to the Senate. Over two dozen bills wait on the Senate, of which each and every one of them are bipartisan and would create additional jobs. With an unemployment rate of over 8 percent for the past 34 months and at least 9 percent for 28 of those months, it's about time that we moved forward on the jobs package that we're trying to push in the House. We need to step up and get America back to work.

PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, as we come to the close of yet another calendar year, and as we move well into the Federal fiscal year, much work remains to be done for America's hardworking middle class families, the working families of this country that make our economy work. We need to make certain that we respond with the extension of a payroll tax holiday. This House knows that that is important business.

We know that the President presented a plan before Congress that would ask for a surcharge on the most upper income strata in our country to bring about fundamental fairness and to address social and economic justice. We know that the hardworking middle class has taken it on the chin with tax cuts of a decade and a half ago that have really caused hardship with the recession in this country where we lost 8.2 million jobs.

We could go forward and do the right thing. We can extend that payroll tax holiday and pay for it in a meaningful way, in a balanced way. We can then go forward with investments that middle class America truly deserves and requires.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1892) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; Table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.
Sec. 103. Personnel ceiling adjustments.
Sec. 104. Intelligence Community Management Account.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.
Sec. 302. Restriction on conduct of intelligence activities.
Sec. 303. Annual report on hiring of National Security Education Program participants.
Sec. 304. Enhancement of authority for flexible personnel management among the elements of the intelligence community.
Sec. 305. Preparation of nuclear proliferation assessment statements.
Sec. 306. Cost estimates.
Sec. 307. Updates of intelligence relating to terrorist recidivism of detainees held at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
Sec. 308. Notification of transfer of a detainee held at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
Sec. 309. Enhanced procurement authority to manage supply chain risk.
Sec. 310. Burial allowance.
Sec. 311. Modification of certain reporting requirements.
Sec. 312. Review of strategic and competitive analysis conducted by the intelligence community.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Sec. 401. Intelligence community assistance to counter drug trafficking organizations using public lands.
Sec. 402. Application of certain financial reporting requirements to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
Sec. 403. Public availability of information regarding the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.
Sec. 404. Clarification of status of Chief Information Officer in the Executive Schedule.
Sec. 405. Temporary appointment to fill vacancies within Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency

Sec. 411. Acceptance of gifts.
Sec. 412. Foreign language proficiency requirements for Central Intelligence Agency officers.
Sec. 413. Public availability of information regarding the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency.
Sec. 414. Creating an official record of the Osama bin Laden operation.
Sec. 415. Recruitment of personnel in the Office of the Inspector General.

Subtitle C—National Security Agency

Sec. 421. Additional authorities for National Security Agency security personnel.

Subtitle D—Other Elements

Sec. 431. Codification of Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security as element of the intelligence community.
Sec. 432. Federal Bureau of Investigation participation in the Department of Justice leave bank.
Sec. 433. Accounts and transfer authority for appropriations and other amounts for intelligence elements of the Department of Defense.
Sec. 434. Report on training standards of defense intelligence workforce.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 501. Report on airspace restrictions for use of unmanned aerial vehicles along the border of the United States and Mexico.
Sec. 502. Sense of Congress regarding integration of fusion centers.
Sec. 503. Strategy to counter improvised explosive devices.
Sec. 504. Sense of Congress regarding the priority of railway transportation security.
Sec. 505. Technical amendments to the National Security Act of 1947.
Sec. 506. Technical amendments to title 18, United States Code.
Sec. 507. Budgetary effects.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term ''congressional intelligence committees'' means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given

that term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2012 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the following elements of the United States Government:

(1) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(2) The Central Intelligence Agency.

(3) The Department of Defense.

(4) The Defense Intelligence Agency.

(5) The National Security Agency.

(6) The Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force.

(7) The Coast Guard.

(8) The Department of State.

(9) The Department of the Treasury.

(10) The Department of Energy.

(11) The Department of Justice.

(12) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(13) The Drug Enforcement Administration.

(14) The National Reconnaissance Office.

(15) The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

(16) The Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS AND PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 and, subject to section 103, the authorized personnel ceilings as of September 30, 2012, for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the elements listed in paragraphs (1) through (16) of section 101, are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany the bill H.R. 1892 of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY TO COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations, or of appropriate portions of the Schedule, within the executive branch.

(3) LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 415c)

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—In addition to any other purpose authorized by law, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation may expend funds authorized in this Act as specified in the Federal Bureau of Investigation Policy Implementation section of the classified annex accompanying this Act.

SEC. 103. PERSONNEL CEILING ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AUTHORITY FOR INCREASES.—The Director of National Intelligence may authorize the employment of civilian personnel in excess of the number of full-time equivalent positions for fiscal year 2012 authorized by the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) if the Director of National Intelligence determines that such action is necessary for the performance of important intelligence functions, except that the number of personnel employed in excess of the number authorized under such section may not, for any element of the intelligence community, exceed 3 percent of the number of civilian personnel authorized under such section for such element.

(b) AUTHORITY FOR CONVERSION OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED BY CONTRACT PERSONNEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the authority in subsection (a) and subject to paragraph (2), if the head of an element of the intelligence community makes a determination that activities currently being performed by contract personnel should be performed by employees of such element, the Director of National Intelligence, in order to reduce a comparable number of contract personnel, may authorize for that purpose employment of additional full-time equivalent personnel in such element equal to the number of full-time equivalent contract personnel performing such activities.

(2) CONCURRENCE AND APPROVAL.—The authority described in paragraph (1) may not be exercised unless the Director of National Intelligence concurs with the determination described in such paragraph.

(c) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL.—The Director of National Intelligence shall establish guidelines that govern, for each element of the intelligence community, the treatment under the personnel levels authorized under section 102(a), including any exemption from such personnel levels, of employment or assignment—

(1) in a student program, trainee program, or similar program;

(2) in a reserve corps or as a reemployed annuitant; or

(3) in details, joint duty, or long-term, full-time training.

(d) NOTICE TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The Director of National Intelligence shall notify the congressional intelligence committees in writing at least 15 days prior to the initial exercise of an authority described in subsection (a) or (b).

SEC. 104. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2012 the sum of $576,393,000. Within such amount, funds identified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a) for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2013.

(b) AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL LEVELS.—The elements within the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence are authorized 777 full-time or full-time equivalent personnel as of September 30, 2012. Personnel serving in such elements may be permanent employees of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence or personnel detailed from other elements of the United States Government.

(c) CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Community Management Account for fiscal year 2012 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a). Such additional amounts for advanced research and development shall remain available until September 30, 2013.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL.—In addition to the personnel authorized by subsection (b) for elements of the Intelligence Community Management Account as of September 30, 2012, there are authorized such additional personnel for the Community Management Account as of that date as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund for fiscal year 2012 the sum of $514,000,000.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this Act for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

SEC. 302. RESTRICTION ON CONDUCT OF INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.

The authorization of appropriations by this Act shall not be deemed to constitute authority for the conduct of any intelligence activity which is not otherwise authorized by the Constitution or the laws of the United States.

SEC. 303. ANNUAL REPORT ON HIRING OF NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

Not later than 90 days after the end of each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, the head of each element of the intelligence community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report, which may be in classified form, containing the number of personnel hired by such element during such fiscal year that were at any time a recipient of a grant or scholarship under the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991 (50 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

SEC. 304. ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY FOR FLEXIBLE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AMONG THE ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–1) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(v) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH POSITIONS IN EXCEPTED SERVICE.—(1) The Director of National Intelligence, with the concurrence of the head of the covered department concerned and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, may—

''(A) convert competitive service positions, and the incumbents of such positions, within an element of the intelligence community in such department, to excepted service positions as the Director of National Intelligence determines necessary to carry out the intelligence functions of such element; and

''(B) establish new positions in the excepted service within an element of the intelligence community in such department, if the Director of National Intelligence determines such positions are necessary to carry out the intelligence functions of such element.

''(2) An incumbent occupying a position on the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 selected to be converted to the excepted service under this section shall have the right to refuse such conversion. Once such individual no longer occupies the position, the position may be converted to the excepted service.

''(3) In this subsection, the term 'covered department' means the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, or the Department of the Treasury.''.

SEC. 305. PREPARATION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS.

Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–1), as amended by section 304 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(w) NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ADDENDUM.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the appropriate elements of the intelligence community and the Secretary of State, shall provide to the President, the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate an addendum to

each Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement accompanying a civilian nuclear cooperation agreement, containing a comprehensive analysis of the country's export control system with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries.''.

SEC. 306. COST ESTIMATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 506A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 415a–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)—

(A) by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(2)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(B) For major system acquisitions requiring a service or capability from another acquisition or program to deliver the end-to-end functionality for the intelligence community end users, independent cost estimates shall include, to the maximum extent practicable, all estimated costs across all pertinent elements of the intelligence community. For collection programs, such cost estimates shall include the cost of new analyst training, new hardware and software for data exploitation and analysis, and any unique or additional costs for data processing, storing, and power, space, and cooling across the life cycle of the program. If such costs for processing, exploitation, dissemination, and storage are scheduled to be executed in other elements of the intelligence community, the independent cost estimate shall identify and annotate such costs for such other elements accordingly.''; and

(2) in subsection (e)(2)—

(A) by inserting ''(A)'' after ''(2)'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by striking ''associated with the acquisition of a major system,'' and inserting ''associated with the development, acquisition, procurement, operation, and sustainment of a major system across its proposed life cycle,''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) In accordance with subsection (a)(2)(B), each independent cost estimate shall include all costs required across elements of the intelligence community to develop, acquire, procure, operate, and sustain the system to provide the end-to-end intelligence functionality of the system, including—

''(i) for collection programs, the cost of new analyst training, new hardware and software for data exploitation and analysis, and any unique or additional costs for data processing, storing, and power, space, and cooling across the life cycle of the program; and

''(ii) costs for processing, exploitation, dissemination, and storage scheduled to be executed in other elements of the intelligence community.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 307. UPDATES OF INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO TERRORIST RECIDIVISM OF DETAINEES HELD AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) UPDATES AND CONSOLIDATION OF LANGUAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 413 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 506H the following new section:

''SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO TERRORIST RECIDIVISM OF DETAINEES HELD AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

''SEC. 506I. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, shall make publicly available an unclassified summary of—

''(1) intelligence relating to recidivism of detainees currently or formerly held at the Naval Detention Facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the Department of Defense; and

''(2) an assessment of the likelihood that such detainees will engage in terrorism or communicate with persons in terrorist organizations.

''(b) UPDATES.—Not less frequently than once every 6 months, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Secretary of Defense, shall update and make publicly available an unclassified summary consisting of the information required by subsection (a) and the number of individuals formerly detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who are confirmed or suspected of returning to terrorist activities after release or transfer from such Naval Station.''.

(2) INITIAL UPDATE.—The initial update required by section 506I(b) of such Act, as added by paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall be made publicly available not later than 10 days after the date the first report following the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 is submitted to members and committees of Congress pursuant to section 319 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 10 U.S.C. 801 note).

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the National Security Act of 1947 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 506H the following new item:

''Sec. 506I. Summary of intelligence relating to terrorist recidivism of detainees held at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.''.

SEC. 308. NOTIFICATION OF TRANSFER OF A DETAINEE HELD AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR NOTIFICATION.—The President shall submit to Congress, in classified form, at least 30 days prior to the transfer or release of an individual detained at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as of June 24, 2009, to the country of such individual's nationality or last habitual residence or to any other foreign country or to a freely associated State the following information:

(1) The name of the individual to be transferred or released.

(2) The country or the freely associated State to which such individual is to be transferred or released.

(3) The terms of any agreement with the country or the freely associated State for the acceptance of such individual, including the amount of any financial assistance related to such agreement.

(4) The agencies or departments of the United States responsible for ensuring that the agreement described in paragraph (3) is carried out.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''freely associated States'' means the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

(c) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or otherwise affect the following provisions of law:

(1) Section 1028 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

(2) Section 8120 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2012.

SEC. 309. ENHANCED PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY TO MANAGE SUPPLY CHAIN RISK.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ''covered agency'' means any element of the intelligence community other than an element within the Department of Defense.

(2) COVERED ITEM OF SUPPLY.—The term ''covered item of supply'' means an item of information technology (as that term is defined in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code) that is purchased for inclusion in a covered system, and the loss of integrity of which could result in a supply chain risk for a covered system.

(3) COVERED PROCUREMENT.—The term ''covered procurement'' means—

(A) a source selection for a covered system or a covered item of supply involving either a performance specification, as provided in section 3306(a)(3)(B) of title 41, United States Code, or an evaluation factor, as provided in section 3306(b)(1) of such title, relating to supply chain risk;

(B) the consideration of proposals for and issuance of a task or delivery order for a covered system or a covered item of supply, as provided in section 4106(d)(3) of title 41, United States Code, where the task or delivery order contract concerned includes a contract clause establishing a requirement relating to supply chain risk; or

(C) any contract action involving a contract for a covered system or a covered item of supply where such contract includes a clause establishing requirements relating to supply chain risk.

(4) COVERED PROCUREMENT ACTION.—The term ''covered procurement action'' means any of the following actions, if the action takes place in the course of conducting a covered procurement:

(A) The exclusion of a source that fails to meet qualifications standards established in accordance with the requirements of section 3311 of title 41, United States Code, for the purpose of reducing supply chain risk in the acquisition of covered systems.

(B) The exclusion of a source that fails to achieve an acceptable rating with regard to an evaluation factor providing for the consideration of supply chain risk in the evaluation of proposals for the award of a contract or the issuance of a task or delivery order.

(C) The decision to withhold consent for a contractor to subcontract with a particular source or to direct a contractor for a covered system to exclude a particular source from consideration for a subcontract under the contract.

(5) COVERED SYSTEM.—The term ''covered system'' means a national security system, as that term is defined in section 3542(b) of title 44, United States Code.

(6) SUPPLY CHAIN RISK.—The term ''supply chain risk'' means the risk that an adversary may sabotage, maliciously introduce unwanted function, or otherwise subvert the design, integrity, manufacturing, production, distribution, installation, operation, or maintenance of a covered system so as to surveil, deny, disrupt, or otherwise degrade the function, use, or operation of such system.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Subject to subsection (c) and in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, the head of a covered agency may, in conducting intelligence and intelligence-related activities—

(1) carry out a covered procurement action; and

(2) limit, notwithstanding any other provision of law, in whole or in part, the disclosure of information relating to the basis for carrying out a covered procurement action.

(c) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.—The head of a covered agency may exercise the authority provided in subsection (b) only after—

(1) any appropriate consultation with procurement or other relevant officials of the covered agency;

(2) making a determination in writing, which may be in classified form, that—

(A) use of the authority in subsection (b)(1) is necessary to protect national security by reducing supply chain risk;

(B) less intrusive measures are not reasonably available to reduce such supply chain risk; and

(C) in a case where the head of the covered agency plans to limit disclosure of information under subsection (b)(2), the risk to national security due to the disclosure of such information

outweighs the risk due to not disclosing such information;

(3) notifying the Director of National Intelligence that there is a significant supply chain risk to the covered system concerned, unless the head of the covered agency making the determination is the Director of National Intelligence; and

(4) providing a notice, which may be in classified form, of the determination made under paragraph (2) to the congressional intelligence committees that includes a summary of the basis for the determination, including a discussion of less intrusive measures that were considered and why they were not reasonably available to reduce supply chain risk.

(d) DELEGATION.—The head of a covered agency may not delegate the authority provided in subsection (b) or the responsibility to make a determination under subsection (c) to an official below the level of the service acquisition executive for the agency concerned.

(e) SAVINGS.—The authority under this section is in addition to any other authority under any other provision of law. The authority under this section shall not be construed to alter or effect the exercise of any other provision of law.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to contracts that are awarded on or after such date.

(g) SUNSET.—The authority provided in this section shall expire on the date that section 806 of the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (Public Law 111–383; 10 U.S.C. 2304 note) expires.

SEC. 310. BURIAL ALLOWANCE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency or department containing an element of the intelligence community may pay to the estate of a decedent described in paragraph (2) a burial allowance at the request of a representative of such estate, as determined in accordance with the laws of a State.

(2) DESCRIPTION.—A decedent described in this paragraph is an individual—

(A) who served as a civilian officer or employee of such an agency or department;

(B) who died as a result of an injury incurred during such service; and

(C) whose death—

(i) resulted from hostile or terrorist activities; or

(ii) occurred in connection with an intelligence activity having a substantial element of risk.

(b) USE OF BURIAL ALLOWANCE.—A burial allowance paid under subsection (a) may be used to reimburse such estate for burial expenses, including recovery, mortuary, funeral, or memorial service, cremation, burial costs, and costs of transportation by common carrier to the place selected for final disposition of the decedent.

(c) AMOUNT OF BURIAL ALLOWANCE; RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROVISIONS.—A burial allowance paid under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) in an amount not greater than—

(A) the maximum reimbursable amount allowed under Department of Defense Instruction 1344.08 or successor instruction; plus

(B) the actual costs of transportation referred to in subsection (b); and

(2) in addition to any other benefit permitted under any other provision of law, including funds that may be expended as specified in the General Provisions section of the classified annex accompanying this Act.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility of implementing legislation to provide for burial allowances at a level which adequately addresses the cost of burial expenses and provides for equitable treatment when an officer or employee of a Federal agency or department dies as the result of an injury sustained in the performance of duty.

SEC. 311. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.—Section 1041(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 403–1b(b)) is amended by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

(b) INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003.—Section 904(d)(1) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (50 U.S.C. 402c(d)(1)) is amended by striking ''on an annual basis''.

(c) INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995.—Section 809 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1995 (50 U.S.C. App. 2170b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking ''reports referred to in subsections (a) and (b)'' and inserting ''report referred to in subsection (a)''.

(d) REPORT ON TEMPORARY PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATIONS FOR CRITICAL LANGUAGE TRAINING.—Paragraph (3)(D) of section 102A(e) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–1(e)), as amended by section 306 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–259; 124 Stat. 2661), is amended by striking ''The'' and inserting ''For each of the fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012, the''.

SEC. 312. REVIEW OF STRATEGIC AND COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS CONDUCTED BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) REVIEW.—The Director of National Intelligence shall direct the Director's Senior Advisory Group to conduct a comprehensive review of the strategic and competitive analysis of international terrorism and homegrown violent extremism conducted by elements of the intelligence community during the 12 month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 15 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees—

(1) a report on the results of the review conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) any actions taken by the Director to implement the recommendations, if any, of the Director's Senior Advisory Group based on such results.

TITLE IV—MATTERS RELATING TO ELEMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Subtitle A—Office of the Director of National Intelligence

SEC. 401. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS USING PUBLIC LANDS.

(a) CONSULTATION.—The Director of National Intelligence shall consult with the heads of the Federal land management agencies on the appropriate actions the intelligence community can take to assist such agencies in responding to the threat from covered entities that are currently or have previously used public lands in the United States to further the operations of such entities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the consultation under subsection (a). Such report shall include—

(1) an assessment of the intelligence community collection efforts dedicated to covered entities, including any collection gaps or inefficiencies; and

(2) an assessment of the ability of the intelligence community to assist Federal land management agencies in identifying and protecting public lands from illegal drug grows and other activities and threats of covered entities, including through the sharing of intelligence information.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means an international drug trafficking organization or other actor involved in drug trafficking generally.

(2) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term ''Federal land management agency'' includes—

(A) the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(B) the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior;

(C) the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior;

(D) the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior; and

(E) the Bureau of Reclamation of the Department of the Interior.

(3) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term ''public lands'' means land under the management of a Federal land management agency.

SEC. 402. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

For each of the fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012, the requirements of section 3515 of title 31, United States Code, to submit an audited financial statement shall not apply to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence if the Director of National Intelligence determines and notifies Congress that audited financial statements for such years for such Office cannot be produced on a cost-effective basis.

SEC. 403. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 103H of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–3h) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(o) INFORMATION ON WEBSITE.—(1) The Director of National Intelligence shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the publicly accessible website of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence information relating to the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community including methods to contact the Inspector General.

''(2) The information referred to in paragraph (1) shall be obvious and facilitate accessibility to the information related to the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.''.

SEC. 404. CLARIFICATION OF STATUS OF CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER IN THE EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.

Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to the Chief Information Officer, Small Business Administration the following new item:

''Chief Information Officer of the Intelligence Community.''.

SEC. 405. TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCIES WITHIN OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Section 103 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–3) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

''(e) TEMPORARY FILLING OF VACANCIES.—With respect to filling temporarily a vacancy in an office within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (other than that of the Director of National Intelligence), section 3345(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code, may be applied—

''(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by substituting 'an element of the intelligence community, as that term is defined in

section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)),' for 'such Executive agency'; and

''(2) in subparagraph (A), by substituting 'the intelligence community' for 'such agency'.''.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency

SEC. 411. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.

Section 12 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 403l(a)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(a)''; and

(B) by striking the second and third sentences and inserting the following:

''(2) Any gift accepted under this section (and any income produced by any such gift)—

''(A) may be used only for—''

''(i) artistic display;

''(ii) purposes relating to the general welfare, education, or recreation of employees or dependents of employees of the Agency or for similar purposes; or

''(iii) purposes relating to the welfare, education, or recreation of an individual described in paragraph (3); and

''(B) under no circumstances may such a gift (or any income produced by any such gift) be used for operational purposes.

''(3) An individual described in this paragraph is an individual who—

''(A) is an employee or a former employee of the Agency who suffered injury or illness while employed by the Agency that—

''(i) resulted from hostile or terrorist activities;

''(ii) occurred in connection with an intelligence activity having a significant element of risk; or

''(iii) occurred under other circumstances determined by the Director to be analogous to the circumstances described in clause (i) or (ii);

''(B) is a family member of such an employee or former employee; or

''(C) is a surviving family member of an employee of the Agency who died in circumstances described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A).

''(4) The Director may not accept any gift under this section that is expressly conditioned upon any expenditure not to be met from the gift itself or from income produced by the gift unless such expenditure has been authorized by law.

''(5) The Director may, in the Director's discretion, determine that an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (3) may accept a gift for the purposes described in paragraph (2)(A)(iii).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) The Director, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, shall issue regulations to carry out the authority provided in this section. Such regulations shall ensure that such authority is exercised consistent with all relevant ethical constraints and principles, including—

''(1) the avoidance of any prohibited conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety; and

''(2) a prohibition against the acceptance of a gift from a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.''.

SEC. 412. FOREIGN LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104A(g) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–4a(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by inserting ''in the Directorate of Intelligence career service or the National Clandestine Service career service'' after ''an individual'';

(ii) by inserting ''or promoted'' after ''appointed''; and

(iii) by striking ''individual—'' and inserting ''individual has been certified as having a professional speaking and reading proficiency in a foreign language, such proficiency being at least level 3 on the Interagency Language Roundtable Language Skills Level or commensurate proficiency level using such other indicator of proficiency as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency considers appropriate.'';

(B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''position or category of positions'' both places that term appears and inserting ''position, category of positions, or occupation''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 611(b) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–487; 50 U.S.C. 403–4a note) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''or promotions'' after ''appointments''; and

(2) by striking ''that is one year after the date''.

(c) REPORT ON WAIVERS.—Section 611(c) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–487; 118 Stat. 3955) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking ''positions'' and inserting ''individual waivers''; and

(B) by striking ''Directorate of Operations'' and inserting ''National Clandestine Service''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking ''position or category of positions'' and inserting ''position, category of positions, or occupation''.

(d) REPORT ON TRANSFERS.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis for each of the following 3 years, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the number of Senior Intelligence Service employees of the Agency who—

(1) were transferred during the reporting period to a Senior Intelligence Service position in the Directorate of Intelligence career service or the National Clandestine Service career service; and

(2) did not meet the foreign language requirements specified in section 104A(g)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403–4a(g)(1)) at the time of such transfer.

SEC. 413. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

Section 17 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 403q) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) INFORMATION ON WEBSITE.—(1) The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall establish and maintain on the homepage of the Agency's publicly accessible website information relating to the Office of the Inspector General including methods to contact the Inspector General.

''(2) The information referred to in paragraph (1) shall be obvious and facilitate accessibility to the information related to the Office of the Inspector General.''.

SEC. 414. CREATING AN OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE OSAMA BIN LADEN OPERATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On May 1, 2011, United States personnel killed terrorist leader Osama bin Laden during the course of a targeted strike against his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

(2) Osama bin Laden was the leader of the al Qaeda terrorist organization, the most significant terrorism threat to the United States and the international community.

(3) Osama bin Laden was the architect of terrorist attacks which killed nearly 3,000 civilians on September 11, 2001, the most deadly terrorist attack against our Nation, in which al Qaeda terrorists hijacked four airplanes and crashed them into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and, due to heroic efforts by civilian passengers to disrupt the terrorists, near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

(4) Osama bin Laden planned or supported numerous other deadly terrorist attacks against the United States and its allies, including the 1998 bombings of United States embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the 2000 attack on the U.S.S. Cole in Yemen, and against innocent civilians in countries around the world, including the 2004 attack on commuter trains in Madrid, Spain and the 2005 bombings of the mass transit system in London, England.

(5) Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United States, under President George W. Bush, led an international coalition into Afghanistan to dismantle al Qaeda, deny them a safe haven in Afghanistan and ungoverned areas along the Pakistani border, and bring Osama bin Laden to justice.

(6) President Barack Obama in 2009 committed additional forces and resources to efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan as ''the central front in our enduring struggle against terrorism and extremism''.

(7) The valiant members of the United States Armed Forces have courageously and vigorously pursued al Qaeda and its affiliates in Afghanistan and around the world.

(8) The anonymous, unsung heroes of the intelligence community have pursued al Qaeda and affiliates in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and around the world with tremendous dedication, sacrifice, and professionalism.

(9) The close collaboration between the Armed Forces and the intelligence community prompted the Director of National Intelligence, General James Clapper, to state, ''Never have I seen a more remarkable example of focused integration, seamless collaboration, and sheer professional magnificence as was demonstrated by the Intelligence Community in the ultimate demise of Osama bin Laden.''.

(10) While the death of Osama bin Laden represents a significant blow to the al Qaeda organization and its affiliates and to terrorist organizations around the world, terrorism remains a critical threat to United States national security.

(11) President Obama said, ''For over two decades, bin Laden has been al Qaeda's leader and symbol, and has continued to plot attacks against our country and our friends and allies. The death of bin Laden marks the most significant achievement to date in our Nation's effort to defeat al Qaeda.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the raid that killed Osama bin Laden demonstrated the best of the intelligence community's capabilities and teamwork;

(2) for years to come, Americans will look back at this event as a defining point in the history of the United States;

(3) it is vitally important that the United States memorialize all the events that led to the raid so that future generations will have an official record of the events that transpired before, during, and as a result of the operation; and

(4) preserving this history now will allow the United States to have an accurate account of the events while those that participated in the events are still serving in the Government.

(c) REPORT ON THE OPERATION THAT KILLED OSAMA BIN LADEN.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the report being prepared by the Center for the Study of Intelligence that documents the history of and lessons learned from the raid that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit such report to the congressional intelligence committees.

(d) PRESERVATION OF RECORDS.—The Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall preserve any records, including intelligence information and assessments, used to generate the report described in subsection (c).

SEC. 415. RECRUITMENT OF PERSONNEL IN THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) STUDY.—The Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall carry out a study of the personnel authorities and available personnel benefits of the Office of the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency. Such study shall include—

(1) identification of any barriers or disincentives to the recruitment or retention of experienced investigators within the Office of the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency; and

(2) a comparison of the personnel authorities of the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency with personnel authorities of Inspectors General of other agencies and departments of the United States, including a comparison of the benefits available to experienced investigators within the Office of the Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency with similar benefits available within the offices of Inspectors General of such other agencies or departments.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives—

(1) a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) any recommendations for legislative action based on such results.

(c) FUNDING.—Of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall transfer to the Inspector General of the Office of Personnel Management such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

Subtitle C—National Security Agency

SEC. 421. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SECURITY PERSONNEL.

(a) AUTHORITY TO TRANSPORT APPREHENDED PERSONS.—Paragraph (5) of section 11(a) of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (50 U.S.C. 402 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(5) Agency personnel authorized by the Director under paragraph (1) may transport an individual apprehended under the authority of this section from the premises at which the individual was apprehended, as described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), for the purpose of transferring such individual to the custody of law enforcement officials. Such transportation may be provided only to make a transfer of custody at a location within 30 miles of the premises described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO TORT LIABILITY.—Paragraph (1) of section 11(d) of the National Security Agency Act of 1959 (50 U.S.C. 402 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) transport an individual pursuant to subsection (a)(2).''.

Subtitle D—Other Elements

SEC. 431. CODIFICATION OF OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AS ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 3(4)(K) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)(K)) is amended to read as follows:

''(K) The Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security.''.

SEC. 432. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION PARTICIPATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LEAVE BANK.

Subsection (b) of section 6372 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, neither an excepted agency nor any individual employed in or under an excepted agency may be included in a leave bank program established under any of the preceding provisions of this subchapter.

''(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation may authorize an individual employed by the Bureau to participate in a leave bank program administered by the Department of Justice under this subchapter if in the Director's judgment such participation will not adversely affect the protection of intelligence sources and methods.''.

SEC. 433. ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER AMOUNTS FOR INTELLIGENCE ELEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 428 the following new section:

''§ 429. Appropriations for Defense intelligence elements: accounts for transfers; transfer authority

''(a) ACCOUNTS FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ELEMENTS.—The Secretary of Defense may transfer appropriations of the Department of Defense which are available for the activities of Defense intelligence elements to an account or accounts established for receipt of such transfers. Each such account may also receive transfers from the Director of National Intelligence if made pursuant to Section 102A of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-1), and transfers and reimbursements arising from transactions, as authorized by law, between a Defense intelligence element and another entity. Appropriation balances in each such account may be transferred back to the account or accounts from which such appropriations originated as appropriation refunds.

''(b) RECORDATION OF TRANSFERS.—Transfers made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be recorded as expenditure transfers.

''(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds transferred pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available for the same time period and for the same purpose as the appropriation from which transferred, and shall remain subject to the same limitations provided in the act making the appropriation.

''(d) OBLIGATION AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—Unless otherwise specifically authorized by law, funds transferred pursuant to subsection (a) shall only be obligated and expended in accordance with chapter 15 of title 31 and all other applicable provisions of law.

''(e) DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE ELEMENT DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'Defense intelligence element' means any of the Department of Defense agencies, offices, and elements included within the definition of 'intelligence community' under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''429. Appropriations for Defense intelligence elements: accounts for transfers; transfer authority.''.

SEC. 434. REPORT ON TRAINING STANDARDS OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE WORKFORCE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence shall submit to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate a report on the training standards of the defense intelligence workforce. Such report shall include—

(1) a description of existing training, education, and professional development standards applied to personnel of defense intelligence components; and

(2) an assessment of the ability to implement a certification program for personnel of the defense intelligence components based on achievement of required training, education, and professional development standards.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE COMPONENTS.—The term ''defense intelligence components'' means—

(A) the National Security Agency;

(B) the Defense Intelligence Agency;

(C) the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(D) the National Reconnaissance Office;

(E) the intelligence elements of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps; and

(F) other offices within the Department of Defense for the collection of specialized national intelligence through reconnaissance programs.

(2) DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE WORKFORCE.—The term ''defense intelligence workforce'' means the personnel of the defense intelligence components.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 501. REPORT ON AIRSPACE RESTRICTIONS FOR USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES ALONG THE BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on whether restrictions on the use of airspace are hampering the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by the Department of Homeland Security along the international border between the United States and Mexico.

SEC. 502. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING INTEGRATION OF FUSION CENTERS.

It is the sense of Congress that ten years after the terrorist attacks upon the United States on September 11, 2001, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, should continue to integrate and utilize fusion centers to enlist all of the intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security capabilities of the United States in a manner that is consistent with the Constitution to prevent acts of terrorism against the United States.

SEC. 503. STRATEGY TO COUNTER IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES.

(a) STRATEGY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall establish a coordinated strategy utilizing all available personnel and assets for intelligence collection and analysis to identify and counter network activity and operations in Pakistan and Afghanistan relating to the development and use of improvised explosive devices.

(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy established under paragraph (1) shall identify—

(A) the networks that design improvised explosive devices, provide training on improvised explosive device assembly and employment, and smuggle improvised explosive device components into Afghanistan;

(B) the persons and organizations not directly affiliated with insurgents in Afghanistan who knowingly enable the movement of commercial products and material used in improvised explosive device construction from factories and vendors in Pakistan into Afghanistan;

(C) the financiers, financial networks, institutions, and funding streams that provide resources to the insurgency in Afghanistan; and

(D) the links to military, intelligence services, and government officials who are complicit in allowing the insurgent networks in Afghanistan to operate.

(b) REPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) submit to the congressional intelligence committees and the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the strategy established under subsection (a); and

(2) implement such strategy.

SEC. 504. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE PRIORITY OF RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the nation's railway transportation (including subway transit) network is broad and technically complex, requiring robust communication between private sector stakeholders and the intelligence community to identify, monitor, and respond to threats;

(2) the Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis maintains a constructive relationship with other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and private entities to safeguard our railways; and

(3) railway transportation security (including subway transit security) should continue to be prioritized in the critical infrastructure threat assessment developed by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis and included in threat assessment budgets of the intelligence community.

SEC. 505. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947.

The National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(6) (50 U.S.C. 401a(6)), by striking ''Director of Central Intelligence'' and inserting ''Director of National Intelligence'';

(2) in section 506(b) (50 U.S.C. 415a(b)), by striking ''Director of Central Intelligence.'' and inserting ''Director of National Intelligence.''; and

(3) in section 506A(c)(2)(C) (50 U.S.C. 415a–1(c)(2)(C), by striking ''National Foreign Intelligence Program'' both places that term appears and inserting ''National Intelligence Program''.

SEC. 506. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 351(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''the Director (or a person nominated to be Director during the pendency of such nomination) or Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence,'' after ''in such department,''; and

(2) by striking ''Central Intelligence,'' and inserting ''the Central Intelligence Agency,''.

SEC. 507. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a good day for the United States, certainly a good day for the men and women who serve so proudly in our intelligence services that work tirelessly to keep America safe. This is a good day to bring the fiscal year 2012 intelligence authorization bill to the floor today. This will be our second intelligence authorization bill since January of this year, when I became chairman and my ranking member took his position as well for the House Intelligence Committee, and it will be the 29th bill in our committee's history.

□ 0920

This bill is a vital tool for congressional oversight of the intelligence community's classified activities and is critical to ensuring that our intelligence agencies have the resources and authorities they need to do their important work.

Passing an annual intelligence authorization bill is vital to keeping the laws governing our intelligence operations up to date. The FY12 bill sustains our current intelligence capabilities and provides for the development of future capabilities, all while achieving significant savings.

The U.S. intelligence community plays a critical role in the war on terrorism and securing the country from many threats that we face today. Effective and aggressive congressional oversight is essential to ensuring continued success in the intelligence community.

The intelligence authorization bill funds U.S. intelligence activities spanning 17 separate agencies. This funding totaled roughly $80 billion in fiscal year 2010. The current challenging fiscal environment demands the accountability and financial oversight of our classified intelligence programs that can only come with an intelligence authorization bill.

The bill's comprehensive classified annex provides detailed guidance on intelligence spending, including adjustments to costly programs. This bill funds the requirements of the men and women of the intelligence community, both military and civilian, many of whom directly support the war zones or are engaged in other dangerous operations to keep America and Americans safe.

It provides oversight and authorization for critical intelligence activities, including the global counterterrorism operations, such as the one that took out Osama bin Laden; cyberdefense by the National Security Agency; countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; global monitoring of foreign militaries and weapons tests; research and development of new technology to maintain our intelligence agencies' technological edge, including work on code breaking and spy satellites.

This has been a strategy for a tough fiscal climate. After passage of the Budget Control Act, the committee revamped the bill it reported out of committee back in May to double its budget savings. As a result, the bill is significantly below the President's budget request for fiscal year 2012 and further still below the levels authorized and appropriated in fiscal year 2011. These savings—and this is important, Mr. Speaker—were achieved without impacting the intelligence community's important mission, as the cuts of the 1990s did.

The bottom line is that this bipartisan bill preserves and advances national security and is also fiscally responsible. The secrecy that is a necessary part of our country's intelligence work requires that the congressional intelligence committees conduct strong and effective oversight on behalf of the American people. That strong and effective oversight is impossible, however, without an annual intelligence authorization bill. And I want to thank both of the staffs for the Republicans and the Democrats, and the members from both the Republicans and Democrats on this committee for coming together in a bipartisan way on the important issue of national security. And I thank my friend, DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER, the ranking member, for his leadership in getting us not to one, but to two authorization bills within just 10 months. And that's no small accomplishment, as you might know, Mr. Speaker.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in favor of the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2012.

When Chairman ROGERS and I took over leadership of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, we made a commitment to work together to ensure the intelligence community has the authorities it needs to effectively protect America. This intelligence authorization bill achieves this purpose. It gives our intelligence professionals critical resources, capabilities, and authorities. We passed FY11 earlier this year, and now we can see the finish line for FY12.

For 5 years, there were no intelligence bills. There was a gap in oversight. When this bill is signed into law, it will be the third time in 3 years that the Intelligence Committee has passed an intel authorization act.

I strongly believe that passing the authorization bill is critical to national security. The Intelligence Committee wants to strengthen the intelligence community and give them the tools they need. However, it is also our job to conduct thorough, effective oversight and provide budgetary direction. This bill does that.

This bill makes smart choices. It trims and eliminates duplicative efforts wherever possible. We made careful decisions and were mindful to protect the current and future capabilities that protect our Nation. This bill aligns our resources with our current threats and makes important investments in space, satellites, and cyber.

This bill is even more important today with the 10th anniversary of 9/11 fresh in our minds. When it comes to terrorism, Osama bin Laden may be gone, but radical extremists still have the United States as a target.

Intelligence is clearly the best defense against terrorism, and this bill makes our defense even stronger. This act is bipartisan and bicameral. The members of our Intelligence Committee work not as Democrats or Republicans, or as the House or Senate, but as Americans protecting our country. This bill is proof that Congress can work together to do good things. I fully support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

And I also want to acknowledge the leadership of Chairman ROGERS for helping put this bill together.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I continue to reserve my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague from the State of California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1892, the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY12.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence, I am pleased that we were able to work together to bring a bipartisan, bicameral intelligence authorization bill to the House floor for the third year in a row. This is a testament to the hard work and leadership of our chairman, Mr. ROGERS, and ranking member, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

This bill will increase information sharing throughout the intelligence community. It includes a provision that is important to my home State of California, requiring the Director of National Intelligence to compile a threat assessment of foreign drug traffickers that are destroying our public lands here in the United States and causing unacceptable levels of violence because of their drug-growing operations in our public parks and forests. This bill requires the DNI to share this information with Federal land management agencies like the Forest Service so that we can take back our public lands.

The bill also includes a provision that I authored, working with my friend and former committee colleague, Representative ANNA ESHOO from California, requiring the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency to provide a full report on the events surrounding the May 2011 Osama bin Laden raid. We are all very proud of the intelligence community's extraordinary efforts in carrying out this operation. We believe it's important that the intelligence community document this operation in our permanent record as to how the operation was conducted and its importance on our counterterrorism efforts.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will improve our national security, will enhance the capabilities of the intelligence community, and will make our Nation stronger.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

I think we really need to discuss the issue of cybersecurity. Cyberthreat is the one thing I think that keeps a lot of us on the Intelligence Committee up at night, how serious a threat it is to our country—we're being attacked on a regular basis. And we as a country need to do what we have to do to go forward and deal with the issue of cyber.

Cyber poses one of the greatest threats to Americans from both an economic and national security perspective. We are losing millions of dollars because of cyberattacks. Our intellectual property is being stolen daily just as we speak. Our Pentagon is being attacked as we speak. We have seen countless examples of cutting-edge U.S. ideas being stolen and used for foreign products.

Cyber is also a major national security concern. We only have to look at the attack on South Korea's banking system to realize the impact an attack can have on critical infrastructure. In South Korea, depositors lost access to their money and critical investment. Data was lost. An attack like this could happen in the United States if we do not prepare and focus on the issue of cybersecurity. This bill strengthens U.S. cyberdefenses, again, a very important part of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the gentleman bringing up the issue of cybersecurity, an incredibly important issue, one that this committee spends a great deal of time on. And the ranking member and myself and many members of this committee have co-authored a bill—and many Members of this House—to give that first important step to protecting Americans' networks from both economic espionage and attack of those particular networks.

□ 0930

I can't think of anything that is more pressing than that particular issue, and I appreciate the gentleman's working with us on that particular issue and being a leading voice here in Congress on that particular issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I think another major issue that we've addressed in this bill is the issue of space. Years ago, when we went to the Moon, the whole country understood how important space was to the national defense of our country, and, in those days, everyone knew the names of the astronauts the same as they know the names of NFL quarterbacks today.

And yet, because of the fact that there hasn't been as much in space, we as a country need to educate our constituents how important space is. We are the strongest country in the world, and one of the main reasons is because we are active and control the skies. Yet, right now, our space program has to be reinvigorated, and we have to refocus on that.

America, again, controls the world because we control the skies. Our investment in space keeps us safe. If we fail to make that investment, other countries will move ahead and edge us out. As an example, China is going to the Moon. They are spending time, research, and development to go to the Moon. Currently, we rely on the Russians to get to the international space station.

We must reinvest in the capabilities to give us the edge in space. We also need to think about different ways to get ahead. The bill breaks down barriers of our launch industry. All options need to be on the table as we talk about keeping America's edge in space.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The ranking member brings up an important point about how complex this bill is and the level of threats and the degree of threat that this great country faces every day and really the importance of our investment in the technology that we need to keep ahead of enemy nations who seek to do us harm.

This bill embodies the fact that there will be members of the intelligence community whose job it is to find those Russian spies—like the illegal alien Russian case that was here—that are attempting to do bad things to the United States. The same with Chinese spies and Iranian spies, and the list is very long. And, unfortunately, it's not a spy novel; it's not a movie. These things are real. They happen every day in the United States, and we are a target of those nation-states as they seek to steal our secrets.

This bill provides those protections, and that means that we have to invest in space. It means that we have to invest in our cybersecurity capability. It means that we have to invest in our HUMINT collection, meaning recruiting others who will help us identify and ferret out those who seek to do us harm.

It means that we have the challenges of trying to make sure that al Qaeda, who has expressed an interest in a radiological bomb, doesn't get their hands on those types of materials. It means that we have to be careful about nuclear weapons being proliferated around the world by either force security or, worse yet, nation-states who encourage that type of activity.

It is no simple job being an intelligence officer or being in the intelligence community here in the United States.

I think this bill is an accurate reflection on how we move to the next place, but also an important reminder of the important work that they do, often in the shadows. The men and women who conduct this important work certainly deserve our support and all of the resources that we can muster to make sure that they're successful in their endeavors.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I think it's extremely important that we look back where we've come from since 9/11.

During 9/11, or before 9/11, we had agencies, intelligence agencies that just were not working together. There was not a teamwork approach. And, as a result of not working together, the attack of 9/11 occurred. The 9/11 Commission made numerous recommendations, and a lot of those recommendations were very positive and were implemented.

As a result of the bin Laden raid and bringing him to justice, I think it showed the teamwork that is needed, especially in the intelligence community, to work together, whether or not it's NSA, the NRO, it's the military, all those different agencies coming together and working as a team. And we would not have had the success that we had with bin Laden if it weren't for that teamwork approach.

I think now we have to learn about the teamwork approach and working together in Congress, also. We as Members of Congress need to do our job and come together and do the people's work, and the partisan politics has to stop.

What I'm leading to is that I think that this bill, and the previous bills that we've passed, and the leadership of Chairman ROGERS and the open minds of every member, whether Democrat or Republican, on the Intelligence Committee has allowed us to come together and have a bipartisan bill. And we would hope that what is happening here today in the bills that we've passed will be looked at as an example for the future.

Again, Chairman ROGERS, thank you for that commitment. We made a commitment when we first came that the stakes are too high, national security is too high, and we must work together.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to a member of the Intelligence Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to thank the chair and ranking member for the extraordinary job they have done on the Intelligence Committee.

This committee, I think, has been more productive than it's been in years, and owing largely to the efforts of these two gentlemen as well as all the members of the committee. I am greatly appreciative of the spirit of cooperation and nonpartisanship that prevails on the Intelligence Committee, and I want to thank both of these gentlemen.

I also enjoy working with JOE HECK, the chairman of the Technical and Tactical Subcommittee, and as ranking member I appreciate the opportunity to work on our overhead architecture issues. I remain concerned that we are largely investing in some inherited systems that are important but very expensive and can often crowd out new innovations and new technologies that are worthy of investment that provide potentially game-changing capabilities, but I look forward to continuing to work with the chair and ranking member to advance the science and technology that helps us stay one step ahead of our adversaries and helps us keep an eye on some of the bad actors around the world that pose a potentially great threat to the United States.

But, once again, I'm greatly appreciative of the efforts of the committee and our leadership. I think this is a superb bill and moves our intelligence capabilities forward.

I urge my colleagues to join in support.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the gentleman and look forward to continuing to work with the gentleman from California on those activities when it comes to our overhead architecture. There are programs worthy of investment, and the technology that we apply to this particular effort is incredibly important.

We always need to stay ahead. America always needs to be number one, and this bill reflects that. I think the work of the gentleman certainly is reflected in this bill as well, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to make sure that we don't have crowd-out when it comes to future technology. I think it's incredibly important.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I do want to acknowledge the Technical and Tactical Subcommittee and the work done by Mr. HECK and also Mr. SCHIFF. I have served with Mr. SCHIFF for years on the Intelligence Committee, and he has been very focused on the technical area, which is extremely important to our national security.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it took a long time for us to get to this point here today. We spent days in important hearings analyzing the intelligence community, making sure that we focused on what the intelligence community needed. We knew, as this country has an issue with respect to the deficit, that we had to do some cutting.

It's not about cutting; it was what to cut. And we wanted to make sure that the cuts that we made in this intelligence bill, working as Republicans and Democrats, would not affect the mission for the national security of our country. We spent time before the bill passed, hours and hours, working, staff working, coming together. And what's very unique, also, about this committee is that both the Democrat and the Republican staff worked very closely together, and I hadn't seen that in the past as a member of this committee for over 9 years right now. And that's one of the main reasons that we have such a great, effective staff that work together as a team, to come together to make sure that we did what we had to do.

□ 0940

Now we are here today to finish the job. Republicans and Democrats have come together to make important choices and to do what is right for the intelligence community and our country. This bill makes America safer.

Again, I commend everyone who participated in this effort, especially the bipartisan leadership of Chairman ROGERS, the other members of the Intelligence Committee, and the leadership of Senators FEINSTEIN and CHAMBLISS in the Senate Intelligence Committee, again working together. We can do our work here, but we need the Senate to come together, and we did and we now have the product here today.

I would like to thank again both the Democrat and Republican staff for the countless hours they spent.

I fully support the fiscal year 2012 Intelligence Authorization Act and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank the members of the committee, both Republican and Democrat, for their fine bipartisan effort on this national security bill of real significance. Many, many hours on behalf of both the Democrat staff and the Republican staff to get this right. When we had to trim back some finances from the community without impacting the mission, that is no small challenge, and I think this product is a testament to all of the work on behalf of both staffs, and both members, Republican and Democrat, to get us here.

I want to take this time to thank Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator CHAMBLISS for their work as well on this particular bill. We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for that bicameral and bipartisan effort, again, on this national security bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. 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 bill, H.R. 1892, as it will be adopted.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the 2012 Intelligence Authorization Act. In particular, this bill includes funding to accelerate implementation of an insider threat detection program and requires best practices implemented in the Army to be reviewed for inclusion across the Intelligence Community. In addition, the bill supports critical resources for cybersecurity, a threat which demands the attention of national security specialists.

As the successful operation against Usama bin Ladin demonstrated earlier this year, the Intelligence Community has made significant strides towards working together to counter the most complex threats facing our nation. Productive cooperation and intelligence integration embodies the intent of congressional reforms made after the tragic events of 9/11. I am encouraged to see this progress, especially in the area of information sharing.

While the sharing of classified information is imperative to keep our country safe, technological advances have also increased the risks of this cooperation. As we saw last year with the damage of Wikileaks the threat from a malicious insider, with the "keys to the kingdom," is real.

This bill requires the Director of National Intelligence to review improvements made to the Army's insider threat regulation and consider implementation across the Intelligence Community. The bill also accelerates other technical initiatives within the insider threat program. It is imperative that we ensure our security officers and network administrators have this capability in place to protect our most sensitive information.

Further, this bill helps secure our information and networks both from the insider and from outside actors by addressing the risks posed to our cyber networks. We must all work together to raise awareness of this threat and work with both public and private sector partners. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1892.

As the Chairman of the Technical and Tactical Subcommittee, I was tasked with leading a comprehensive review of our Nation's satellite systems. This review was conducted, and I am confident that the systems proposed in the classified annex of this bill provide the best value approach to collecting the overhead imagery demanded by our Nation's senior policy makers, intelligence analysts and war fighters.

Two of the intelligence community's chief weapons against terrorism are information—and the ability to communicate that information swiftly. This reality places a significant demand on our imaging systems, and it brings into focus the cost associated with these systems.

As we're fighting the war on terror, we must not allocate resources without due process.

Former Secretary of Defense Gates and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mullen both identified America's growing debt as their number one national security concern.

This bill recognizes and selectively funds competition in areas where competitive pressure will help improve innovation, reduce risk and strengthen the industrial base. This bill also recognizes and encourages competition in space launch programs with an eye towards reducing the cost of spacecraft launch while maintaining reliability.

In addition to concern over the federal government's spending habits, another reason Nevadans elected me 1ast fall is to restore government accountability and oversight.

The intelligence community is no exception: we must ensure they are accountable and receive proper oversight because most of their work occurs outside of the public's view.

Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER are doing incredible work on this issue, and I applaud their dedication to restoring proper accountability and oversight to the intelligence community.

I am confident the intelligence authorization act provides the resources and latitude our intelligence community needs while removing excess and indolence.

That is why I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1892.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1892.

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. ROGERS of Michigan. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REFORM AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2867) to reauthorize the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 6 and all that follows through ''(3)'' on page 4, line 18, and insert the following:

(a) TERMS.—Section 201(c) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of each member of the Commission shall be 2 years. An individual, including any member appointed to the Commission prior to the date of the enactment of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011, shall not serve more than 2 terms as a member of the Commission under any circumstance. For any member serving on the Commission on such date who has completed at least 2 full terms on the Commission, such member's term shall expire 90 days after such date. A member of the Commission may not serve after the expiration of that member's term.''; and

(2)

On page 5, line 3, strike ''(c)'' and insert ''(b)''.

On page 5, strike lines 9 through 19 and insert the following:

(c) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL TRAVEL REGULATION AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE STANDARDIZED REGULATIONS TO THE COMMISSION.—Section 201(i) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Members of the Commission are subject to the requirements set forth in chapters 300 through 304 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly known as the 'Federal Travel Regulation') and the Department of State Standardized Regulations governing authorized travel at government expense, including regulations concerning the mode of travel, lodging and per diem expenditures, reimbursement payments, and expense reporting and documentation requirements.''.

On page 5, strike line 21 and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the International Religious Freedom

On page 6, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

(b) PENDING CLAIMS.—Any administrative or judicial claim or action pending on the date of the enactment of this Act may be maintained under section 204(g) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, as added by subsection (a).

On page 6, line 21, strike ''and 2013'' and insert ''through 2014''.

On page 7, line 9, strike ''2013'' and insert ''2014''.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

The right to free religious belief and practice is a fundamental human right. But as Coptic Christians in Egypt and other religious minorities can attest, that right is frequently and tragically denied. It was for this reason that Congress established the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent, bipartisan Federal Commission charged with monitoring and protecting and promoting religious freedom abroad.

Our State Department prioritizes an array of diplomatic, economic, and other issues that sometimes keep it from speaking and acting boldly against religious suppression. For this

reason alone, the single-minded role of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom as a truth-telling watchdog and policy advocate remains critically important. The commission's annual report, its list of countries meriting CPC designation, and its special reports push American foreign policy to better reflect America's most cherished liberties.

For example, in spite of long-standing abuses, Vietnam has not been redesignated by the State Department as a Country of Particular Concern, CPC, for religious freedom violations. But the Commission has built a compelling case for Vietnam's CPC status, reporting on the repression of protestants in the Central Highlands, unregistered Buddhist groups, and others—a call that was echoed by our Foreign Affairs Committee earlier this year in our State authorization bill.

Yet, the Commission will soon have to shut its doors unless Congress acts immediately to reauthorize it.

For this reason, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2867 back in September. This bipartisan bill would reform and reauthorize the Commission and, in recognition of the fiscal challenges we face, includes funding that is a 30 percent cut from current year funding levels.

Finally 3 days ago, the Senate unanimously passed H.R. 2867, along with a brief amendment which is before us today. The Senate amendment adds a few additional reforms, including standard Federal regulation of Commission travel, to those required by our House bill.

I want to thank my good friend from Virginia, Mr. FRANK WOLF, for his indispensable leadership in authoring this bill. I also want to thank my ranking member, Mr. BERMAN of California, and our Senate colleagues for their cooperation.

I urge all of our colleagues to join us in voting ''aye'' and sending H.R. 2867 to the President's desk as soon as possible. Let us remind the world that we stand as one against the persecution of religious believers anywhere.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2867, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011, and the Senate amendments to the bill.

I want to initially start out by thanking the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from Virginia, FRANK WOLF, for his leadership on the issue of international religious freedom; Senator DURBIN for his efforts to strengthen the bill; my chairman, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for her management of this whole process that's finally going to get this reauthorization hopefully passed and sent to the President.

We're fortunate to live in a country that was founded by religious refugees on principles of tolerance. And we strive to adhere to article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. This right includes the freedom to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance.

But elsewhere around the world, religious freedom and human rights are routinely violated. Countless men, women, and children face violence, persecution, and discrimination because of their faith. Unfortunately, intolerance is not restricted to just a few countries. Violent extremist attacks have taken place in the Middle East and South Asia. The regimes in North Korea and Iran actively repress religious freedom. Apostasy and blasphemy laws have fueled discrimination against religious minorities in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. Other religious minorities like the Tibetan Buddhists, Uighur Muslims, Ahmadis, and the Bahais face violence in government restrictions, and anti-Semitism is still prevalent around the world.

□ 0950

More than ever, we need the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to continue its important work to support the right to practice one's religion freely around the globe.

This bipartisan bill before us today reauthorizes the Commission, known as USCIRF, for another 3 years. The bill also contains some sensible reforms that will strengthen USCIRF's efforts to monitor and report on the status of freedom of religion abroad. These reforms include the process of selecting the chair, term limits for service for the members of the Commission, travel regulations, and a GAO study on improving the effectiveness and coordination of all the U.S. Government bodies that focus on international religious freedom.

In particular, I would like to thank Mr. WOLF for agreeing to include a provision that clarifies that USCIRF is subject to the same workplace protections and civil rights laws as the rest of the Federal Government.

With this piece of legislation, USCIRF will be able to more effectively carry out its mission and be the Commission it was intended to be. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations and the author of this bill.

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. I thank the chair very much for yielding.

I want to thank Representative ROS-LEHTINEN and her staff for, really, being very dogged and persistent, and I want them to know how grateful I am. As people are for this bill, they should know that had it not been for them, we would not be here.

I also want to thank Mr. BERMAN and his staff. I want to thank Mr. CANTOR and his staff for scheduling this. I want to single out Speaker BOEHNER and his staff because they were a part of this effort for the last several months, and they were very faithful, so I want to thank them. I also want to thank my staff for being involved in this for well over a year.

The Coptic Christians are going through a very difficult time. The Iraqi Christians are being killed, and difficult things are happening to them. In Tibet, the Buddhists are setting themselves aflame because of the persecution of the Chinese Government. The Catholic Church in China is under stress: 25 bishops are under house arrest. The Protestant House Church in China is being squeezed and persecuted. The Christians in Sudan, in the Blue Nile area, are going through genocide and are being killed because of their faith.

Interestingly enough, the original bill passed on the very last day of Congress a number of years ago, and history is repeating itself. The Commission has been a beacon of hope. With that, I just want to, again, thank all those who helped us get here.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), chairman of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for yielding me the time.

I rise to congratulate my very good friend, the gentleman from Virginia, FRANK WOLF, who has just talked about both Sudan and China as being very key areas where religious persecution has taken place and continues to be a threat. I've been working with the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and with other Members in a bipartisan way on the situation that exists in Egypt.

One of the reasons I wanted to offer remarks is that, when she stood up and talked about the Coptic Christians in Egypt, we obviously know that there are challenging days ahead; and I think it's very important for us to do everything that we can to encourage those who may have had a history of engaging in religious persecution in the past to recognize religious freedom, human rights, the rights of women, the rule of law, and all of the other very critical items that are a key part of the development of democracy.

So many people believe that you have a democracy if you hold an election. Well, Mr. Speaker, as you know very well, one election a democracy does not make; and there are other very important aspects of the development of democracy, and religious freedom is a key part of that.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, with that, I have no further requests

for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2867, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act, as amended by the Senate.

Religious freedom—the right to worship and practice one's faith according to the dictates of one's own conscience—is a foundational human right. Many have called religious freedom the first freedom. Not only is it the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution, it is intrinsic to the human dignity of every man and woman on this earth.

However, it is a right denied or curtailed for many—and according to some estimates, most—people in the world.

For Copts in Egypt, Uighurs in China, Montagnards in Central Vietnam, Jews and Baha'i in Iran, many Buddhist monks in Burma, and countless millions elsewhere, the ability to live their faith without threat of persecution is a distant and unrealized promise.

Dr. Brian Grim, a witness at a recent hearing I held on religious freedom, has done significant research in this area. In a study he conducted in 2009, he found that nearly 70 percent of the world's 6.8 billion people live in countries with high or very high restrictions on religion. His study specifically cited Iran, Pakistan, China, and Egypt as among the most repressive of religious expression. This is significant not only because it highlights the number of people denied this most fundamental of human rights, but also because religious freedom is comprised of a ''bundle of rights.'' Religious freedom implies freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, freedom of association and assembly, and even freedom of the press. Absent freedom of religion, all these other rights are in jeopardy.

In fact, Dr. Grim's research shows that countries that respect these rights reap a host of socio-economic benefits, including better education, better health care, greater equity of pay between men and women, and higher GDP, and these benefits arguably lead to greater social stability. On the other hand, countries without respect for religious freedom do worse on these socio-economic indicators, have greater societal tension, and are more prone to instability. The importance of promoting all components of religious freedom therefore cannot be overstated. Not only is it a moral imperative, but religious freedom keeps extremism and tyranny at bay.

For these reasons, U.S. leadership on religious freedom is desperately needed in many countries around the world, together with a more vigorous utilization of the means provided in the IRF Act for promoting religious human rights.

I was pleased to work with my good friend from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and to chair the Committee hearings and markup fourteen years ago that led to the enactment of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, which established the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. The Act provided our Administration with the tools necessary to make international religious freedom an integral component of the highest priority in U.S. foreign policy.

Contrary to assertions that singling out religious freedom would somehow make it seem more important or separated from other fundamental human rights—the Clinton Administration asserted that its strong opposition to the Act was based on its belief that the Act would result in a ''hierarchy of rights''—those of us who championed the bill argued that it was necessary to ensure that religious freedom is given its rightful place within the framework of human rights promotion.

The law provided a new and bipartisan focus, which has begun to grant religious freedom its rightful stature in the diplomatic and foreign policy of the United States, under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom was and is an important part of that effort. It was created as an independent body of experts to review the facts and make policy recommendations from a vantage point outside of our diplomatic corps, where bilateral and other concerns had sometimes resulted in the soft-pedaling of severe, ongoing violations of religious freedom around the world.

Even today, when the quality of State Department reporting on religious freedom issues has improved, the Commission continues to serve a critical role as a sounding board and a catalyst.

One indicator is the fact that the Commission's list of recommended ''Countries of Particular Concern'' for severe violations of religious remains larger than the number designated by the State Department.

In September, Secretary Clinton rightfully designated Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Uzbekistan as CPCs.

But the State Department's list does not add any new countries from last year, and glaringly omits Vietnam, whose policies have more than earned that badge of shame.

Secretary Clinton also did not designate Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan as recommended by the Commission.

We need the Commission more than ever. Already in the Congress, we have had six comprehensive hearings on religious freedom: Two in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission regarding the religious freedom of minorities in the Middle East, especially Egypt; two on the Committee I chair regarding the prioritization of religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy, and two in the Helsinki Commission on the particular plight of Coptic Christians in Egypt.

The Commission has been an invaluable resource to Congress as we monitor the protection and promotion of religious freedom around the world—and the response of the Administration on this very important issue.

They have also been a resource to governments seeking how to remedy religious freedom abuses within their own borders. For instance, in Indonesia, the Commission worked with members of the Indonesian House of Representatives and civil society groups who introduced measures to strengthen provisions in the criminal code regarding attacks on religious gatherings and amend the law governing the building of religious venues.

The Commission also continues to help network human rights and legal advocates in Indonesia working to defend individuals accused of ''blasphemy'' and religious minorities facing intimidation and violence from extremist groups. The Commission's work in Indonesia will have practical impact on the exercise of human rights—and preservation of peace—in Indonesia.

Other governments have looked to the Commission as a model for their own religious freedom Commissions.

The bill before us includes a number of bipartisan reforms to Commission authorities and operations to make their work even more effective.

I want to thank Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN for working to bring to the floor this important bill, which deserves unanimous support. And I would like to extend a special thanks to Representative WOLF, whose tireless efforts on this legislation have brought hope to persecuted people across the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2867.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2055, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3672, DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 94, CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3672; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 500 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 500

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3672) making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution, it shall be in order to consider in the House the

concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 94) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit which may not contain instructions.

SEC. 4. The Clerk shall not transmit to the Senate a message that the House has passed H.R. 3672 until notified by the Speaker or by message from the Senate that the Senate has taken the question on adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 94 as adopted by the House.

SEC. 5. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of December 16, 2011, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules, as though under clause 1(c) of rule XV, relating to a measure continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012.

SEC. 6. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of December 31, 2011, providing for consideration or disposition of any of the following measures:

(1) A measure relating to expiring provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) A measure relating to the Medicare payment system for physicians.

(3) A measure relating to appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS of New Hampshire). The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my very good friend from Rochester, New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), the distinguished ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 500 provides for the consideration of three measures that will ensure that the government is funded through the end of the fiscal year; and this rule, as was outlined by the reading Clerk, provides very important tools to deal with important issues that have yet to be resolved.

□ 1000

Now, Mr. Speaker, we all know that, as we sit here at 3 minutes of 10 o'clock this morning, we are faced at midnight tonight with the prospect of a government shutdown. There is a bipartisan consensus on the need to ensure that we don't face a government shutdown; and it's very important that we take action to prevent that from taking place, and that's exactly what our opportunity is here today.

At the same time, it's important for us to realize that it is absolutely imperative, if we are going to get our economy growing and create jobs, for us to reduce the size and scope and reach of the Federal Government. That's the message the American people have sent to us overwhelmingly, and that's why I have to say that I believe this bipartisan compromise, which has been worked out with Members of the House and the Senate and the White House, moves us in the direction of doing just that.

Why? Because we are actually bringing about in this conference report a $95 billion reduction in discretionary spending, merely a drop in the bucket. We all recognize that it's not enough. We all recognize that much, much more remains to be done, but, Mr. Speaker, this is an important first step. And the fact that it's been done in a bipartisan, bicameral way, working not only with the first but the second branch of government as well, is, I believe, a positive indicator for us.

As I think about the challenges that we have—and I said this during the management of our jobs bill that we had, the so-called extenders measure that deals with the question of extending unemployment insurance, doing everything we possibly can to keep taxes low by extending for a year the payroll tax holiday, ensuring that people have access to Medicare dollars, and, of course, focusing on job creation by proceeding with the Keystone XL pipeline. As I pointed out during that debate, right now, our job is jobs. The American people want us to focus on job creation and economic growth, and I believe that this bipartisan, bicameral compromise will help us in that quest.

It hasn't been pretty getting here. We all know the famous Otto von Bismarck line, that you don't want to watch sausage or laws being made. This has been ugly.

And, actually, I was not going to say what I'm about to say right now, Mr. Speaker, but I am going to proceed and I will explain to you why.

It's been a painful and difficult and ugly and messy process which, frankly, is exactly what James Madison wanted. He is looking down at us saying, The process is working just as I envisaged it, because he wanted there to be this clash of ideas and a struggle. But, at the end of the day, he wanted there to be a compromise; and he wanted there to be an agreement at the end of the day, recognizing that that needed to be done.

We know that the chairs of the Committee on Appropriations, Messrs. ROGERS and INOUYE, shook hands on Monday and had an agreement. Again, I was not going to say this; but the Rules Committee completed its work early this morning, and I got a few hours of sleep, and I woke up to National Public Radio, which I do. That's what wakes me up in the morning, Mr. Speaker. And I know that there are some of my Republican friends who are not fans of National Public Radio. I like to watch MSNBC TV and listen to National Public Radio. It keeps my blood circulating very well, Mr. Speaker.

But I woke up this morning to listen to a report on this conference agreement. I am very happy to see my good friend from Seattle, the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, arrive on the floor. And I wasn't going to say this, but because of this report on NPR, I'm going to share it.

Tamara Keith, who is the congressional correspondent for NPR on Morning Edition, characterized why it is that we are here on Friday rather than having met the 3-day layover requirement and all these things that we wanted to do when the agreement was struck on Monday, and what she said was that Senate Democrats held this bill hostage. Those are not my words, again, Mr. Speaker. Those are the words of Tamara Keith who reported on National Public Radio this morning that this measure was held hostage by Senate Democrats. And she went on a second time, using the word ''hostage.'' She said, Well, finally the hostages have been released. Again, those are not my words. Those are the words of National Public Radio.

So some people wanted me to say it, but I decided not to say it myself. But when I heard it early this morning, I couldn't help but say it. So that's the reason I'm looking across the Chamber right now at 3,000 pages stacked this high right next to the distinguished ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules, right across the aisle from the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. Speaker, we've had to waive the 3-day layover requirement because, again, according to NPR, we had this conference report held hostage, but we've finally gotten here. Now that we're here, I'm happy to say that, while I'm not ecstatic with every measure in it—just as I know that Mr. DICKS is not ecstatic with every measure in it; I know that Ms. SLAUGHTER is not ecstatic with every measure in it; I'm not ecstatic with the process that has gotten us here because of the challenges and ugliness and messiness we've gone through this week. We are here because it is absolutely essential that we not see the government shut down in several hours at midnight tonight.

So I believe that we need to realize—and I know Mr. DICKS and I have had this conversation repeatedly, along with our friend Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations—that we want a clean slate as we head into next year so that Mr. DICKS and Mr. ROGERS will be able to go through regular order, bring the appropriations bills to the floor and, we hope and pray, get each bill done ad seriatim, the way they're supposed to be done, rather than dealing with what has been characterized as an

omnibus, a mini-bus, a megabus. But the term that I like that was given by the distinguished chair of the Committee on Appropriations last night is this is ''the rest of the bus.'' And that's really where we are.

But it's essential for the American people, for those who are representing us so diligently around the world in conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other spots, for people who rely and need to have support from government programs that do exist, it's essential that we get this measure passed, and pass it with what I hope will be strong bipartisan support.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to say that I am happy that we are doing the things that will be outlined, I know, very thoughtfully by the distinguished former chair and current ranking member of the Committee on Rules. I will say that we have got 3,000 pages.

By the way, I should say, before my friend begins this, that on Monday, virtually all of that was available, and it was put online at 12:30 Wednesday night. Right after midnight Wednesday, it was made available online. And so while we have not actually met the exact 3-day layover requirement, I should point to the fact that we always said—and I'm so proud of the fact that we have been able to do it. But when we faced what is really a very, very important deadline, that being the closure of the government that would take place 14 hours from now, I think it is very important that we take this action and do it as quickly and as well as we possibly can.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleague is absolutely right. This is ''the rest of the bus.'' But it's going to be a little while before we realize whether we are on that bus or whether we've been thrown under it. Obviously, as Mr. DREIER called attention to it, this is the bill that we have today. None of us will make any pretense at all of having read it.

Now, I have been around long enough to know that things happen this way. The country is about to shut down tonight; the agencies are all prepared to close, and we can't have that. So we find ourselves confronted here today with this completed and going through this conference.

□ 1010

A lot of people are breathing a sigh of relief this morning, frankly, particularly the Federal workers and the rest of the country, that they are not going to be faced with a shutdown of Federal agencies.

But although we were able to avert that crisis today, this 2,000-page legislative package is not a cause for celebration—and I don't believe Mr. DREIER thinks it is either—but it is a demonstration of failure. As I have said, I have known cases and have been a participant in cases where things like this have happened before. But for a Congress that had promised at the beginning part of the campaign and what we were promised at the beginning of this term was that this would not happen anymore. Instead, it has happened over and over again. Over the past 12 months, we have witnessed the utter failure to responsibly legislate—a failure that has led to this massive bill that we are considering today.

You've heard all of this before, but in the fall of 2010 when the majority took over, Speaker BOEHNER said: We'll do away with the concept of comprehensive spending bills.

He's been around awhile too, and he knows that there are times when things happen that really don't fall in line with what we want. But nonetheless, he made that promise. Despite this call for a deliberate appropriations process, the House was recently asked to consider a $180 billion minibus, totaling 354 pages of legislation.

And today, less than 24 hours—we're about halfway, I think—we are offered a $1 trillion megabus appropriations bill. It was given to the Members of the House today, and we're asked to vote on that. We will, of course, do that because, as I've said, the looming layoff and shutdown of the Federal Government is something that we cannot stand at this juncture, or any other time.

So despite the earlier promises by the GOP to separate the controversial legislation from the must-pass bill, the megabus was delayed by a battle over controversial riders. We know this could have been done much sooner, but there were five riders that had to be resolved—everything from the reproductive rights of the citizens of the District of Columbia to energy-saving lightbulbs.

Mr. Speaker, this House has spent more time debating lightbulbs than we have putting American people to work. It has really been an outrage—we have talked about this so many times before. But nonetheless, in all the contemplations, all the conference work, lightbulbs have survived. I know that's a sigh of relief to everybody in America who had no idea we were spending so much time micromanaging their lightbulbs.

But this is a sign, I think, of a larger failure, a failure of their vision of governing. It is a vision that we've gone through all this year that was based on brinksmanship and threats—an all-or-nothing game of chicken with their colleagues and the American people. And everybody is exhausted from, will we do it? Won't we do it? Can we do it? Must we do it? Part of that has resulted in a lessening of the credit rating of the United States of America for the very first time.

So instead of spending the year finding common ground with their Democrat colleagues, the majority spent the year advancing legislation to dismantle the EPA and to talk about lightbulbs and to open federally protected lands to foreign mining companies. I find in my constituency the idea that we were going to give land to Russia around the Grand Canyon to mine for uranium mind-boggling to people. We really ought to be worried about that. This is a very serious problem.

Instead of spending the year finding common ground, we have done nothing about that. So throwing bipartisanship to the side, the majority pushed forward with its ideological battles at the expense of the Nation's welfare. And what we see this morning is the result of their divisive efforts.

What we know is that a process that began with brinksmanship and threats, and ends with this 2,000-page, $1 trillion megabus crammed through the House as the clock hits zero is all we have. This is our chance to keep the government from shutting down.

With proper priorities and a serious effort to engage legislators from both sides of the aisle, we could truly have a process and a product that would make the American people proud. But that's not what we have here today, and it is not what has been done this year.

I hope sincerely, and I know that many people on both sides of the aisle hope sincerely, that as the calendar turns to 2012, we can put an end to the zero-sum leadership that has been provided and finally give the American people the responsible, bipartisan leadership that they want and deserve.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, as my good friends from the Appropriations Committee, Mr. ROGERS and Mr. DICKS, congratulate each other in the well, I will ask them to move out of the well so that I am able to yield 3 minutes to my good friend from Grandfather Community, who left the Rules Committee at 1 o'clock this morning and went down to her office to work before going down to the White House at 7:30 for a tour for her constituents.

So I underscore the fact that VIRGINIA FOXX is extraordinarily dedicated, and for that reason and many others, I am happy to yield her 3 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from California, the chairman of the Rules Committee, to whom we all look for wisdom, especially at times like this. I think he has been extraordinarily generous in his comments this morning in talking about the bipartisan approach. We all praised the chairman and the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee early this morning when the Rules Committee was meeting. It is important that we celebrate the bipartisan nature of this bill.

As everybody will say I'm sure today, it's not a perfect bill that's coming up. It's not pleasing everybody. It's pleasing very few people. But it is sausage-making and rulemaking at its finest.

And I appreciate the fact that it is the Christmas season and we want to be a little friendly to each during this time, as we are when we're in our home districts. We are here in Congress, too; and, so, I'm mindful of the season and I'm mindful of the fact that we have reached a bipartisan agreement. But I do want to say to my colleagues across the aisle, there's an old saying that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Again, as my colleague from California said, we're not happy that we have a rather large bill and a somewhat short perspective in time to deal with it. But this bill was out there on Monday, as he pointed out. And were it not for the dilatory tactics of the Senate, we could have had this bill on the floor earlier this week, and it has certainly been out there for everybody to read.

I want to say to my colleague from across the aisle from New York who said there was a lot of wasted time on lightbulbs. Mr. Speaker, lightbulbs are a symptom of the problem with this executive administration and our friends across the aisle. Talk about wanting to micromanage—they want to control what kind of lightbulbs we have. It was a debate between the Senate Democrats and the President of the United States on whether we're going to continue to control the kind of lightbulbs we have that delayed this process yesterday for many, many hours.

But we need to talk about some positive things that the Republicans in this House have done this year. We've stopped spending money we don't have. We've cut discretionary spending for the second year in a row for the first time since World War II. Thanks to the changes in the way this Congress works, that Republicans brought here under the leadership of our Speaker, instead of shoveling ever-larger piles of money into the Federal government black hole, this bill represents another step towards reducing the size, scope, and cost of the Federal government.

We've been working hard to cut spending, grow the economy, and create jobs. We've protected hardworking taxpayers from Washington's waste by eliminating 42 government programs.

And thanks to Republicans' efforts to stop wasteful pork-barrel spending, while the Democrats included 18,000 earmarks in their final 2 years of spending——

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield my colleague an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

House Republicans fulfilled our pledge to Americans by including no earmarks—no earmarks—in the 2011 and 2012 spending bills. This is a huge success. After years of status quo pork-barrel spending, Republicans have changed the culture of spending in America.

There's much work to do, but this bill takes us in the right direction. That's why I'm urging my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

□ 1020

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me thank Congresswoman SLAUGHTER, the gentlelady from New York, for her leadership and for yielding.

This is not the open and transparent process the Republicans have promised the American people. Instead, we have had a closed-door process that has stacked this critical spending bill, a bill that is necessary to make our government and our Nation function, with a bunch of special-interest riders. For example:

Gutting the budget of the IRS, that will not reduce deficits caused by the Bush tax cuts for the 1 percent, and that's in this bill.

Helping to spread HIV and hepatitis C through dirty needles will not help our economic recovery. Yes, that will happen in this bill.

Denying the women of Washington, DC, the right which other women have throughout the country, the right to health services, the right to have an abortion with the city's own money—not Federal funds, mind you, not Federal funds but other funds. We are denying, again, low-income, mostly African American minority women that right in this bill. Why in the world would we want to include this type of a rider in a bill to fund our government? It makes no sense. It's mean-spirited and it's wrong.

Also, why would we want to continue to have provisions to pollute the air that we breathe and the water that we drink? That's in this bill, with some of these riders. That will not raise the failing median income of American workers. Unfortunately, again, this bill does that.

Funding abstinence-only sex education, we know that fails. That won't create the millions of jobs necessary to grow the American middle class and to help more people from falling deeper into poverty.

This recession—and for many, it's still a depression—is hurting millions. Half of all Americans are either in poverty, near poor, or low income. We should be focused on lifting these families up and reigniting the American Dream.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentlelady an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you.

In this bill, we should have focused on creating these ladders of opportunity, removing barriers and helping to reignite the American Dream for all Americans. Instead, we're scoring, I believe, political points on the backs of Washington, DC, women and millions of poor and struggling individuals and families in this country.

The process that this bill underwent as we brought it forward to this floor was not a good process. I think had we had regular order, due process, we would have been able to figure some of these issues out.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to simply make a couple of very important points, and that is we are here faced with this situation because of the inability of our colleagues in the other body, the United States Senate, to act.

I am just looking at the list of the conferees, and I listened to my friends criticize the bill—and I actually don't know whether my friend from Rochester is going to end up supporting the conference report or not. I didn't get a conclusion on that—but I will say that every single House Member, Democrat and Republican, every subcommittee chairman, every ranking member of a subcommittee, the so-called cardinals, the chairs of the subcommittees, signed this conference report. It is bipartisan.

Unfortunately, in the Senate, we have a number of Members of the Senate who didn't sign the conference report. But I believe that we need to realize that we went for 963 days—nearly 1,000 days, Mr. Speaker—without a budget having passed from the United States Senate. We know, Mr. Speaker, that we didn't have any appropriations bills done last year. We're trying to clean this process up.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 3 minutes to a very thoughtful, diligent new member of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from Lawrenceville, Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. I thank my chairman for yielding the time, and I want to thank my chairman for his work on opening this process up in the House. He's teamed up with our new Speaker to say that regular order is the better way to do things.

I want to say, and it needs to be said, it's too easy when all you do is read the headlines in this town to start pointing the finger of blame. Here is National Journal, one of our dailies: Dems Sign Conference Report. The White House and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID had blocked passage of the measure.

It's not about where the blame is; it's about where the successes are.

When you look behind me, Mr. Speaker, at this stack of pages that represents this bill, what that represents is the work that didn't get done last year but that NORM DICKS and that HAL ROGERS have come together to get done this year. When we talk about regular order and the regular order that hasn't happened this year, what we need to talk about is the fact that we had no regular order on appropriations bills last year. We got six of them passed through appropriations, the regular order process, this year. That's half. That's 50 percent of the way

there, and I know we have a commitment from the Appropriations Committee to get the rest of them there next year.

This is a success story. This is not a failure. Is this the way that I wanted to legislate, 2,300 pages? No, it's not. And it's not the way that the Appropriations Committee wants to legislate, and it's not the way any Member of this House wants to legislate, and it's 50 percent better than what we did last year. We're going to get back to regular order. We're going to get back to regular order by clearing out the work from 2012—I'm sorry, 2011 was this year. We are now finishing 2012 today. We're going to be able to start 2013.

I sit on the Budget Committee. My commitment to my friends on the Appropriations Committee is we're going to move that budget. We're going to move it early. We're going to move it on time, and we're going to be done by the end of March so that you all can begin your important work. It's not just about the spending of the money. It's about the oversight of how the money is spent. And that's why regular order is so important.

Do you know that there is only one committee in this House that comes to the Rules Committee day in and day out and says this: I want an open rule on my bill so that all Members can be heard. I do not want waivers to go along with it, and I want the House to operate under regular order? There's only one, and it's the Appropriations Committee.

When you see what's going on today and what we're doing in the name of completing our business for the year, understand that this is the one committee in the House that wants to give everybody a say. This is the one committee in the House that tries to make every Member's opinion count. And if we can successfully deal with this in the same bipartisan way that we have been throughout the year, we can move this business today and begin anew, as we all want to, on January 1 of next year.

I thank my chairman, and I thank the appropriators for their very hard work.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, a member of the Committee on Rules, Mr. MCGOVERN.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I thank the gentlelady for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member DICKS for their tireless work on this bill, and I'm pleased that we're finally going to finish the appropriations process for this year.

I especially want to thank the White House, Senator REID, and other key Senate and House negotiators for removing the House Cuba provision from the final conference report. Not only was it a direct attack on the prerogatives of the Executive, but it was cruel and inhumane. It would have ripped apart Cuban American families from their relatives on the island.

Family communication, connection, and reunification have always been a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. It has promoted great good in the case of Cuba, and it deserves the support of this Congress. And hopefully, some day soon, we can scrap our whole Cuba policy and lift the travel restrictions so every American can go visit that country.

But, Mr. Speaker, I cannot let this opportunity go without commenting a little bit on the process. My friend from Georgia talked about regular order. Regular order my foot. I mean, all points of order were waived against this bill. Half of the bills that are in this—this is pretty heavy—no one had an opportunity to offer a single amendment on. ''Read the bill.'' That's what my Republican friends shouted last year, ''Read the bill.'' They used this rallying cry to promote their Pledge to America where they promised to read the bill. No one read that bill at all. Where are the Tea Party people when you want them?

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. When I'm finished, I'll yield.

Mr. DREIER. I look forward to it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Let me read a quote:

''We will ensure that bills are debated and discussed in the public square by publishing the text online for at least 3 days before coming up for a vote in the House of Representatives.''

That's directly from their pledge. Yet here we are today considering a 2,300-page bill that was introduced at 11:45 p.m.—last night. That's not 3 days. That's not even 12 hours. Twenty-three hundred pages were presented to this House in the dead of night. The Rules Committee didn't finish until close to 1 a.m. this morning, and here we are.

Who knows for sure what's in this bill? Who in this body has had the time to read this bill as it is currently drafted? This is not the way my friends promised to run this House.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I said to the gentleman I won't yield until I'm finished, and I would appreciate not being interrupted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts controls the time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. This is not the way you promised to run the House. This is not how you said you would do the people's business. You said you would bring up every appropriations bill under an open rule, but you barely manage to bring up half of them. Half of the appropriations bills were never brought up before Members of this House.

□ 1030

What happened to the Labor-HHS bill? What happened to the Transportation bill? The Financial Services bill? The Interior bill? The State and Foreign Ops bill? The CJS bill? That's not the Senate's fault; that's not Barack Obama's fault. You're in control of this House of Representatives; you have the power to bring bills up to the floor. You couldn't be bothered to bring them up.

Sure, you found time to bring up bills to defund Planned Parenthood and National Public Radio. You had time to bring up bills that would allow unsafe people to carry concealed weapons from one State to another. Oh, and my favorite, you found time to reaffirm our national motto. That's what all the American people are worried about, whether we're going to reaffirm our national motto.

But you couldn't find time to debate bills funding our Nation's roads, bridges, national parks, and community health centers. You couldn't find to time to do your job.

Now, I'm glad the appropriators reached an agreement, but it's sad that this Republican Congress has once again broken the promise they made to the American people. A 2,300-page bill—something this important and detailed—can't be read and examined in a few hours. That's why you promised 3 days to read the bill, but you couldn't even keep that promise. I remember when they were in charge at an earlier time when immunity for prescription drug companies was inserted into an appropriations bill without anyone knowing about it.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman from Massachusetts 1 additional minute.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I have the utmost respect for the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. And I take him at his word when he says there are no earmarks in this bill, that there are no special provisions, that there is nothing snuck in here at the last minute. I'm a trusting guy; but I also believe in verifying things, because in the past, things have been snuck into these bills without us knowing about it.

But look at this bill. Look at this bill. It's 2,300 pages. It was just introduced in the dead of night. It was reported out of the Rules Committee almost at 1 a.m. in the morning. And this is different than what was posted a few days ago. Read the bill, Mr. Speaker. The new Republican Congress promised that we could read the bill. Too bad they're breaking their Pledge to America.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that next year we will go back to regular order, where all the appropriations bills will come to the floor and they will all be debated individually, under an open process. I hope we get to that point.

But I want to say, finally, that the fact that these bills were not all brought up has nothing to do with the Senate, it has nothing to do with the President. It has everything to do with

the leadership of this House that chose not to do it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I say to my friend from Rochester, would you yield time to the gentleman so I can engage in a discussion with him?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Massachusetts has expired.

Who seeks time?

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 13½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from New York has 16½ minutes remaining.

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

I'd like to yield to my friend from Worcester to engage in a discussion. I'm sorry, would the gentlewoman like me to yield? I'm happy to yield to my friend from Rochester if she would like me to yield. Would the gentlewoman like me to yield to her? I've just been recognized.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I would like to address the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized.

Mr. DREIER. Would the gentlewoman from New York like me to yield to her, Mr. Speaker?

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I do not. If I could be allowed to say something here.

Mr. DREIER. Then I will reclaim my time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is not recognized. The gentleman from California controls the time.

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to yield to my friend from Rochester if she would like to ask me a question or ask the Chair a question. I am more than happy to yield to her, I would say, Mr. Speaker.

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

In the spirit of bipartisanship, in the spirit of recognizing that we need to ensure that the government doesn't shut down at midnight, I'd like to engage in a discussion with my friend from Worcester, as I was trying to when he was in the well, to say a few things.

First of all, as we all know, last year no appropriations bills were passed. Nothing was completed in the last Congress—nothing at all. And we have spent, with Mr. ROGERS and Mr. DICKS, virtually this entire year cleaning up the work of the last Congress. And the gentleman will recognize that, I'm sure. I mean, the gentleman acknowledges that, Mr. Speaker, that we have spent this year working to clean up the fact that no appropriations work was done last year.

I am happy to yield to my friend.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I think we're talking about this year, aren't we?

Mr. DREIER. Yes, absolutely. If I could reclaim my time, Mr. Speaker, I would say absolutely, we're talking about this year. And the responsibility that was thrust on us this year was so overwhelming because last year nothing was done, nothing was accomplished. And so what's happened, Mr. Speaker, is we are in a position where the appropriators have been shouldering this responsibility. And, unfortunately, our colleagues in the other body, the majority leadership there, Senator REID and others, according to the National Public Radio report, as I discussed this morning, as others have acknowledged, it was pointed out in the publications out this morning, this was held hostage, and that's why we are where we are.

Now, my friends are enjoying holding up the 2,300-page conference report and the additional 700 pages of the joint managers' report that is included in there. But guess what, Mr. Speaker, all of that was available on Monday, 5 days ago. And the only exception in this measure is one item has been pulled out. That one item pulled out happens to be the Cuba language that was there, and there was obviously a lot of concern about that. That was pulled out. Then one item was added, and that has to do with the Commodity Futures Trading Corporation. And so, as our colleagues hold up these thousands of pages, we need to realize it's been available since Monday. This is Friday, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the 3-day layover requirement. And we've pointed to these minor modifications.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished chair of the Committee on Appropriations, my very good friend from Somerset, Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the chairman for yielding.

And I want to thank the members of the Rules Committee. Chairman DREIER and all of the members of that committee are required to work at all hours of the day and night. In fact, we were testifying before the committee last night at 12:30 seeking the rule on this bill; but that's par for the course for the Rules Committee, who work long, laborious hours with very little thanks. But I want to thank them.

And I want to say to Chairman DREIER and the gentlelady, the ranking member, there has got to be a special place reserved in heaven for those who labor in this vineyard. So thank you for the hard work that you do.

I want to say thanks to my colleague, my ranking member on the full committee, Mr. DICKS, who is with us in the Chamber. He and I have worked hand in hand in this process all year long. It's a very productive relationship. I value his advice and his help and he has been free to give that advice and help all year long. And this is the product of our work, a bipartisan, comprehensive effort to fund the government. And we want to get us back to regular order.

For the last several years, before we took over this body, appropriations was a mess. We didn't do any appropriations. We lurched from one continuing resolution to another, leaving the public bewildered. And so Mr. DICKS and I have determined, along with Senator INOUYE and our colleagues in the Senate, to restore regular order, bringing one bill at a time to this floor and letting it be amended and debated at length, and then into a conference with our colleagues across the way. That's what we want to get back to.

Now, this bill that's before us today is a huge bill. I do not like omnibus bills; neither one of us does. We're not going to have them. But in order to clean up the mess that was left us, we had no choice.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield my friend an additional 30 seconds. And I would ask my friend to yield to me, if he would.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

I would like to just say that I misspoke. The agreement was reached between Mr. ROGERS and Mr. INOUYE on Monday, and the pages were not made available until it was filed at 12:27, at just after midnight on Wednesday.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Kentucky has expired.

Mr. DREIER. I am happy to yield my friend an additional 30 seconds.

So I just want to say that I did misspeak when I said the agreement was struck on Monday. It was made available after midnight on Wednesday.

I would like to yield an additional 30 seconds to my friend from Somerset.

□ 1040

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. We're here because this bill is the product of our committee, but most importantly, it's a product of our subcommittees, Republicans and Democrats. They're the ones who put this bill together. Collectively all of those nine subcommittees are represented in this package here. It's been vetted by Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate, all the way through, there are no earmarks here, there are no airdropped provisions in this bill, it is a good bill. It's not perfect. I don't like omnibus bills.

But in cleaning up the mess left us, this bill is a good-faith effort to get '012 out of the way so that in '013, this January, we will be able to go to work on getting the 2013 bills done in the regular way.

I want to thank the staff for all the hard work they have done all year long, and I thank our colleagues.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Let me say all I was trying to do after last month was to say that if Mr. DREIER's 16 minutes were not adequate for him, I would be pleased to yield him one of my 13. That was my aim there.

I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington, the ranking member of Appropriations, Mr. DICKS, who has worked so hard.

Mr. DICKS. I thank the ranking member of the Rules Committee for yielding.

I just want to say that this has been a bipartisan collaborative, bipartisan effort to put this bill here, and Mr. MCGOVERN and others have explained some of the concerns about the process, and they're legitimate, and we hope to do better next year. I am committed to working together with the chairman to bring all 12 appropriations bills to the floor separately next year so that we can exercise regular order.

We did have to do H.R. 1 in the spring, which was all 12 bills from '11, and we spent a week on it, and we also had over 500 amendments. And it just showed that the Members want to have a chance to amend these bills. And if you don't bring them to the floor under regular order, you don't have an opportunity to do that.

So we're going to try to improve on our record. We got six to the floor this year. I think we can do better next year if we get started early, so we make a pledge to work from that.

I want to compliment our chairman, Mr. ROGERS, for his openness, his willingness to consider all points of view. He could not have done a better job, and to have the patience of Job to listen to everybody, and still debating the last few items in this bill this week.

Now, my good friend, Mr. DREIER, whom I have enormous respect for, we work together on trade issues all the time. The only thing I would say about the other body is that they weren't doing something that was evil. They were trying to get an unemployment compensation bill enacted; they're trying to get an extension of the payroll tax bill and some other important provisions that are crucial to the American people.

And so what they did by slowing us down a little bit was to give an opportunity to get that work done.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DICKS. As much as I would have preferred to go forward, we had to acknowledge that this was important work that needed to be accomplished.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the chairman.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I've heard a rumor around here that today is sort of a special day for the gentleman. Is it true that a few years ago you were born on this date?

Mr. DICKS. It was not just a few years ago, Mr. Chairman. Well, this is my birthday. We didn't plan it this way. I want to make sure that the chairman of the Rules Committee—

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Happy birthday.

Mr. DICKS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Washington has expired.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

I say to my friend, first of all, happy birthday.

Mr. DICKS. Thank you.

Mr. DREIER. And the great birthday present is that we will not shut the government down, and we obviously will see this measure passed today.

I also want to say to my friend that I believe we've made history here. To have any Member of the House stand up, especially on his birthday, Mr. Speaker, and speak in complimentary ways of the other body is, in fact, historic in and of itself.

Mr. DICKS. I just wanted to make sure everybody got the full picture.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the Chair how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 7¼ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from New York has 13½ minutes remaining.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY).

Mr. MARKEY. I thank the gentlelady.

This is the end of the year, and so the Republicans need a few presents for the oil industry, for the coal industry, and that's what this final weekend is all about: How do we get those presents? And so they tried and tried in this bill to roll back many, many environmental laws, but they have been unable to do so. But what they have said is just give us one thing, give us one trinket, perhaps, a symbol of our success in rolling back the laws of energy efficiency in our country.

And so within this bill, the Republicans have now successfully inserted a provision which rolls back the lightbulb efficiency laws, which the companies of our country and the rest of the world must comply with.

Now, what does that mean? Well, for consumers in our country, it will be $6 billion per year that they will have to pay in higher electricity bills every year that they are alive.

What else does it mean? Well, it means that the coal industry is happy because they generate half the electricity in our country, so they'll burn more coal in order to generate that electricity in order for the American people to use less efficient lightbulbs. And that greenhouse gas will go up into the atmosphere, and since the Republicans don't believe the planet is warming, what do they care? Just roll back the lightbulb efficiency standards.

What's the next bill that's up? Oh that one, can we give a payroll tax break to the ordinary Americans? Can we have unemployment insurance for the millions of people who are unemployed? They are saying, well, we'll consider it, but you can't tax billionaires to find the money for that. And, by the way, we want a trinket there as well.

Let's make sure that that final bill, they're saying, has an exemption for environmental law so you can build a huge pipeline, the Keystone XL Pipeline, extra large pipeline right through the middle of America, waiving the environmental laws, and at the same time, ladies and gentlemen, having no guarantee that the oil that comes from Canada through the United States will be sold in the United States. They won't accept that provision, neither TransCanada nor the Republicans, even though they say we would do it for our national security.

So here we are at the end of the year, lightbulb efficiency out the door. They like to do the same thing, by the way, for increased efficiency in the vehicles we drive, the planes which we fly in, the boats which we sail here in the United States, as we see the Middle East in turmoil, as we see Iran and Iraq perhaps growing closer together, they're trying to reduce the efficiency of our country by making it more likely we consume oil.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. MARKEY. So here we have, again, misunderstanding on the part of the Republicans on our key national security issue, and that is changing our relationship with the energy sources which we consume, because it comes disproportionately out of the Straits of Hormuz, out of the Middle East into our country. And so this issue goes right to the core, this lightbulb efficiency. It's a small symbol of all the other things that they oppose in terms of increasing the efficiency of our society, and it's stuck right in the middle of this so-called omnibus bill, and they wouldn't be happy unless they got it.

Mind you, this attempt that was defeated earlier this year on the House floor, when Members could vote for it, must be snuck into the omnibus end-of-the year bill. So whether it be the XL pipeline for the oil industry, whether it be the lightbulb bill for the coal industry, whether it be the billionaire tax break staying on the books, rather than helping to make sure ordinary people get tax breaks; billionaires, oil or coal industry, that is what the agenda is all about.

I urge a ''no'' vote.

□ 1050

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 2 minutes to my good friend from Bainbridge Township, Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. I thank the chairman.

One of the useless sorts of pieces of trivia I carry around in my head is that the originator of Superman comics was from Cleveland, Ohio. I think he sold the rights to it for a pittance and was very sorry after that. One of the things I could never get my arms around in the Superman series was the Bizarro Superman. As I listen to this debate, I think that I have landed in a ''bizarro'' world.

To go to another children's story, everyone knows the story of the three little pigs. Those who are criticizing the process or the criticism of the process, not those, the criticism of the process that has brought this bill to the floor, is a little bit like there is a fourth little pig that didn't even bother to build a straw house or a wood house but gets to the brick house where the wolf can't get in and is complaining that the brick furniture is too hard.

Now, listen. No budget was produced in the last Congress. Not one. And so, for the process lovers around here, you know where all of the numbers came from that we had to deal with in the appropriations committee? In the mind of one man from Wisconsin who is now retired. That didn't happen. The budget was passed. You know what else? The budget this year gave lower numbers for the second time straight under this majority, and it is a little more difficult to spend less money than more money. It's easier to spend more money.

But Mr. DICKS and Mr. ROGERS did something that was never done under the stewardship of the previous Speaker, and that is we had bills come up in subcommittee. You know what? Any Member could offer an amendment—good amendments, bad amendments, stupid amendments, wonderful amendments—and we voted on them. They went to full committee. The same thing occurred.

I'm going to tell you, the bills came to the floor under open rules. I think I could count on—I wouldn't have to take off my shoes to figure out the number of open rules under the previous Speaker's administration, as they privatized the Nation's health care, one-seventh of the economy of the United States, as they put in place a national carbon tax with no amendments. So for those who are squealing about process, it's really an inappropriate exercise.

And relative to the other body, and I have nothing but respect for Mr. DICKS, but to say that the Senate wasn't doing anything nefarious by linking this bill that was going to put on furlough and shut down the government at midnight tonight and link that to the payroll tax cuts and others, listen, the Senate has become again and again and again the place where legislation goes to die. It is not enough to sit over there in the lofty Senate Chamber and say, ''We don't like what you did, House,'' and not produce a product.

The time has come for them to pass a bill, and then the process is we're only one-third of the government. You can't have this bill unless the Senate passes it and the President signs it.

So again, Merry Christmas to all, and we should get on with this.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi, the ranking member on Homeland Security, Mr. THOMPSON.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying measure, the conference report on H.R. 2055.

When presented with this 1,219-page funding bill, it's hard to know where to start. As the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, I choose to start by looking at how it will affect our Nation's first responders and the communities they protect.

This package, 10 years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, is a dangerous departure from the path we've been on as a Nation to build up our preparedness and our response capabilities. It abandons the men and women we count on to save lives.

Since 9/11 there has been a general recognition that, as a Nation, we are dangerously unprepared for the emerging threats we face. That is why past Congresses established an array of Federal grant programs targeted to specific homeland security gaps and needs. Across the country, we've seen the benefits of the path lead by the Congresses towards preparedness as evidenced by the response to this year's wave of disasters.

Today, however, this Congress not only strays from the path but bulldozes it.

The conference report slashes more than $2 billion from first responder funding. Last year, $3.38 billion was provided to communities across the country under FEMA's grant program, most notably: the State Homeland Security Grant program, Urban Area Security Initiative, Metropolitan Medical Response System, Operation Stonegarden, Citizen Corps program, Port Security Grant Program, transit security grant programs, interoperability community grant programs, and emergency operation centers. This year, under this package, just $1.35 billion is designated for all of the grant programs.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. That is less than half of what we were provided this last year.

To make matters worse, this package punts responsibility for the tough decisions about funding levels for each program to Secretary Napolitano.

The approach taken here should surprise no one. Tough decisions about funding have been punted throughout this session, and as a result, the Congress has moved from shutdown crisis to shutdown crisis.

If this package is enacted, the Congress will be punting responsibility for meeting the Homeland Security challenges of a post-9/11 world to State, local, and tribal governments. The timing of the shift of responsibility could not be worse.

We must not ignore the cause from public safety and first responder organizations that have warned us about devastating effects of cuts. For this reason and probably a hundred more, I oppose the conference report.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of my friend how many speakers she has remaining on her side.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. We have no further speakers.

May I inquire if my colleague has any.

Mr. DREIER. I plan to close and then move the previous question so we can move ahead to ensure we don't shut down the government.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question and the martial law rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

We all know that the American people are hurting. We have a protracted unemployment problem that has gone on for an extended period of time, the longest period of time since the Great Depression, and it's important for us to realize the reasons for this.

One of the very important reasons for this is that we have seen a dramatic expansion of the size and scope and reach of government. During the 4 years that my friends on the other side of the aisle were in the majority, we witnessed an 82 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending.

We now have a $15 trillion national debt, and I think Democrats and Republicans alike acknowledge that that cannot be sustained.

As I've been saying throughout this week, our job is jobs. Right now our job is jobs. We need to have a laser-like focus on creating job opportunities for our fellow Americans, people who are so frustrated they've given up the effort to look for work.

So that's why the things that we're dealing with today are so critically important to address those needs.

Now, since there has been bipartisan recognition that we can't continue down the road with an 82 percent increase in non-defense discretionary spending which we witnessed over the past several years, it's important for us to come together, and that's exactly what's happened.

This is NORM DICKS' birthday, and we're very happy about that. We're happy that on his birthday we're going to see a bipartisan agreement that will bring about a $95 billion reduction in non-defense discretionary spending. And that's what this work product does, Mr. Speaker.

And again, bipartisan recognition and even bicameral recognition, and even recognition from down Pennsylvania Avenue with the second branch

of government, that we are right now altering the course that we had been on of dramatically increasing spending. And we're doing it, Mr. Speaker, in a very fair and balanced and open way.

□ 1100

I don't like the process that got us to where we are right now. I said earlier that I believe that this multi-thousand-page package was available on Monday; it was agreed to on Monday; but it wasn't made available until early Thursday morning. Yet we are where we are, and there was an agreement. Mr. INOUYE and Mr. ROGERS came to this agreement on Monday.

We could have done this earlier, but we know that our friends in the other body chose—and as I said, I wasn't going to say it earlier, but it has been characterized in the media as having held hostage this very important appropriations bill. We also dealt with the threat of a government shutdown that would take place 13 hours from now. We are not going to see that happen. We are not going to see that happen because Mr. DICKS and Mr. ROGERS and other members of the Appropriations Committees in both bodies—and the leadership—came together to ensure that that doesn't happen.

We still have a long way to go. We still have much work that needs to be done. But by the passage of this measure today, Mr. Speaker, we are going to do exactly what is necessary. We are going to finally have a clean slate. We've all commiserated over the fact that we've had this mess to clean up of the past. It's been ugly and it's been difficult; but we have, in fact, by virtue of this agreement cleaned it up so that we can continue to work down this path towards balancing the budget, getting our fiscal house in order, and doing what we need to do—our jobs, which is to create jobs.

I think we have a chance to do that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this rule, and I urge support of the previous question so that we can move ahead and make sure that we have what's necessary to meet this very important deadline by midnight.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of House Resolution 500, if ordered; motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1892; and motion to suspend the rules on S. 278, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 179, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 937]

YEAS—239

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—179

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Bachmann
Clay
Coble
Davis (KY)
Diaz-Balart
Filner
Giffords
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Johnson, E. B.
Myrick
Napolitano
Paul
Pingree (ME)
Speier

□ 1130

Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BERKLEY, Messrs. CLARKE of Michigan, FATTAH, and RUSH changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 937, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16, 2011, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 937 in order to attend an important event in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 2055—Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 3672—Disaster Relief Appropriations Act and H. Con. Res. 94—Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3671.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 252, nays 164, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 938]

YEAS—252

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachus
Barletta
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Dicks
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Holt
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—164

Ackerman
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Barrow
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Nadler
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—17

Bachmann
Bishop (UT)
Coble
Connolly (VA)
Davis (KY)
Diaz-Balart
Filner
Giffords
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Johnson, E. B.
Myrick
Napolitano
Paul
Pingree (ME)
Speier
Velázquez

□ 1137

So 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 against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 938, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16, 2011, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 938 in order to attend an important event in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H. Res. 500—Rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report on H.R. 2055—Consolidated Appropriations Act, H.R. 3672—Disaster Relief Appropriations Act and H. Con. Res. 94—Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3671.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following tiles:

H.R. 3421. An act to award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

H. con. Res. 93. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction to the enrollment of the bill H.R. 2845.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 1612. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1892) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, 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 Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 23, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 939]

YEAS—396

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dicks

Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—23

Amash
Blumenauer
Capuano
Clarke (NY)
Cohen
Conyers
DeFazio
Duncan (TN)
Fattah
Gibson
Grijalva
Jones
Kucinich
Lee (CA)
Lewis (GA)
McGovern
Miller, George
Moore
Olver
Payne
Stark
Waters
Woolsey

NOT VOTING—14

Bachmann
Coble
Davis (KY)
Diaz-Balart
Filner
Giffords
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Johnson, E. B.
Myrick
Napolitano
Paul
Pingree (ME)
Speier

□ 1147

Mr. COHEN and Ms. CLARKE of New York changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16, 2011, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 939 in order to attend an important event in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Senate Amendment to H.R. 1892—Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 939, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

SUGAR LOAF FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (S. 278) to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

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. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, 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.

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 413, noes 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 940]

AYES—413

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mulvaney
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quayle

Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Ribble
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Webster
Welch
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NOT VOTING—20

Bachmann
Coble
Costello
Davis (KY)
Diaz-Balart
Emerson
Filner
Giffords
Gohmert
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hoyer
Johnson, E. B.
Maloney
McClintock
Myrick
Napolitano
Paul
Pingree (ME)
Speier

□ 1154

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 940, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16th, 2011, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 940 in order to attend an important event in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on S. 278—Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District Land Exchange Act.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise their remarks and include extraneous material on the conference report on H.R. 2055, H. Con. Res. 94, and H.R. 3672, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2055, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 500, I call up the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 15, 2011, at page H9004.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to present the final fiscal year 2012 appropriations legislation, which includes the conference report for the remaining nine appropriations bills, as well as two other bills we will consider later that provide funding for disaster recovery and assistance.

For the second year in a row, Mr. Speaker, the Appropriations Committee, along with the body, has achieved significant reductions in Federal Government spending to the tune of some $95 billion in reduced spending. Never before in recent history has Congress cut spending 2 years back to back.

The Republican majority is truly living up to our commitment to slice Federal spending, getting our budgets back into balance and living within our means. The legislation also includes absolutely no earmarks, zero earmarks, abiding by the House rule.

This report and the disaster aid spending package signify the end of the road for the fiscal year 2012 appropriations cycle, helping to avoid a potential government shutdown and supporting vital programs and services the American people rely on.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, this bill provides funding necessary to support our national security, including funding for our military engagements abroad and our domestic obligations; benefits and programs for our veterans, active military, and their families; and Homeland Security efforts to keep our borders and communities safe and sound.

In addition, this legislation includes policy provisions targeted at reining in harmful government interference and protecting life, liberty, and the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, after weeks of arduous negotiations on this package with our Senate counterparts, we've struck a fair, bipartisan compromise. No party got everything they wanted, but we have found a reasonable, responsible balance between reduced spending, wise Federal investments, and policy changes that American businesses need to thrive. With Christmas coming on, it's time we complete this important legislation and go home to our families and our friends.

We don't have much down time before our work will begin again on fiscal year 2013, and I'm hopeful that with the groundwork we have laid this year, cleaning up past years' messes, clearing the table for next year, when we can bring these bills separately and individually to the floor for our Members to debate, amend, and vote on. That's the goal. So I'm hopeful with the groundwork we have laid this year, we will be able to work through next year's appropriations in regular order and, most importantly, on time, so that we don't find ourselves in this situation next December.

One last note, Mr. Speaker: This result today would not have happened without the good will and the good work of the committee's ranking member, Mr. DICKS, who has been a great partner throughout this process. While things have been difficult, and we haven't always seen eye to eye, his knowledge of the process and his commitment to a fair and positive outcome have been a huge asset. His leadership has been critical to the bills we've passed, and certainly the one before us today.

□ 1200

Along with Mr. DICKS, I must thank the cardinals and the ranking members of the subcommittees to whom we turned to produce this bill that's before us today: Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member DICKS on Defense; Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY on Energy and Water; Chairwoman EMERSON and Ranking Member SERRANO on Financial Services; Chairman ADERHOLT and Ranking Member PRICE on Homeland Security; Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member MORAN on Interior; Chairman REHBERG and Ranking Member DELAURO on Labor-HHS; Chairman CRENSHAW and Ranking Member HONDA on Legislative Branch; Chairman CULBERSON and Ranking Member BISHOP on MilCon; and Chairwoman GRANGER and Ranking Member LOWEY on State and Foreign Operations. They worked through these bills with a sharp eye and a respect for the taxpayer and the programs that they dealt with.

Time and again, Mr. Speaker, throughout this year we've faced difficult and arduous tasks head-on, met every challenge before us. And without the leadership of these subcommittee chairmen and ranking members, we would not be here today. They've made up the package that's before us today.

Finally, I want to thank the staff, both sides of the aisle, majority and minority, hard work this year beyond

anything that I've ever seen. It's been a tough year with H.R. 1 in the spring that took so much time and effort, 500-plus amendments, and then the 150 hearings that our subcommittees have conducted making up this year's appropriations bills; and then after that, the effort that took place on the debt ceiling increase and the time and distraction that it took from the rest of the work we were doing. And then finally, the concoction and the makeup of this bill before us today. It has been a long, tough year. We have appropriated in 1 year for 2 years, both for 2011 and now for 2012, all in 1 year, in order to get us back to where we can go on regular order next year.

The staff has been absolutely arduous and dedicated week in, week out, day in and day out, night after night, holidays included. They've just been terrific. I want to thank our staffs on the committee, both sides, for all of the hard work that has taken place. Bill Inglee, the chief clerk on the committee, and David Pomerantz on your side, Mr. DICKS, what a terrific team that we have had backing us up. We're deeply indebted to these wonderful staff workers for us that have us where we are.

Finally, I want to say this. Today is sort of a special day, Mr. Speaker, for any number of reasons. I think we're going to wind up with a good bill here that will get the appropriations process over with, finally, for this year. But it's also a very, very special day for two Members who are on the floor with us this very minute.

One of them is my ranking member, Mr. DICKS, who's celebrating a birthday today.

Happy birthday.

Also, another gentleman is celebrating a birthday today, and that's Mr. BILL YOUNG, the chairman of the Defense Subcommittee.

Happy birthday, Mr. Chairman.

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

DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I				
MILITARY PERSONNEL				
Military Personnel, Army	41,403,653	43,596,949	43,298,409	+1,894,756
Military Personnel, Navy	25,912,449	27,154,384	26,803,334	+890,885
Military Personnel, Marine Corps	13,210,161	13,573,546	13,635,136	+424,975
Military Personnel, Air Force	27,105,755	28,304,432	28,096,708	+990,953
Reserve Personnel, Army	4,333,165	4,386,077	4,289,407	-43,758
Reserve Personnel, Navy	1,940,191	1,960,634	1,935,544	-4,647
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps	612,191	653,212	644,722	+32,531
Reserve Personnel, Air Force	1,650,797	1,729,823	1,712,705	+61,908
National Guard Personnel, Army	7,511,296	7,623,335	7,585,645	+74,349
National Guard Personnel, Air Force	3,060,098	3,114,149	3,088,929	+28,831
Total, title I, Military Personnel	126,739,756	132,096,541	131,090,539	+4,350,783
TITLE II				
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
Operation and Maintenance, Army	33,306,117	34,735,216	31,072,902	-2,233,215
Operation and Maintenance, Navy	37,809,239	39,364,688	38,120,821	+311,582
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps	5,539,740	5,960,437	5,542,937	+3,197
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force	36,062,989	36,195,133	34,985,486	-1,077,503
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide	30,210,810	30,940,409	30,152,008	-58,802
Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve	2,840,427	3,109,176	3,071,733	+231,306
Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve	1,344,264	1,323,134	1,305,134	-39,130
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve	275,484	271,443	271,443	-4,041
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve	3,291,027	3,274,359	3,274,359	-16,668
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard	6,454,624	7,041,432	6,924,932	+470,308
Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard	5,963,839	6,136,280	6,098,780	+134,941
Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Account	---	5,000	---	---
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces	14,068	13,861	13,861	-207
Environmental Restoration, Army	464,581	346,031	346,031	-118,550
Environmental Restoration, Navy	304,867	308,668	308,668	+3,801
Environmental Restoration, Air Force	502,653	525,453	525,453	+22,800
Environmental Restoration, Defense-Wide	10,744	10,716	10,716	-28
Environmental Restoration, Formerly Used Defense Sites	316,546	276,495	326,495	+9,949
Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid	108,032	107,662	107,662	-370
Cooperative Threat Reduction Account	522,512	508,219	508,219	-14,293
Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund	217,561	305,501	105,501	-112,060
Total, title II, Operation and maintenance	165,560,124	170,759,313	163,073,141	-2,486,983
TITLE III				
PROCUREMENT				
Aircraft Procurement, Army	5,254,791	7,061,381	5,360,334	+105,543
Missile Procurement, Army	1,570,108	1,478,718	1,461,223	-108,885
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army	1,461,086	1,933,512	2,070,405	+609,319
Procurement of Ammunition, Army	1,847,066	1,992,625	1,884,424	+37,358
Other Procurement, Army	8,145,665	9,682,592	7,924,214	-221,451
Aircraft Procurement, Navy	16,170,868	18,587,033	17,675,734	+1,504,866
Weapons Procurement, Navy	3,221,957	3,408,478	3,224,432	+2,475
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps	790,527	719,952	626,848	-163,679
Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy	15,366,658	14,928,921	14,919,114	-447,544
Other Procurement, Navy	5,804,963	6,285,451	6,013,385	+208,422
Procurement, Marine Corps	1,236,436	1,391,602	1,422,570	+186,134
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force	13,483,739	14,082,527	12,950,000	-533,739
Missile Procurement, Air Force	5,424,764	6,074,017	6,080,877	+656,113
Advanced Extremely High Frequency Communications Satellites, Advanced appropriation FY 2013	---	803,417	---	---
Advanced appropriation FY 2014	---	699,611	---	---
Advanced appropriation FY 2015 through FY 2017	---	1,709,467	---	---
Total, Advanced appropriations	---	3,212,495	---	---

DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force	731,487	539,065	499,185	-232,302
Other Procurement, Air Force	17,568,091	17,602,036	17,403,564	-164,527
Procurement, Defense-Wide	4,009,321	5,365,248	4,893,428	+884,107
Defense Production Act Purchases	34,346	19,964	169,964	+135,618
Total, title III, Procurement	102,121,873	114,365,617	104,579,701	+2,457,828
FY 2012	(102,121,873)	(111,153,122)	(104,579,701)	(+2,457,828)
TITLE IV				
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION				
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army	9,710,998	9,683,980	8,745,492	-965,506
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy	17,736,303	17,956,431	17,753,940	+17,637
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force	26,517,405	27,737,701	26,535,996	+18,591
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide	20,797,412	19,755,678	19,193,955	-1,603,457
Operational Test and Evaluation, Defense	194,910	191,292	191,292	-3,618
Total, title IV, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation	74,957,028	75,325,082	72,420,675	-2,536,353
TITLE V				
REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS				
Defense Working Capital Funds	1,434,536	1,575,010	1,575,010	+140,474
National Defense Sealift Fund	1,474,866	1,126,384	1,100,519	-374,347
Total, title V, Revolving and Management Funds	2,909,402	2,701,394	2,675,529	-233,873
TITLE VI				
OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS				
Defense Health Program:				
Operation and maintenance	29,671,764	30,902,546	30,582,235	+910,471
Procurement	534,921	632,518	632,518	+97,597
Research, development, test and evaluation	1,175,513	663,706	1,267,306	+91,793
Total, Defense Health Program 1/	31,382,198	32,198,770	32,482,059	+1,099,861
Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense:				
Operation and maintenance	1,067,364	1,147,691	1,147,691	+80,327
Procurement	7,132	---	---	-7,132
Research, development, test and evaluation	392,811	406,731	406,731	+13,920
Total, Chemical Agents 2/	1,467,307	1,554,422	1,554,422	+87,115
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense	1,156,957	1,156,282	1,209,620	+52,663
Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund 2/	---	220,634	---	---
Joint Urgent Operational Needs Fund	---	100,000	---	---
Office of the Inspector General 1/	306,794	289,519	346,919	+40,125
Total, title VI, Other Department of Defense Programs	34,313,256	35,519,627	35,593,020	+1,279,764
TITLE VII				
RELATED AGENCIES				
Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System Fund	292,000	513,700	513,700	+221,700
Intelligence Community Management Account (ICMA)	649,732	592,213	547,891	-101,841
Total, title VII, Related agencies	941,732	1,105,913	1,061,591	+119,859

DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE VIII				
GENERAL PROVISIONS				
Additional transfer authority (Sec.8005)	(4,000,000)	(5,000,000)	(3,750,000)	(-250,000)
Indian Financing Act incentives (Sec.8019)	15,000	---	15,000	---
FFRDC (Sec.8023)	-125,000	---	-150,245	-25,245
Overseas Military Facility Invest Recovery (Sec.8028)	1,000	1,000	1,000	---
Rescissions (Sec.8040)	-2,013,536	---	-2,575,217	-561,681
O&M, Defense-wide transfer authority (Sec.8051)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	---
O&M, Def-wide to HUD (transfer authority)	---	(22,930)	---	---
O&M, Defense-wide to Interior (transfer authority)	---	(10,070)	---	---
Fisher House Foundation (Sec.8069)	4,000	---	4,000	---
National grants (Sec.8079)	65,200	---	44,000	-21,200
Shipbuilding reappropriation (Sec.8083)	---	20,000	---	---
Shipbuilding & conversion funds, Navy (Sec.8084)	10,000	8,000	8,000	-2,000
Global Security Contingency Fund (O&M, Defense-wide transfer) (Sec.8089)	---	---	(200,000)	(+200,000)
Working Capital Fund excess cash balances (Sec.8091)	-1,983,000	---	-515,000	+1,468,000
Fisher House transfer authority (Sec.8097)	(11,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)	---
ICMA transfer authority (Sec.8098)	(24,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	(-4,000)
Business Transformation (transfer authority)	(50,000)	---	---	(-50,000)
Tanker Replacement Transfer Fund	538,875	---	---	-538,875
Alternative Energy Resources for Deployed Forces (Sec.8114)	---	---	10,000	+10,000
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide	300,000	---	---	-300,000
Energy Security Pilot Projects	20,000	---	---	-20,000
Revised economic assumptions	-1,477,000	---	---	+1,477,000
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide (Sec.8118)	250,000	---	250,000	---
Civilian pay freeze reduction	-723,000	---	---	+723,000
MIP Transfer Fund (Sec.8126)	---	---	310,758	+310,758
Total, Title VIII, General Provisions	-5,117,461	29,000	-2,597,704	+2,519,757
TITLE IX				
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS (OCO) 3/				
Military Personnel				
Military Personnel, Army (OCO)	11,107,033	7,105,335	7,195,335	-3,911,698
Military Personnel, Navy (OCO)	1,308,719	919,034	1,259,234	-49,485
Military Personnel, Marine Corps (OCO)	732,920	675,360	714,360	-18,560
Military Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	1,843,442	1,436,353	1,492,381	-351,061
Reserve Personnel, Army (OCO)	268,031	207,162	207,162	-60,869
Reserve Personnel, Navy (OCO)	48,912	44,530	44,530	-4,382
Reserve Personnel, Marine Corps (OCO)	45,437	25,421	25,421	-20,016
Reserve Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	27,002	26,815	26,815	-187
National Guard Personnel, Army (OCO)	853,022	661,879	664,579	-188,443
National Guard Personnel, Air Force (OCO)	16,860	9,435	9,435	-7,425
Total, Military Personnel	16,251,378	11,111,324	11,639,252	-4,612,126

DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Operation and Maintenance				
Operation & Maintenance, Army (OCO)	59,162,782	44,302,280	44,794,156	-14,368,626
Operation & Maintenance, Navy (OCO)	8,970,724	7,006,567	7,674,026	-1,296,698
Coast Guard (by transfer) (OCO)	---	(258,278)	---	---
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps (OCO)	4,008,022	3,571,210	3,935,210	-72,812
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force (OCO)	12,969,643	10,719,187	10,879,347	-2,090,296
Operation & Maintenance, Defense-Wide (OCO)	9,276,990	9,269,411	9,252,211	-24,779
Coalition support funds (OCO)	(1,600,000)	---	(1,690,000)	(+90,000)
Operation & Maintenance, Army Reserve (OCO)	206,784	217,500	217,500	+10,716
Operation & Maintenance, Navy Reserve (OCO)	93,559	74,148	74,148	-19,411
Operation & Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve (OCO)	29,685	36,084	36,084	+6,399
Operation & Maintenance, Air Force Reserve (OCO)	188,807	142,050	142,050	-46,757
Operation & Maintenance, Army National Guard (OCO)	497,849	387,544	377,544	-120,305
Operation & Maintenance, Air National Guard (OCO)	402,983	34,050	34,050	-368,933
Overseas Contingency Operations Transfer Fund (OCO)	---	---	---	---
Subtotal, Operation and Maintenance	95,807,828	75,760,031	77,416,326	-18,391,502
Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund (OCO)	400,000	475,000	400,000	---
Afghanistan Security Forces Fund (OCO)	11,619,283	12,800,000	11,200,000	-419,283
Iraq Security Forces Fund (OCO)	1,500,000	---	---	-1,500,000
Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund (OCO)	800,000	---	---	-800,000
Total, Operation and Maintenance	110,127,111	89,035,031	89,016,326	-21,110,785
Procurement				
Aircraft Procurement, Army (OCO)	2,720,138	423,400	1,137,381	-1,582,757
Missile Procurement, Army (OCO)	343,828	126,556	126,556	-217,272
Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army (OCO)	896,996	37,117	37,117	-859,879
Procurement of Ammunition, Army (OCO)	369,885	208,381	208,381	-161,504
Other Procurement, Army (OCO)	6,401,832	1,398,195	1,334,345	-5,067,487
Aircraft Procurement, Navy (OCO)	1,169,549	730,960	480,935	-688,614
Weapons Procurement, Navy (OCO)	90,502	41,070	41,070	-49,432
Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps (OCO)	558,024	317,100	317,100	-240,924
Other Procurement, Navy (OCO)	316,835	281,975	236,125	-80,710
Procurement, Marine Corps (OCO)	1,589,119	1,260,996	1,233,996	-355,123
Aircraft Procurement, Air Force (OCO)	1,991,955	527,865	1,235,777	-756,178
Missile Procurement, Air Force (OCO)	56,621	28,420	41,220	-15,401
Procurement of Ammunition, Air Force (OCO)	292,959	92,510	109,010	-183,949
Other Procurement, Air Force (OCO)	2,868,593	3,204,641	3,088,510	+219,917
Procurement, Defense-Wide (OCO)	1,262,499	469,968	405,768	-856,731
National Guard and Reserve Equipment (OCO)	850,000	---	1,000,000	+150,000
Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle Fund (OCO)	3,415,000	3,195,170	2,600,170	-814,830
Total, Procurement	25,194,335	12,344,324	13,633,461	-11,560,874

DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation				
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army (OCO)	143,234	8,513	18,513	-124,721
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Navy (OCO)	104,781	53,884	53,884	-50,897
Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force (OCO)	484,382	142,000	259,600	-224,782
Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide (OCO)	222,616	192,361	194,361	-28,255
Total, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation	955,013	396,758	526,358	-428,655
Revolving and Management Funds				
Defense Working Capital Funds (OCO)	485,384	435,013	435,013	-50,371
Other Department of Defense Programs				
Defense Health Program:				
Operation and maintenance (OCO)	1,398,092	1,228,288	1,228,288	-169,804
Research, development, test & evaluation (OCO)	24,000	---	---	-24,000
Total, Defense Health Program 1/	1,422,092	1,228,288	1,228,288	-193,804
Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense (OCO)	440,510	486,458	456,458	+15,948
Joint IED Defeat Fund (OCO)	2,793,768	2,577,500	2,441,984	-351,784
Joint Urgent Operational Needs Fund (OCO)	---	100,000	---	---
Office of the Inspector General (OCO)	10,529	11,055	11,055	+526
Total, Other Department of Defense Programs	4,666,899	4,403,301	4,137,785	-529,114
TITLE IX General Provisions				
Additional transfer authority (OCO) (Sec.9002)	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	---
National Intelligence for Overseas Contingency Operations (transfer authority) (OCO)	(3,375)	---	---	(-3,375)
Troop reduction (OCO) (Sec.9014)	---	---	-4,042,500	-4,042,500
Rescissions (OCO) (Sec.9015)	---	---	-380,060	-380,060
Total, General Provisions	---	---	-4,422,560	-4,422,560
Total, Title IX	157,680,120	117,725,751	114,965,635	-42,714,485
Total for the bill (net)	660,105,830	649,628,238	622,862,127	-37,243,703
Less appropriations for subsequent years	---	-3,212,495	---	---
Net grand total	660,105,830	646,415,743	622,862,127	-37,243,703

DIVISION A - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RECAP				
Scorekeeping adjustments:				
Lease of defense real property (permanent)	8,884	22,000	22,000	+13,116
Disposal of defense real property (permanent)	10,317	9,000	9,000	-1,317
O&M, Defense-wide transfer to Department of State:				
Defense function	---	---	-200,000	-200,000
Non-defense function	---	---	200,000	+200,000
O&M, Defense-wide transfer to HUD:				
Defense function	---	-22,930	---	---
Non-defense function	---	22,930	---	---
O&M, Defense-wide transfer to Interior Department:				
Defense function	---	-10,070	---	---
Non-defense function	---	10,070	---	---
Tricare accrual (permanent, indefinite auth.) 4/	10,872,070	10,733,000	10,733,000	-139,070
(OCO) 3/	143,000	117,000	117,000	-26,000
Total, scorekeeping adjustments	11,034,271	10,881,000	10,881,000	-153,271
Adjusted total (includ. scorekeeping adjustments)	671,140,101	657,296,743	633,743,127	-37,396,974
Appropriations	(673,153,637)	(657,296,743)	(636,318,344)	(-36,835,293)
Rescissions	(-2,013,536)	---	(-2,575,217)	(-561,681)
Total mandatory and discretionary	671,140,101	657,296,743	633,743,127	-37,396,974
Mandatory	(292,000)	(513,700)	(513,700)	(+221,700)
Discretionary	(670,848,101)	(656,783,043)	(633,229,427)	(-37,618,674)
RECAPITULATION				
Title I - Military Personnel	126,739,756	132,096,541	131,090,539	+4,350,783
Title II - Operation and Maintenance	165,560,124	170,759,313	163,073,141	-2,486,983
Title III - Procurement	102,121,873	114,365,617	104,579,701	+2,457,828
Title IV - Research, Development, Test and Evaluation	74,957,028	75,325,082	72,420,675	-2,536,353
Title V - Revolving and Management Funds	2,909,402	2,701,394	2,675,529	-233,873
Title VI - Other Department of Defense Programs	34,313,256	35,519,627	35,593,020	+1,279,764
Title VII - Related Agencies	941,732	1,105,913	1,061,591	+119,859
Title VIII - General Provisions (net)	-5,117,461	29,000	-2,597,704	+2,519,757
Title IX - Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) 3/	157,680,120	117,725,751	114,965,635	-42,714,485
Total, Department of Defense	660,105,830	649,628,238	622,862,127	-37,243,703
Scorekeeping adjustments	11,034,271	10,881,000	10,881,000	-153,271
Less appropriations for subsequent years	---	-3,212,495	---	---
Total mandatory and discretionary	671,140,101	657,296,743	633,743,127	-37,396,974

FOOTNOTES:
1/ Included in Budget under Operation and Maintenance
2/ Included in Budget under Procurement
3/ Global War on Terrorism and other activities (GWOT) pursuant to FY 2012 budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 34). The President proposes overseas contingency operations
4/ Contributions to Department of Defense Retiree Health Care Fund (Sec. 725, P.L. 108-375)(CBO est)

DIVISION B - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - CIVIL				
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY				
Corps of Engineers - Civil				
Investigations	126,746	104,000	125,000	-1,746
Construction	1,789,822	1,480,000	1,694,000	-95,822
Rescission	-176,000	---	---	+176,000
Subtotal	1,613,822	1,480,000	1,694,000	+80,178
Mississippi River and tributaries	263,906	210,000	252,000	-11,906
Recission	-22,000	-23,000	---	+22,000
Rescission of emergency funding (Sec. 105)	---	-35,000	---	---
Subtotal	241,906	152,000	252,000	+10,094
Operations and maintenance	2,365,759	2,314,000	2,412,000	+46,241
Regulatory program	189,620	196,000	193,000	+3,380
FUSRAP	129,740	109,000	109,000	-20,740
Flood control and coastal emergencies	---	27,000	27,000	+27,000
Expenses	184,630	185,000	185,000	+370
Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)	4,990	6,000	5,000	+10
Total, title I, Department of Defense - Civil	4,857,213	4,573,000	5,002,000	+144,787
Appropriations	(5,055,213)	(4,631,000)	(5,002,000)	(-53,213)
Rescissions	(-198,000)	(-23,000)	---	(+198,000)
Rescissions of emergency funding	---	(-35,000)	---	---
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR				
Central Utah Project Completion Account				
Central Utah project construction	---	29,441	25,154	+25,154
Fish, wildlife, and recreation mitigation and conservation	---	2,000	2,000	+2,000
Subtotal	---	31,441	27,154	+27,154
Program oversight and administration	---	1,550	1,550	+1,550
Undistributed funding level	31,940	---	---	-31,940
Total, Central Utah project completion account	31,940	32,991	28,704	-3,236
Bureau of Reclamation				
Water and related resources	911,673	805,187	895,000	-16,673
Central Valley project restoration fund	49,914	53,068	53,068	+3,154
California Bay-Delta restoration	39,920	39,651	39,651	-269
Policy and administration	61,078	60,000	60,000	-1,078
Indian water rights settlements	---	51,483	---	---
San Joaquin restoration fund	---	9,000	---	---
Rescission	---	---	---	---
Subtotal	---	9,000	---	---
Total, Bureau of Reclamation	1,062,585	1,018,389	1,047,719	-14,866
Total, title II, Department of the Interior	1,094,525	1,051,380	1,076,423	-18,102
TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY				
Energy Programs				
Energy efficiency and renewable energy	1,825,641	3,200,053	1,825,000	-641
Rescission	-30,000	---	-9,909	+20,091
Subtotal	1,795,641	3,200,053	1,815,091	+19,450
Electricity delivery and energy reliability	144,710	237,717	139,500	-5,210
Rescission	-3,700	---	---	+3,700
Subtotal	141,010	237,717	139,500	-1,510

DIVISION B - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Nuclear energy	732,124	754,028	768,663	+36,539
Rescission	-6,300	---	---	+6,300
Subtotal	725,824	754,028	768,663	+42,839
Fossil energy research and development	584,529	452,975	534,000	-50,529
Rescission	-140,000	---	-187,000	-47,000
Subtotal	444,529	452,975	347,000	-97,529
Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves	22,954	14,909	14,909	-8,045
Rescission	-2,100	---	---	+2,100
Subtotal	20,854	14,909	14,909	-5,945
Strategic petroleum reserve	209,441	192,704	192,704	-16,737
Rescission	-86,300	-71,000	---	+86,300
Subtotal	123,141	121,704	192,704	+69,563
SPR petroleum account	---	-250,000	---	---
Rescission	---	---	-500,000	-500,000
Subtotal	---	-250,000	-500,000	-500,000
Clean coal technology (rescission)	-16,500	---	---	+16,500
Northeast home heating oil reserve	10,978	10,119	10,119	-859
Rescission	---	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000
Subtotal	10,978	-89,881	-89,881	-100,859
Energy Information Administration	95,409	123,957	105,000	+9,591
Rescission	-400	---	---	+400
Subtotal	95,009	123,957	105,000	+9,991
Non-defense environmental clean up	224,350	219,121	235,721	+11,371
Rescission	-900	---	---	+900
Subtotal	223,450	219,121	235,721	+12,271
Uranium enrichment decontamination and decommissioning fund	506,984	504,169	472,930	-34,054
Rescission	-9,900	---	---	+9,900
Subtotal	497,084	504,169	472,930	-24,154
Science	4,857,665	5,416,114	4,889,000	+31,335
Rescission	-15,000	---	---	+15,000
Subtotal	4,842,665	5,416,114	4,889,000	+46,335
Nuclear Waste Disposal	---	---	---	---
Rescission	-2,800	---	---	+2,800
Subtotal	-2,800	---	---	+2,800
Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy	179,640	550,011	275,000	+95,360
Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program	58,000	38,000	38,000	-20,000
Offsetting collection	-58,000	-38,000	-38,000	+20,000
Loan volume rescission	-181,830	---	---	+181,830
Additional loan volume	11,830	360,000	---	-11,830
Federal participation in Title 17 loan guarantee projects	---	500,000	---	---
Additional subsidy cost	169,660	200,000	---	-169,660
Subtotal	-340	1,060,000	---	+340
Advanced technology vehicles manufacturing loans program	9,978	6,000	6,000	-3,978
Better buildings pilot loan guarantee initiative:				
Loan guarantees	---	100,000	---	---
Administrative costs	---	5,000	---	---
Subtotal	---	105,000	---	---
Departmental administration	250,139	240,623	237,623	-12,516

DIVISION B - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Miscellaneous revenues	-119,501	-111,883	-111,623	+7,878
Net appropriation	130,638	128,740	126,000	-4,638
Rescission	-81,900	---	---	+81,900
Subtotal	48,738	128,740	126,000	+77,262
Office of the Inspector General	42,764	41,774	42,000	-764
Total, Energy programs	9,181,665	12,596,391	8,839,637	-342,028
Atomic Energy Defense Activities				
National Nuclear Security Administration				
Weapons activities	6,946,398	7,629,716	7,233,997	+287,599
Rescission	-50,000	-40,332	---	+50,000
Subtotal	6,896,398	7,589,384	7,233,997	+337,599
Defense nuclear nonproliferation	2,318,653	2,549,492	2,324,303	+5,650
Rescission	-45,000	-30,000	-21,000	+24,000
Subtotal	2,273,653	2,519,492	2,303,303	+29,650
Naval reactors	960,176	1,153,662	1,080,000	+119,824
Rescission	-1,000	---	---	+1,000
Subtotal	959,176	1,153,662	1,080,000	+120,824
Office of the Administrator	398,993	450,060	410,000	+11,007
Rescission	-5,700	---	---	+5,700
Subtotal	393,293	450,060	410,000	+16,707
General Provision				
Section 309 -- Contractor pay freeze: Security (rescission)	---	---	-27,300	-27,300
Total, National Nuclear Security Administration	10,522,520	11,712,598	11,000,000	+477,480
Environmental and Other Defense Activities				
Defense environmental cleanup	4,991,638	5,406,781	5,023,000	+31,362
(Transfer to Uranium enrichment decontamination and decommissioning fund)	(-33,633)	---	---	(+33,633)
Rescission	-11,900	---	---	+11,900
Subtotal	4,979,738	5,406,781	5,023,000	+43,262
Other defense activities	788,420	859,952	823,364	+34,944
Rescission	-3,400	---	---	+3,400
Subtotal	785,020	859,952	823,364	+38,344
Total, Environmental and other defense activities	5,764,758	6,266,733	5,846,364	+81,606
Total, Atomic Energy Defense Activities	16,287,278	17,979,331	16,846,364	+559,086
Power Marketing Administrations /1				
Operation and maintenance, Southeastern Power Administration	78,444	8,428	8,428	-70,016
Offsetting collections	-78,444	-8,428	-8,428	+70,016
Subtotal	---	---	---	---
Operation and maintenance, Southwestern Power Administration	82,918	45,010	45,010	-37,908
Offsetting collection	-69,868	-33,118	-33,118	+36,750
Subtotal	13,050	11,892	11,892	-1,158
Construction, rehabilitation, operation and maintenance, Western Area Power Administration	610,179	285,900	285,900	-324,279

DIVISION B - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Offsetting collections	-497,337	-189,932	-189,932	+307,405
Offsetting collection Colorado River Dam Fund	-3,879	---	---	+3,879
Subtotal	108,963	95,968	95,968	-12,995
Falcon and Amistad operating and maintenance fund	2,568	4,169	4,169	+1,601
Offsetting collections	-2,348	-3,949	-3,949	-1,601
Subtotal	220	220	220	---
Total, Power Marketing Administrations	122,233	108,080	108,080	-14,153
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission				
Salaries and expenses	298,000	304,600	304,600	+6,600
Revenues applied	-298,000	-304,600	-304,600	-6,600
General Provision				
Section 309 -- Contractor pay freeze:				
Non security (rescission)	---	---	-46,000	-46,000
Total, title III, Department of Energy	25,591,176	30,683,802	25,748,081	+156,905
Appropriations	(26,285,806)	(30,925,134)	(26,639,290)	(+353,484)
Rescissions	(-694,630)	(-241,332)	(-891,209)	(-196,579)
TITLE IV - INDEPENDENT AGENCIES				
Appalachian Regional Commission	68,263	76,000	68,263	---
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board	23,203	29,130	29,130	+5,927
Delta Regional Authority	11,677	13,000	11,677	---
Denali Commission	10,679	11,965	10,679	---
Rescission	-15,000	---	---	+15,000
Subtotal	-4,321	11,965	10,679	+15,000
Northern Border Regional Commission	1,497	1,500	1,497	---
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission	250	---	250	---
Nuclear Regulatory Commission:				
Salaries and expenses	1,043,208	1,027,240	1,027,240	-15,968
Revenues	-906,220	-899,726	-899,726	+6,494
Subtotal	136,988	127,514	127,514	-9,474
Office of Inspector General	10,858	10,860	10,860	+2
Revenues	-9,774	-9,774	-9,774	---
Subtotal	1,084	1,086	1,086	+2
Total, Nuclear Regulatory Commission	138,072	128,600	128,600	-9,472
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board	3,883	3,400	3,400	-483
Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska natural gas transportation projects	4,457	4,032	1,000	-3,457
Total, title IV, Independent agencies	246,981	267,627	254,496	+7,515
Appropriations	(261,981)	(267,627)	(254,496)	(-7,485)
Rescissions	(-15,000)	---	---	(+15,000)
Grand total	31,789,895	36,575,809	32,081,000	+291,105
Appropriations	(32,697,525)	(36,875,141)	(32,972,209)	(+274,684)
Rescissions	(-907,630)	(-264,332)	(-891,209)	(+16,421)
Rescissions of emergency appropriations	---	(-35,000)	---	---

1/ Totals adjusted to net out alternative financing costs, reimbursable agreement funding, and power purchase and wheeling expenditures. Offsetting collection totals only reflect funds collected for annual expenses, excluding power purchase wheeling.

DIVISION C - FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY				
Departmental Offices				
Salaries and expenses	306,388	324,889	308,388	+2,000
Department-wide systems and capital investments programs	3,992	---	---	-3,992
Office of Inspector General	29,641	29,855	29,641	---
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration	151,696	157,831	151,696	---
Special Inspector General for TARP	36,227	47,374	41,800	+5,573
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network	110,788	84,297	110,788	---
Treasury forfeiture fund (rescission)	-400,000	-600,000	-950,000	-550,000
Total, Departmental Offices	238,732	44,246	-307,687	-546,419
Financial Management Service	232,786	218,805	217,805	-14,981
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau	100,798	97,878	99,878	-920
Bureau of the Public Debt	174,635	165,635	165,635	-9,000
Community development financial institutions fund program account	226,546	227,259	221,000	-5,546
Payment of government losses in shipment	2,000	2,000	2,000	---
Total, Department of the Treasury, non-IRS	975,497	755,823	398,631	-576,866
Internal Revenue Service				
Taxpayer services	2,274,272	2,345,133	2,239,703	-34,569
Enforcement	5,492,992	5,030,619	5,299,367	-193,625
Enhanced tax enforcement activities	---	936,000	---	---
Subtotal	5,492,992	5,966,619	5,299,367	-193,625
Operations support	4,075,716	4,299,526	3,947,416	-128,300
Enhanced tax enforcement activities	---	321,000	---	---
Subtotal	4,075,716	4,620,526	3,947,416	-128,300
Business systems modernization	263,369	333,600	330,210	+66,841
Health Insurance Tax Credit Administration	15,481	18,029	---	-15,481
Total, Internal Revenue Service	12,121,830	13,283,907	11,816,696	-305,134
Total, title I, Department of the Treasury	13,097,327	14,039,730	12,215,327	-882,000
Appropriations	(13,497,327)	(14,639,730)	(13,165,327)	(-332,000)
Rescissions	(-400,000)	(-600,000)	(-950,000)	(-550,000)
(Mandatory)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	---
(Discretionary)	(13,095,327)	(14,037,730)	(12,213,327)	(-882,000)
TITLE II - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT				
The White House				
Salaries and expenses	58,435	58,374	56,974	-1,461
Compensation of the President	450	450	450	---
Subtotal	58,885	58,824	57,424	-1,461
Executive Residence at the White House:				
Operating expenses	13,673	13,658	13,425	-248
White House repair and restoration	2,001	1,000	750	-1,251
Subtotal	15,674	14,658	14,175	-1,499
Council of Economic Advisers	4,192	4,403	4,192	---
National Security Council and Homeland Security Council	13,048	13,074	13,048	---
Office of Administration	115,049	115,848	112,952	-2,097
Total, The White House	206,848	206,807	201,791	-5,057
Office of Management and Budget	91,750	91,660	89,456	-2,294

DIVISION C - FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Office of National Drug Control Policy				
Salaries and expenses	27,084	23,413	24,500	-2,584
Rescission	---	-11,328	-11,328	-11,328
High intensity drug trafficking areas program	238,522	200,000	238,522	---
Other Federal drug control programs	140,618	143,600	105,550	-35,068
Total, Office of National Drug Control Policy	406,224	355,685	357,244	-48,980
Integrated, efficient and effective uses of information technology	---	60,000	5,000	+5,000
Unanticipated needs	998	1,000	988	-10
Partnership fund for program integrity innovation	---	20,000	---	---
Rescission	-5,000	---	---	+5,000
Special Assistance to the President and Official Residence of the Vice President:				
Salaries and expenses	4,549	4,328	4,328	-221
Operating expenses	326	307	307	-19
Subtotal	4,875	4,635	4,635	-240
Total, title II, Executive Office of the President and Funds Appropriated to the President	705,695	739,787	659,114	-46,581
(Mandatory)	(450)	(450)	(450)	---
(Discretionary)	(705,245)	(739,337)	(658,664)	(-46,581)
TITLE III - THE JUDICIARY				
Supreme Court of the United States				
Salaries and expenses:				
Salaries of justices	2,197	2,197	2,197	---
Other salaries and expenses	71,724	73,354	72,622	+898
Subtotal	73,921	75,551	74,819	+898
Care of the building and grounds	8,159	8,504	8,159	---
Total, Supreme Court of the United States	82,080	84,055	82,978	+898
United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit				
Salaries and expenses:				
Salaries of judges	2,502	2,513	2,513	+11
Other salaries and expenses	30,009	32,626	29,998	-11
Total, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit	32,511	35,139	32,511	---
United States Court of International Trade				
Salaries and expenses:				
Salaries of judges	1,851	1,718	1,718	-133
Other salaries and expenses	19,596	21,173	19,729	+133
Total, U.S. Court of International Trade	21,447	22,891	21,447	---
Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services				
Salaries and expenses:				
Salaries of judges and bankruptcy judges	332,565	327,707	327,707	-4,858
Other salaries and expenses	4,671,656	4,908,459	4,687,293	+15,637
Subtotal	5,004,221	5,236,166	5,015,000	+10,779
Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	4,775	5,011	5,000	+225
Defender services	1,025,693	1,098,745	1,031,000	+5,307
Fees of jurors and commissioners	52,305	59,727	51,908	-397
Court security	466,672	513,058	500,000	+33,328
Total, Courts of Appeals, District Courts, and Other Judicial Services	6,553,666	6,912,707	6,602,908	+49,242

DIVISION C - FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Administrative Office of the United States Courts				
Salaries and expenses	82,909	88,455	82,909	---
Federal Judicial Center				
Salaries and expenses	27,273	29,029	27,000	-273
Judicial Retirement Funds				
Payment to judiciary trust funds	90,361	103,768	103,768	+13,407
United States Sentencing Commission				
Salaries and expenses	16,803	17,906	16,500	-303
Total, title III, the Judiciary	6,907,050	7,293,950	6,970,021	+62,971
(Mandatory)	(429,476)	(437,903)	(437,903)	(+8,427)
(Discretionary)	(6,477,574)	(6,856,047)	(6,532,118)	(+54,544)
TITLE IV - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
Federal payment for resident tuition support	35,030	35,100	30,000	-5,030
Federal payment for emergency planning and security costs in the District of Columbia	14,970	14,900	14,900	-70
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Courts	242,933	229,068	232,841	-10,092
Federal payment for defender services in District of Columbia Courts	54,890	55,000	55,000	+110
Federal payment to the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia	211,983	216,846	212,983	+1,000
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Public Defender Service	37,241	41,486	37,241	---
Federal payment to the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority	11,476	25,000	15,000	+3,524
Federal payment to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council	1,796	1,800	1,800	+4
Federal payment for judicial commissions	499	500	500	+1
Federal payment for school improvement	77,545	67,000	60,000	-17,545
Federal payment for the D.C. National Guard	375	2,000	375	---
Federal payment for housing for the homeless	9,980	---	---	-9,980
Federal payment for redevelopment of the St. Elizabeth's Hospital campus	---	18,000	---	---
Federal payment for HIV/AIDS prevention	---	5,000	5,000	+5,000
Federal payment for D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities grants	---	5,000	---	---
Total, Title IV, District of Columbia	698,718	716,700	665,640	-33,078
TITLE V - OTHER INDEPENDENT AGENCIES				
Administrative Conference of the United States	2,744	3,200	2,900	+156
Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation	499	---	450	-49
Civilian Property Realignment Board				
Salaries and expenses	---	23,000	---	---
Asset Proceeds and Space Management Fund	---	65,000	---	---
Total, Civilian Property Realignment Board	---	88,000	---	---
Consumer Product Safety Commission	114,788	122,000	114,500	-288
Election Assistance Commission				
Salaries and expenses	16,267	13,716	11,500	-4,767
Election reform programs	---	---	---	---
Total, Election Assistance Commission	16,267	13,716	11,500	-4,767

DIVISION C - FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Federal Communications Commission				
Salaries and expenses	335,794	358,801	339,844	+4,050
Offsetting fee collections - current year	-335,794	-358,801	-339,844	-4,050
Direct appropriation	---	---	---	---
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation: Office of Inspector General (by transfer)	(42,942)	(45,261)	(45,261)	(+2,319)
Federal Election Commission	66,367	67,014	66,367	---
Federal Labor Relations Authority	24,723	26,440	24,723	---
Federal Trade Commission				
Salaries and expenses	291,363	326,000	311,563	+20,200
Offsetting fee collections - current year	-96,000	-108,000	-108,000	-12,000
Offsetting fee collections, telephone database	-21,000	-19,000	-21,000	---
Direct appropriation	174,363	199,000	182,563	+8,200
General Services Administration				
Federal Buildings Fund				
Limitations on availability of revenue:				
Construction and acquisition of facilities	82,000	839,642	50,000	-32,000
Repairs and alterations	280,000	868,902	280,000	---
Installment acquisition payments	135,540	126,801	126,801	-8,739
Rental of space	4,830,000	5,285,198	5,210,198	+380,198
Building operations	2,270,000	2,387,968	2,350,968	+80,968
Subtotal, Limitations on availability of revenue	7,597,540	9,508,511	8,017,967	+420,427
Repayment of debt	71,270	80,000	80,000	+8,730
Rental income to fund	-8,871,000	-9,303,000	-9,303,000	-432,000
Rescission	-25,000	---	---	+25,000
Total, Federal Buildings Fund	-1,227,190	285,511	-1,205,033	+22,157
Government-wide policy	66,488	105,140	61,115	-5,373
Operating expenses	69,882	70,022	69,500	-382
Office of Inspector General	58,882	62,358	58,000	-882
Electronic Government Fund	7,984	34,000	12,400	+4,416
Allowances and Office Staff for Former Presidents	3,792	3,671	3,671	-121
Federal acquisition workforce initiatives fund	---	16,900	---	---
Federal Citizen Services Fund	34,116	39,933	34,100	-16
Policy and operations (rescission)	---	---	-4,600	-4,600
Total, General Services Administration	-986,046	617,535	-970,847	+15,199
Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation	748	---	748	---
Merit Systems Protection Board				
Salaries and expenses	40,258	42,116	40,258	---
Limitation on administrative expenses	2,574	2,345	2,345	-229
Total, Merit Systems Protection Board	42,832	44,461	42,603	-229
Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation				
Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund	2,495	2,200	2,200	-295
Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund	3,792	3,800	3,792	---
Total, Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation	6,287	6,000	5,992	-295
National Archives and Records Administration				
Operating expenses	339,090	403,742	373,300	+34,210
Reduction of debt	-14,000	-15,000	-15,000	-1,000
Subtotal	325,090	388,742	358,300	+33,210
Office of the Inspector General	4,241	4,100	4,100	-141
Electronic records archive	71,856	---	---	-71,856

DIVISION C - FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Repairs and restoration	11,824	9,659	9,100	-2,724
Rescission	-3,198	---	---	+3,198
National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Grants program	6,986	5,000	5,000	-1,986
Total, National Archives and Records Admin	416,799	407,501	376,500	-40,299
National Credit Union Administration				
Community Development Revolving Loan Fund	1,247	2,000	1,247	---
Office of Government Ethics	13,972	13,664	13,664	-308
Office of Personnel Management				
Salaries and expenses	97,774	100,027	97,774	---
Limitation on administrative expenses	112,516	132,523	112,516	---
Office of Inspector General	3,142	3,804	3,142	---
Limitation on administrative expenses	21,174	21,559	21,174	---
Govt Payment for Annuitants, Employees Health Benefits	10,467,000	10,862,000	10,862,000	+395,000
Govt Payment for Annuitants, Employee Life Insurance	50,000	52,000	52,000	+2,000
Payment to Civil Svc Retirement and Disability Fund	10,076,000	9,979,000	9,979,000	-97,000
Total, Office of Personnel Management	20,827,606	21,150,913	21,127,606	+300,000
Mandatory	(20,593,000)	(20,893,000)	(20,893,000)	(+300,000)
Discretionary	(234,606)	(257,913)	(234,606)	---
Office of Special Counsel	18,458	19,486	18,972	+514
Postal Regulatory Commission	14,304	14,450	14,304	---
Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board	998	1,683	900	-98
Rescission	-1,500	---	-998	+502
Recovery and Accountability Transparency Board	---	31,543	28,350	+28,350
Securities and Exchange Commission	1,185,000	1,407,483	1,321,000	+136,000
Selective Service System	24,226	24,500	23,984	-242
Small Business Administration				
Salaries and expenses	432,571	427,296	417,348	-15,223
Office of Inspector General	16,267	18,400	16,267	---
Office of Advocacy	---	9,120	9,120	+9,120
Business Loans Program Account:				
Direct loans subsidy	2,994	3,765	3,678	+684
Guaranteed loans subsidy	79,840	211,600	207,100	+127,260
Administrative expenses	152,694	147,958	147,958	-4,736
Total, Business loans program account	235,528	363,323	358,736	+123,208
Disaster Loans Program Account:				
Administrative expenses	45,372	167,300	117,300	+71,928
Total, Small Business Administration	729,738	985,439	918,771	+189,033
United States Postal Service				
Payment to the Postal Service Fund	11,776	---	---	-11,776
Advance appropriations	74,905	78,153	78,153	+3,248
Total, Payment to the Postal Service Fund	86,681	78,153	78,153	-8,528
Office of Inspector General	243,908	244,397	241,468	-2,440
Total, United States Postal Service	330,589	322,550	319,621	-10,968
United States Tax Court	51,989	59,996	51,079	-910
Total, title V, Independent Agencies	23,076,998	25,628,574	23,696,499	+619,501
Appropriations	(23,031,791)	(25,550,421)	(23,623,944)	(+592,153)
Rescissions	(-29,698)	---	(-5,598)	(+24,100)
Advances	(74,905)	(78,153)	(78,153)	(+3,248)
(Mandatory)	(20,593,000)	(20,893,000)	(20,893,000)	(+300,000)
(Discretionary)	(2,460,274)	(4,709,391)	(2,779,613)	(+319,339)

DIVISION C - FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Grand total	44,485,788	48,418,741	44,206,601	-279,187
Appropriations	(44,845,581)	(48,951,916)	(45,095,374)	(+249,793)
Rescissions	(-434,698)	(-611,328)	(-966,926)	(-532,228)
Advances	(74,905)	(78,153)	(78,153)	(+3,248)
(by transfer)	(42,942)	(45,261)	(45,261)	(+2,319)

DIVISION D - DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY				
TITLE I - DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS				
Departmental Operations				
Office of the Secretary and Executive Management	136,544	142,533	133,159	-3,385
Office of the Under Secretary for Management	239,453	249,058	235,587	-3,866
Headquarters consolidation	77,245	---	---	-77,245
Subtotal	316,698	249,058	235,587	-81,111
Consolidated headquarters project	---	215,273	---	---
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	53,323	62,395	50,860	-2,463
Office of the Chief Information Officer	332,726	277,972	257,300	-75,426
Analysis and Operations	334,360	355,368	338,068	+3,708
Total, Departmental Operations	1,173,651	1,302,599	1,014,974	-158,677
Office of Inspector General				
Operating expenses	113,646	144,318	117,000	+3,354
(transfer from Disaster relief)	(15,968)	---	(24,000)	(+8,032)
Total, Office of Inspector General	129,614	144,318	141,000	+11,386
Total, title I, Departmental Management and Operations	1,287,297	1,446,917	1,131,974	-155,323
(by transfer)	(15,968)	---	(24,000)	(+8,032)
TITLE II - SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS				
U.S. Customs and Border Protection				
Salaries and expenses	8,192,924	8,722,281	8,676,844	+483,920
Harbor maintenance fee collection (trust fund)	3,274	3,274	3,274	---
Subtotal	8,196,198	8,725,555	8,680,118	+483,920
Automation Modernization	335,902	364,030	334,275	-1,627
Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology (BSFIT)	573,024	527,623	400,000	-173,024
Air and Marine Interdiction, Operations, Maintenance and Procurement	515,294	470,566	503,966	-11,328
Construction and Facilities Management	259,480	283,822	236,596	-22,884
(Fee accounts)	(1,408,819)	(1,468,185)	(1,496,185)	(+87,366)
Total, Customs and Border Protection	11,288,717	11,839,781	11,651,140	+362,423
(Appropriations)	(9,879,898)	(10,371,596)	(10,154,955)	(+275,057)
(Fee accounts)	(1,408,819)	(1,468,185)	(1,496,185)	(+87,366)
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement				
Salaries and expenses	5,426,768	5,496,847	5,528,874	+102,106
Automation Modernization	73,852	13,860	21,710	-52,142
Construction, unobligated balances (rescission)	---	-16,300	---	---
(Fee accounts)	(311,387)	(311,869)	(311,869)	(+482)
Total, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement	(5,812,007)	(5,806,276)	(5,862,453)	(+50,446)
(Appropriations)	(5,500,620)	(5,510,707)	(5,550,584)	(+49,964)
(Rescissions)	---	(-16,300)	---	---
(Fee accounts)	(311,387)	(311,869)	(311,869)	(+482)
Transportation Security Administration				
Aviation Security	5,213,307	5,401,165	5,253,956	+40,649
Aviation security fees (offsetting collections)	(-2,100,000)	(-2,030,000)	(-2,030,000)	(+70,000)
Additional offsetting collections (leg proposal)	---	-280,000	---	---
Total, Aviation security	3,113,307	3,091,165	3,223,956	+110,649
Aviation Security Capital Fund (mandatory)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	---
Surface Transportation Security	105,749	134,748	134,748	+28,999

DIVISION D - DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Transportation Threat Assessment and Credentialing	162,672	183,954	163,954	+1,282
(Fee accounts)	(41,220)	(40,320)	(40,320)	(-900)
Transportation Security Support	986,661	1,113,697	1,031,926	+45,265
Federal Air Marshals	927,942	991,375	966,115	+38,173
Total, Transportation Security Administration (gross)	7,687,551	8,115,259	7,841,019	+153,468
(Offsetting fee collections)	(-2,100,000)	(-2,310,000)	(-2,030,000)	(+70,000)
(Aviation security capital fund)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	---
(Fee accounts)	(41,220)	(40,320)	(40,320)	(-900)
Total, Transportation Security Administration	5,296,331	5,514,939	5,520,699	+224,368
Coast Guard				
Operating Expenses	6,640,031	6,819,505	6,793,054	+153,023
Emergency appropriations (Overseas contingency operations)	254,000	---	---	-254,000
Overseas contingency operations/Global war on terrorism	---	---	258,000	+258,000
Subtotal	6,894,031	6,819,505	7,051,054	+157,023
(Defense)	(593,320)	(340,000)	(598,000)	(+4,680)
(Nondefense)	(6,300,711)	(6,479,505)	(6,453,054)	(+152,343)
Environmental Compliance and Restoration	13,172	16,699	13,500	+328
Reserve Training	133,365	136,778	134,278	+913
Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements	1,516,744	1,421,924	1,403,924	-112,820
Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation	24,695	19,779	27,779	+3,084
Health care fund contribution (permanent indefinite appropriation)	265,321	261,871	261,871	-3,450
Retired pay (mandatory)	1,400,700	1,440,157	1,440,157	+39,457
Total, Coast Guard	10,248,028	10,116,713	10,332,563	+84,535
(mandatory)	(1,400,700)	(1,440,157)	(1,440,157)	(+39,457)
(discretionary)	(8,847,328)	(8,676,556)	(8,892,406)	(+45,078)
(Emergency appropriations/Overseas contingency operations)	(254,000)	---	---	(-254,000)
(Overseas contingency operations/ Global war on terrorism)	---	---	(258,000)	(+258,000)
United States Secret Service				
Salaries and expenses	1,511,332	1,691,751	1,661,237	+149,905
Acquisition, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses	3,967	6,780	5,380	+1,413
Total, United States Secret Service	1,515,299	1,698,531	1,666,617	+151,318
Total, title II, Security, Enforcement, and Investigations	32,440,176	33,196,186	33,225,418	+785,242
(Appropriations)	(32,186,176)	(33,212,486)	(32,967,418)	(+781,242)
(Rescissions)	---	(-16,300)	---	---
(Emergency appropriations/Overseas contingency operations)	(254,000)	---	---	(-254,000)
(Overseas contingency operations/Global war on terrorism)	---	---	(258,000)	(+258,000)
(Fee accounts)	(1,761,426)	(1,820,374)	(1,848,374)	(+86,948)
TITLE III - PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY				
National Protection and Programs Directorate				
Management and Administration	43,490	55,156	50,695	+7,205
Infrastructure Protection and Information Security	838,762	936,485	888,243	+49,481
Federal Protective Service	1,115,000	1,261,537	1,261,537	+146,537
Offsetting collections	-1,115,000	-1,261,537	-1,261,537	-146,537

DIVISION D - DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology	333,944	302,271	306,802	-27,142
Rescission	---	-25,642	---	---
Subtotal	333,944	276,629	306,802	-27,142
Total, National Protection and Programs Directorate	1,216,196	1,268,270	1,245,740	+29,544
Office of Health Affairs	139,455	160,949	167,449	+27,994
Federal Emergency Management Agency				
Management and Administration	786,824	815,099	---	-786,824
(Defense)	(103,792)	(99,099)	---	(-103,792)
(Nondefense)	(683,032)	(716,000)	---	(-683,032)
Salaries and expenses	---	---	895,350	+895,350
(Defense)	---	---	(99,099)	(+99,099)
(Nondefense)	---	---	(796,251)	(+796,251)
(by transfer from Disaster Relief Fund)	(105,389)	---	---	(-105,389)
(by transfer from State and Local Programs)	(129,052)	(184,544)	(91,778)	(-37,274)
(by transfer from Firefighter Assistance Grants)	(46,886)	---	---	(-46,886)
(available from Firefighter Assistance Grants)	---	---	(33,750)	(+33,750)
(available from Emergency Management Performance Grants)(by transfer)	(10,180)	---	---	(-10,180)
(available from Emergency Management Performance Grants)	---	---	(10,500)	(+10,500)
Subtotal, Management and Administration/ Salaries and expenses	1,078,331	999,643	1,031,378	-46,953
Grants and training:				
State and Local Programs	2,225,041	3,844,663	1,349,681	-875,360
(Defense)	---	(50,000)	(50,000)	(+50,000)
(Nondefense)	(2,225,041)	(3,794,663)	(1,299,681)	(-925,360)
(transfer out - Management and Administration)	(-129,052)	(-184,544)	---	(+129,052)
(transfer out - Salaries and expenses)	---	---	(-91,778)	(-91,778)
Subtotal (less transfers)	2,095,989	3,660,119	1,257,903	-838,086
Firefighter Assistance Grants	808,380	---	675,000	-133,380
(transfer out - Management and Administration)	(-46,886)	---	---	(+46,886)
(available to Salaries and expenses)	---	---	(-33,750)	(-33,750)
Subtotal (less transfers)	761,494	---	641,250	-120,244
Emergency Management Performance Grants	339,320	---	350,000	+10,680
(available to Management and Administration)	---	---	---	---
(transfer out)	(-10,180)	---	---	(+10,180)
(available to Salaries and expenses)	---	---	(-10,500)	(-10,500)
Subtotal	329,140	---	339,500	+10,360
Subtotal, Grants and training	3,372,741	3,844,663	2,374,681	-998,060
(Subtotal, less transfers)	(3,186,623)	(3,660,119)	(2,238,653)	(-947,970)
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program	-265	-896	-896	-631
United States Fire Administration	45,497	42,538	44,038	-1,459
Disaster Relief Fund	2,644,700	1,800,000	700,000	-1,944,700
Disaster relief category	---	4,600,000	---	---
Subtotal (gross)	2,644,700	6,400,000	700,000	-1,944,700
(transfer out - Management and Administration)	(-105,389)	---	---	(+105,389)
(transfer out - Inspector General)	(-15,968)	---	(-24,000)	(-8,032)
Subtotal (less transfers)	2,523,343	6,400,000	676,000	-1,847,343
Disaster Assistance Direct Loan Program Account:				
(Limitation on direct loans)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	---
Direct loan subsidy	294	295	295	+1

DIVISION D - DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Flood Map Modernization Fund	181,636	---	---	-181,636
Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis	---	102,712	97,712	+97,712
National Flood Insurance Fund:				
Salaries and expenses	22,145	---	22,000	-145
Flood Plain Management and Mapping	146,855	149,000	149,000	+2,145
Subtotal	169,000	149,000	171,000	+2,000
Offsetting fee collections	-169,000	-149,000	-171,000	-2,000
National Predisaster Mitigation Fund	49,900	84,937	35,500	-14,400
Emergency Food and Shelter	119,760	100,000	120,000	+240
Total, Federal Emergency Management Agency	7,201,087	11,389,348	4,266,680	-2,934,407
(Appropriations)	(7,201,087)	(6,789,348)	(4,266,680)	(-2,934,407)
(Disaster relief category)	---	(4,600,000)	---	---
(by transfer)	(291,507)	(184,544)	(91,778)	(-199,729)
(transfer out)	(-307,475)	(-184,544)	(-115,778)	(+191,697)
Total, title III, Protection, Preparedness Response and Recovery	8,556,738	12,818,567	5,679,869	-2,876,869
(Appropriations)	(8,556,738)	(8,244,209)	(5,679,869)	(-2,876,869)
(Rescissions)	---	(-25,642)	---	---
(Disaster relief category)	---	(4,600,000)	---	---
(By transfer)	(291,507)	(184,544)	(91,778)	(-199,729)
(Transfer out)	(-307,475)	(-184,544)	(-115,778)	(+191,697)
(Limitation on direct loans)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	---
TITLE IV - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SERVICES				
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services				
Salaries and expenses	146,300	369,477	102,424	-43,876
(Fee accounts)	(2,426,557)	(2,537,389)	(2,976,041)	(+549,484)
Total, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services	2,572,857	2,906,866	3,078,465	+505,608
(Appropriations)	(146,300)	(369,477)	(102,424)	(-43,876)
(Fee accounts)	(2,426,557)	(2,537,389)	(2,976,041)	(+549,484)
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center				
Salaries and expenses	235,447	238,957	238,957	+3,510
Acquisitions, construction, improvements, and related expenses: direct appropriations	35,385	37,456	32,456	-2,929
Total, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center	270,832	276,413	271,413	+581
Science and Technology				
Management and Administration	140,918	149,365	135,000	-5,918
Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations	686,659	1,027,067	533,000	-153,659
Total, Science and Technology	827,577	1,176,432	668,000	-159,577
Domestic Nuclear Detection Office				
Management and Administration	36,918	41,120	38,000	+1,082
Research, Development, and Operations	274,886	206,257	215,000	-59,886
Systems Acquisition	29,940	84,361	37,000	+7,060
Total, Domestic Nuclear Detection Office	341,744	331,738	290,000	-51,744
Total, title IV, Research and Development, Training, and Services	1,586,453	2,154,060	1,331,837	-254,616
(Fee accounts)	(2,426,557)	(2,537,389)	(2,976,041)	(+549,484)

DIVISION D - DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE V - GENERAL PROVISIONS				
FY 2011 continuing resolution rescissions	-23,000	---	---	+23,000
FY 2011 continuing resolution rescissions (security)	-533,906	---	---	+533,906
Sale of Loran-C sites (legislative proposal)	---	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000
Spending of proceeds	---	5,000	5,000	+5,000
U.S. Customs and Border Protection change in fee collection (sec. 540)(legislative proposal)	---	-110,000	---	---
Spending of fees	---	110,000	---	---
NSSE reimbursement fund	7,500	---	7,500	---
Rescission of unobligated balances	---	---	-45,411	-45,411
International registered traveler	---	---	---	---
Data center migration (Sec. 553)	---	---	70,000	+70,000
St. Elizabeth's/Mission support (Sec.560)	---	---	55,979	+55,979
Rescission of legacy funds	---	---	-20,654	-20,654
ICE Salaries and expenses (rescission) (Sec. 567)	---	---	-7,000	-7,000
ICE Automation Modernization (rescission)(Sec. 568)	---	---	-10,000	-10,000
TSA (rescission)(Sec. 569)	---	---	-71,300	-71,300
CBP Automation Modernization (rescission)	---	---	-5,000	-5,000
CBP BSFIT Program Management (recission)	---	---	-7,000	-7,000
ICE Salaries and expenses (rescission)	---	---	-3,000	-3,000
USCG AC&I Great Lakes Icebreaker (rescission)	---	---	-2,427	-2,427
TASC (rescission)	---	---	-5,000	-5,000
US-VISIT (rescission)	---	---	-27,400	-27,400
Total, title V, General Provisions	-549,406	---	-70,713	+478,693
(Appropriations)	(7,500)	---	(133,479)	(+125,979)
(Rescissions)	(-556,906)	---	(-204,192)	(+352,714)
Grand total	43,321,258	49,615,730	41,298,385	-2,022,873
(Appropriations)	(43,624,164)	(45,057,672)	(41,244,577)	(-2,379,587)
(Disaster relief category)	---	(4,600,000)	---	---
(Emergency appropriations/Overseas contingency operations)	(254,000)	---	---	(-254,000)
(Overseas contingency operations/Global war on terrorism)	---	---	(258,000)	(+258,000)
(Rescissions)	(-556,906)	(-41,942)	(-204,192)	(+352,714)
(By transfer)	(307,475)	(184,544)	(115,778)	(-191,697)
(Transfer out)	(-307,475)	(-184,544)	(-115,778)	(+191,697)
(Fee accounts)	(4,187,983)	(4,357,763)	(4,824,415)	(+636,432)
(Aviation security capital fund)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	---
(Limitation on direct loans)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	---

DIVISION E - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - ENVIRONMENT - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR				
Bureau of Land Management				
Management of lands and resources	961,779	933,779	961,900	+121
Mining law administration	36,696	39,696	39,696	+3,000
Offsetting collections	-47,696	-54,000	-54,000	-6,304
Subtotal	950,779	919,475	947,596	-3,183
Construction	4,617	3,576	3,576	-1,041
Land acquisition	21,956	50,000	22,380	+424
Oregon and California grant lands	111,334	112,043	112,043	+709
Range improvements (indefinite)	10,000	10,000	10,000	---
Service charges, deposits, & forfeitures (indefinite)	33,300	32,125	32,125	-1,175
Offsetting fee collections	-33,300	-32,125	-32,125	+1,175
Miscellaneous trust funds (indefinite)	15,200	19,700	19,700	+4,500
Total, Bureau of Land Management	1,113,886	1,114,794	1,115,295	+1,409
United States Fish and Wildlife Service				
Resource management	1,244,861	1,271,867	1,228,142	-16,719
Construction	20,804	23,088	23,088	+2,284
Land acquisition	54,890	140,000	54,720	-170
Landowner incentive program (rescission of prior year balances)	-4,941	---	---	+4,941
Cooperative endangered species conservation fund	59,880	100,000	47,757	-12,123
National wildlife refuge fund	14,471	---	13,980	-491
North American wetlands conservation fund	37,425	50,000	35,554	-1,871
Neotropical migratory birds conservation fund	3,992	5,000	3,792	-200
Multinational species conservation fund	9,980	9,750	9,481	-499
State and tribal wildlife grants	61,876	95,000	61,421	-455
Total, United States Fish and Wildlife Service	1,503,238	1,694,705	1,477,935	-25,303
National Park Service				
Operation of the national park system	2,250,050	2,296,877	2,240,152	-9,898
National recreation and preservation	57,870	51,567	59,975	+2,105
Historic preservation fund	54,391	61,000	56,000	+1,609
Construction	209,646	152,121	159,621	-50,025
Rescission of prior year balances	-25,000	---	-4,000	+21,000
Subtotal	184,646	152,121	155,621	-29,025
Land and water conservation fund (rescission of contract authority)	-30,000	-30,000	-30,000	---
Land acquisition and state assistance	94,810	360,000	102,060	+7,250
Rescission of prior year balances	-625	---	---	+625
Total, National Park Service	2,611,142	2,891,565	2,583,808	-27,334
United States Geological Survey				
Surveys, investigations, and research	1,083,672	1,018,037	1,069,744	-13,928
National land imaging	---	99,817	---	---
Total, United State Geological Survey	1,083,672	1,117,854	1,069,744	-13,928
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management				
Ocean energy management	---	---	160,874	+160,874
Offsetting rental receipts	---	---	-98,993	-98,993
Cost recovery fees	---	---	-2,089	-2,089
Total, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	---	---	59,792	+59,792

DIVISION E - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - ENVIRONMENT - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement				
Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement				
Offshore safety and environmental enforcement	---	---	182,554	+182,554
Offsetting rental receipts	---	---	-52,587	-52,587
Inspection fees	---	---	-62,000	-62,000
Cost recovery fees	---	---	-6,494	-6,494
Total, Offshore Safety and Environmental Enforcement	---	---	61,473	+61,473
Oil spill research	---	---	14,923	+14,923
Total, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	---	---	76,396	+76,396
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement				
Ocean energy management	403,889	343,428	---	-403,889
Use of receipts and cost recovery fees	-154,890	-160,163	---	+154,890
Inspection fees	-10,000	-62,000	---	+10,000
Subtotal	238,999	121,265	---	-238,999
Oil spill research	11,744	14,923	---	-11,744
OCS Connect (rescission)	-25,000	---	---	+25,000
Total, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement	225,743	136,188	---	-225,743
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement				
Regulation and technology	126,926	118,469	122,950	-3,976
Receipts from performance bond forfeitures (indefinite)	100	---	100	---
Subtotal	127,026	118,469	123,050	-3,976
Abandoned mine reclamation fund (definite, trust fund)	35,517	27,443	27,443	-8,074
Total, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	162,543	145,912	150,493	-12,050
Bureau of Indian Affairs				
Operation of Indian programs	2,329,846	2,359,692	2,371,532	+41,686
Construction	209,580	104,992	123,828	-85,752
Indian land and water claim settlements and miscellaneous payments to Indians	46,387	32,855	32,855	-13,532
Indian guaranteed loan program account	8,199	3,114	7,114	-1,085
Total, Bureau of Indian Affairs	2,594,012	2,500,653	2,535,329	-58,683
Departmental Offices				
Office of the Secretary	118,598	283,670	262,317	+143,719
Insular Affairs:				
Assistance to Territories	56,462	56,397	60,277	+3,815
Northern Marianas	27,720	27,720	27,720	---
Subtotal	84,182	84,117	87,997	+3,815
Compact of Free Association	5,307	3,054	3,318	-1,989
Payments to Palau	12,000	---	14,000	+2,000
Subtotal	17,307	3,054	17,318	+11
Total, Insular Affairs	101,489	87,171	105,315	+3,826

DIVISION E - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - ENVIRONMENT - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Office of the Solicitor	64,946	68,476	66,296	+1,350
Office of Inspector General	48,493	49,471	49,471	+978
Office of Special Trustee for American Indians:				
Federal trust programs	160,678	152,319	152,319	-8,359
Total, Departmental Offices	494,204	641,107	635,718	+141,514
Department-wide Programs				
Wildland fire management:				
Preparedness	290,452	276,964	276,964	-13,488
Fire suppression operations	398,951	270,611	270,611	-128,340
Use of emergency suppression funds	---	---	-189,577	-189,577
Other operations	228,654	181,946	208,497	-20,157
Subtotal, Wildland fire management	918,057	729,521	566,495	-351,562
Rescission	-200,000	---	-82,000	+118,000
Total, Wildland fire managment	718,057	729,521	484,495	-233,562
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Account				
FLAME wildfire suppression reserve account	60,878	92,000	92,000	+31,122
Total, all wildland fire management accounts	778,935	821,521	576,495	-202,440
Central hazardous materials fund	10,155	10,149	10,149	-6
Natural resource damage assessment fund	6,449	6,263	6,263	-186
Working capital fund	85,651	73,119	62,019	-23,632
Total, Department-wide programs	881,190	911,052	654,926	-226,264
General Provisions				
State royalty administrative cost deduction	-42,000	-42,000	-42,000	---
Geothermal energy receipts (Sec. 423)	-8,000	---	---	+8,000
Geothermal receipts in current CR	8,000	---	---	-8,000
Total, General provisions	-42,000	-42,000	-42,000	---
Total, title I, Department of the Interior	10,627,630	11,111,830	10,317,436	-310,194
Appropriations	(10,913,196)	(11,141,830)	(10,433,436)	(-479,760)
Rescissions	(-285,566)	(-30,000)	(-116,000)	(+169,566)
(Mandatory)	(52,920)	(57,420)	(57,420)	(+4,500)
(Discretionary)	(10,574,710)	(11,054,410)	(10,260,016)	(-314,694)
TITLE II - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY				
Science and Technology	813,480	825,596	795,000	-18,480
(By transfer from Hazardous substance superfund)	(24,478)	(23,016)	(23,016)	(-1,462)
Environmental programs and management	2,756,470	2,876,634	2,682,514	-73,956
Office of Inspector General	44,701	45,997	42,000	-2,701
(By transfer from Hazardous substance superfund)	(9,955)	(10,009)	(9,955)	---
Buildings and facilities	36,428	41,969	36,428	---
Hazardous substance superfund	1,280,908	1,236,231	1,215,753	-65,155
Transfer to Office of Inspector General	(-9,955)	(-10,009)	(-9,955)	---
Transfer to Science and Technology	(-24,478)	(-23,016)	(-23,016)	(+1,462)
Leaking underground storage tank program	112,875	112,481	104,309	-8,566
Oil spill response	18,342	23,662	18,274	-68
State and tribal assistance grants	2,654,680	2,659,041	2,528,169	-126,511
Categorical grants	1,104,233	1,201,389	1,090,558	-13,675
Subtotal	3,758,913	3,860,430	3,618,727	-140,186

DIVISION E - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - ENVIRONMENT - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Rescission	-140,000	-50,000	-50,000	+90,000
Total, title II, Environmental Protection Agency	8,682,117	8,973,000	8,463,005	-219,112
Appropriations	(8,822,117)	(9,023,000)	(8,513,005)	(-309,112)
Rescissions	(-140,000)	(-50,000)	(-50,000)	(+90,000)
(By transfer)	(34,433)	(33,025)	(32,971)	(-1,462)
(Transfer out)	(-34,433)	(-33,025)	(-32,971)	(+1,462)
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES				
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
Forest Service				
Forest and rangeland research	306,637	295,773	295,773	-10,864
State and private forestry	277,596	341,582	253,331	-24,265
National forest system	1,542,248	1,704,526	1,556,628	+14,380
Capital improvement and maintenance	472,644	349,927	394,721	-77,923
Deferral of road and trail fund payment	-13,000	-12,000	-12,000	+1,000
Subtotal	459,644	337,927	382,721	-76,923
Land acquisition	32,934	90,000	52,605	+19,671
Acquisition of lands for national forests, special acts	1,048	955	955	-93
Acquisition of lands to complete land exchanges (indefinite)	250	227	227	-23
Range betterment fund (indefinite)	3,600	3,262	3,262	-338
Gifts, donations and bequests for forest and rangeland research	50	45	45	-5
Management of national forest lands for subsistence uses	2,577	---	2,577	---
Wildland fire management:				
Wild fire preparedness	673,650	1,006,052	1,006,052	+332,402
Wild fire suppression operations	995,511	538,720	538,720	-456,791
Use of emergency suppression funds	---	---	-240,000	-240,000
Other operations	498,881	162,290	432,859	-66,022
Subtotal, Wildland fire management	2,168,042	1,707,062	1,737,631	-430,411
Rescission	-200,000	-192,000	---	+200,000
Total, Wildland fire management	1,968,042	1,515,062	1,737,631	-230,411
FLAME Wildfire Suppression Reserve Account				
FLAME wildfire suppression reserve account	290,418	315,886	315,886	+25,468
Rescission	-200,000	---	---	+200,000
Total, all wildland fire management accounts	2,058,460	1,830,948	2,053,517	-4,943
Forest Service payments to communities (leg proposal)	---	328,000	---	---
Total, Forest Service	4,685,044	4,933,245	4,601,641	-83,403
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
Indian Health Service				
Indian health services	3,665,273	4,166,139	3,872,377	+207,104
Indian health facilities	403,947	457,669	441,052	+37,105
Total, Indian Health Service	4,069,220	4,623,808	4,313,429	+244,209
National Institute of Health				
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	79,054	81,085	79,054	---

DIVISION E - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - ENVIRONMENT - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry				
Toxic substances and environmental public health.....	76,638	76,337	76,337	-301
Total, Department of Health and Human Services..	4,224,912	4,781,230	4,468,820	+243,908
OTHER RELATED AGENCIES				
Executive Office of the President				
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality.....	3,153	3,444	3,153	---
Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board				
Salaries and expenses.....	10,777	11,147	11,147	+370
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation				
Salaries and expenses.....	7,984	9,570	7,750	-234
Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development				
Payment to the Institute.....	8,283	9,225	8,533	+250
Smithsonian Institution				
Salaries and expenses.....	634,889	636,530	636,530	+1,641
Facilities capital.....	124,750	225,000	175,000	+50,250
Total, Smithsonian Institution.....	759,639	861,530	811,530	+51,891
National Gallery of Art				
Salaries and expenses.....	110,525	118,781	114,066	+3,541
Repair, restoration and renovation of buildings.....	48,125	19,219	14,516	-33,609
Total, National Gallery of Art.....	158,650	138,000	128,582	-30,068
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts				
Operations and maintenance.....	22,455	23,200	23,200	+745
Capital repair and restoration.....	13,892	13,650	13,650	-242
Total, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.....	36,347	36,850	36,850	+503
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars				
Salaries and expenses.....	11,203	11,005	11,005	-198
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities				
National Endowment for the Arts				
Grants and administration.....	154,690	146,255	146,255	-8,435
National Endowment for the Humanities				
Grants and administration.....	140,419	134,755	135,500	-4,919
Matching grants.....	14,271	11,500	10,755	-3,516
Total, National Endowment for the Humanities....	154,690	146,255	146,255	-8,435
Total, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.....	309,380	292,510	292,510	-16,870
Commission of Fine Arts				
Salaries and expenses.....	2,289	2,400	2,400	+111
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs grants.....	2,994	---	2,000	-994
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation				
Salaries and expenses.....	5,896	6,108	6,108	+212

DIVISION E - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - ENVIRONMENT - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
National Capital Planning Commission				
Salaries and expenses	8,490	8,154	8,154	-336
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum				
Holocaust Memorial Museum	49,024	52,694	50,798	+1,774
Presidio Trust				
Presidio trust fund	14,970	12,000	12,000	-2,970
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission				
Salaries and expenses	---	6,000	2,000	+2,000
Construction design	---	83,768	30,990	+30,990
Total, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission	---	89,768	32,990	+32,990
Total, title III, Related agencies	10,299,035	11,258,880	10,495,971	+196,936
Appropriations	(10,699,035)	(11,450,880)	(10,495,971)	(-203,064)
Rescissions	(-400,000)	(-192,000)	---	(+400,000)
TITLE IV - GENERAL PROVISIONS				
Cabin user fee	2,000	---	---	-2,000
Across-the-board cut (.16%)	---	---	-47,000	-47,000
TITLE VI - FOREST JOBS AND RECREATION ACT				
Forest Jobs and Recreation Act	---	---	---	---
Grand total	29,610,782	31,343,710	29,229,412	-381,370
Appropriations	(30,436,348)	(31,615,710)	(29,395,412)	(-1,040,936)
Rescissions	(-825,566)	(-272,000)	(-166,000)	(+659,566)
(By transfer)	(34,433)	(33,025)	(32,971)	(-1,462)
(Transfer out)	(-34,433)	(-33,025)	(-32,971)	(+1,462)

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF LABOR				
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION				
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES				
Grants to States:				
Adult Training, current year	58,922	136,645	58,922	---
Advance from prior year	(710,576)	(712,000)	(712,000)	(+1,424)
FY 2013	712,000	655,040	712,000	---
Subtotal	770,922	791,685	770,922	---
Youth Training	825,914	850,000	825,914	---
Dislocated Worker Assistance, current year	203,432	289,435	148,432	-55,000
Advance from prior year	(858,280)	(860,000)	(860,000)	(+1,720)
FY 2013	860,000	791,200	860,000	---
Subtotal	1,063,432	1,080,635	1,008,432	-55,000
Workforce Innovation Fund	124,750	110,963	---	-124,750
FY 2013	---	125,760	---	---
Subtotal	124,750	236,723	---	-124,750
Subtotal, Grants to States	2,785,018	2,959,043	2,605,268	-179,750
Current Year	(1,213,018)	(1,387,043)	(1,033,268)	(-179,750)
FY 2013	(1,572,000)	(1,572,000)	(1,572,000)	---
Federally Administered Programs:				
Dislocated Worker Assistance National Reserve:				
Current year	24,112	29,160	24,112	---
Advance from prior year	(199,600)	(200,000)	(200,000)	(+400)
FY 2013	200,000	200,000	200,000	---
Subtotal	224,112	229,160	224,112	---
Subtotal, Dislocated Worker Assistance	1,287,544	1,309,795	1,232,544	-55,000
Native Americans	52,652	54,158	47,652	-5,000
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker programs	84,451	86,620	84,451	---
Women in Apprenticeship	998	1,000	998	---
YouthBuild activities	79,840	115,000	79,840	---
Workforce Innovation Fund	---	---	50,000	+50,000
Subtotal, Federally Administered Programs (FAP)	442,053	485,938	487,053	+45,000
Current Year	(242,053)	(285,938)	(287,053)	(+45,000)
FY 2013	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)	---
National Activities:				
Pilots, Demonstrations, and Research	9,980	6,616	6,616	-3,364
Reintegration of Ex-Offenders	85,390	90,000	80,390	-5,000
Evaluation	9,581	11,600	9,581	---
Green Jobs Innovation Fund	---	60,000	---	---
Workforce Data Quality Initiative	12,475	13,750	6,475	-6,000
Subtotal	117,426	181,966	103,062	-14,364
Total, Training and Employment Services (TES)	3,344,497	3,626,947	3,195,383	-149,114
Current Year	(1,572,497)	(1,854,947)	(1,423,383)	(-149,114)
FY 2013	(1,772,000)	(1,772,000)	(1,772,000)	---

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
OFFICE OF JOB CORPS				
Administration	29,132	31,430	29,132	---
Operations	981,049	998,817	1,572,049	+591,000
Advance from prior year	(589,818)	(591,000)	(591,000)	(+1,182)
FY 2013	591,000	591,000	---	-591,000
Construction, Rehabilitation and Acquisition	4,990	3,500	104,990	+100,000
Advance from prior year	(99,800)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(+200)
FY 2013	100,000	75,000	---	-100,000
Total, Office of Job Corps	1,706,171	1,699,747	1,706,171	---
Current Year	(1,015,171)	(1,033,747)	(1,706,171)	(+691,000)
FY 2013	(691,000)	(666,000)	---	(-691,000)
COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS 1/	449,100	---	449,100	---
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES	721,312	1,100,100	1,100,100	+378,788
STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPERATIONS				
Unemployment Compensation (UI):				
State Operations	3,239,154	3,275,610	3,231,154	-8,000
National Activities	11,287	11,310	11,287	---
Subtotal, Unemployment Compensation	3,250,441	3,286,920	3,242,441	-8,000
Employment Service (ES):				
Allotments to States:				
Federal Funds	22,638	83,864	22,638	---
(Workforce Innovation Fund) NA	---	(61,181)	---	---
Trust Funds	679,531	680,893	679,531	---
Subtotal	702,169	764,757	702,169	---
ES National Activities	20,952	20,994	20,952	---
Subtotal, Employment Service	723,121	785,751	723,121	---
Federal Funds	(22,638)	(83,864)	(22,638)	---
Trust Funds	(700,483)	(701,887)	(700,483)	---
Foreign Labor Certification:				
Federal Administration	50,418	50,537	50,418	---
Grants to States	15,099	15,129	15,099	---
Subtotal, Foreign Labor Certification	65,517	65,666	65,517	---
One-Stop Career Centers/Labor Market Information	63,593	63,720	63,593	---
Total, State UI and ES	4,102,672	4,202,057	4,094,672	-8,000
Federal Funds	(86,231)	(147,584)	(86,231)	---
Trust Funds	(4,016,441)	(4,054,473)	(4,008,441)	(-8,000)
STATE PAID LEAVE FUND	---	23,000	---	---
ADVANCES TO THE UI AND OTHER TRUST FUNDS 2/	290,000	---	---	-290,000

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION				
Adult Employment and Training	46,765	51,577	46,765	---
Trust Funds	8,536	9,960	8,536	---
Youth Employment and Training	12,283	14,442	12,283	---
Employment Security	3,483	4,713	3,483	---
Trust Funds	39,417	41,298	39,417	---
Apprenticeship Services	27,728	28,718	27,728	---
Executive Direction	7,061	7,083	7,061	---
Trust Funds	2,087	2,091	2,087	---
Total, Program Administration	147,360	159,882	147,360	---
Federal Funds	(97,320)	(106,533)	(97,320)	---
Trust Funds	(50,040)	(53,349)	(50,040)	---
Total, Employment and Training Admin. (ETA)	10,761,112	10,811,733	10,692,786	-68,326
Federal Funds	6,694,631	6,703,911	6,634,305	-60,326
Current Year	(4,231,631)	(4,265,911)	(4,862,305)	(+630,674)
FY 2013	(2,463,000)	(2,438,000)	(1,772,000)	(-691,000)
Trust Funds	4,066,481	4,107,822	4,058,481	-8,000
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (EBSA)				
SALARIES AND EXPENSES				
Enforcement and Participant Assistance	131,137	149,884	142,956	+11,819
Policy and Compliance Assistance	21,571	40,926	33,826	+12,255
Executive Leadership, Program Oversight and Admin	6,655	6,718	6,718	+63
Total, EBSA	159,363	197,528	183,500	+24,137
PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION (PBGC)				
Pension Insurance Activities	(74,506)	(86,023)	(86,023)	(+11,517)
Pension Plan Termination	(242,300)	(243,372)	(243,372)	(+1,072)
Operational Support	(147,261)	(147,506)	(147,506)	(+245)
Total, PBGC (program level)	(464,067)	(476,901)	(476,901)	(+12,834)
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION	227,491	240,937	227,491	---
OFFICE OF LABOR-MANAGEMENT STANDARDS	41,367	41,367	41,367	---
FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS	105,386	109,010	105,386	---
FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION				
Salaries and Expenses	115,939	121,354	115,939	---
Trust Funds	2,124	2,184	2,124	---
Total, Salaries and Expenses	118,063	123,538	118,063	---
Federal Funds	(115,939)	(121,354)	(115,939)	---
Trust Funds	(2,124)	(2,184)	(2,124)	---
SPECIAL BENEFITS				
Federal Employees' Compensation Benefits	180,000	347,000	347,000	+167,000
Longshore and Harbor Workers' Benefits	3,000	3,000	3,000	---
Total, Special Benefits	183,000	350,000	350,000	+167,000
SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS				
Benefit Payments	198,000	177,000	177,000	-21,000
Administration	5,220	5,227	5,227	+7
Subtotal, FY 2012 program level	203,220	182,227	182,227	-20,993
Less funds advanced in prior year	-45,000	-41,000	-41,000	+4,000
Total, Current Year, FY 2012	158,220	141,227	141,227	-16,993
New advances, 1st quarter FY 2013	41,000	40,000	40,000	-1,000
Total, Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners	199,220	181,227	181,227	-17,993
ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION FUND				
Part B Administrative Expenses	53,778	52,147	52,147	-1,631

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
BLACK LUNG DISABILITY TRUST FUND				
Benefit Payments and Interest on Advances	237,808	241,689	241,689	+3,881
Workers' Compensation Programs, Salaries and Expenses	33,075	32,906	32,906	-169
Departmental Management, Salaries and Expenses	25,394	25,217	25,217	-177
Departmental Management, Inspector General	327	327	327	---
Subtotal, Black Lung Disability	296,604	300,139	300,139	+3,535
Treasury Department Administrative Costs	356	356	356	---
Total, Black Lung Disability Trust Fund	296,960	300,495	300,495	+3,535
Total, Federal Programs for Workers' Compensation	851,021	1,007,407	1,001,932	+150,911
Federal Funds	848,897	1,005,223	999,808	+150,911
Current year	(807,897)	(965,223)	(959,808)	(+151,911)
FY 2013	(41,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(-1,000)
Trust Funds	2,124	2,184	2,124	---
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)				
SALARIES AND EXPENSES				
Safety and Health Standards	20,288	25,982	20,000	-288
Federal Enforcement	208,146	216,365	208,146	---
Whistleblower enforcement	14,806	20,948	15,903	+1,097
State Programs	104,393	105,893	104,393	---
Technical Support	25,868	25,950	25,868	---
Compliance Assistance:				
Federal Assistance	73,383	74,039	76,500	+3,117
State Consultation Grants	54,688	55,798	58,000	+3,312
Training Grants	10,729	12,000	10,729	---
Subtotal, Compliance Assistance	138,800	141,837	145,229	+6,429
Safety and Health Statistics	34,805	34,875	34,805	---
Executive Direction and Administration	11,513	11,536	11,513	---
Total, OSHA	558,619	583,386	565,857	+7,238
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION				
SALARIES AND EXPENSES				
Coal Enforcement	160,369	161,303	164,210	+3,841
Metal/Non-Metal Enforcement	87,644	89,990	88,831	+1,187
Standards Development	4,352	5,550	4,473	+121
Assessments	6,221	6,574	7,116	+895
Educational Policy and Development	38,148	36,338	38,398	+250
Technical Support	31,031	33,403	33,677	+2,646
Program Evaluation and Information Resources (PEIR)	18,173	20,654	18,191	+18
Program Administration	15,906	30,465	19,104	+3,198
Total, Mine Safety and Health Administration	361,844	384,277	374,000	+12,156
Total, Worker Protection Agencies	1,572,133	1,680,043	1,615,664	+43,531
Federal Funds	(1,570,009)	(1,677,859)	(1,613,540)	(+43,531)
Trust Funds	(2,124)	(2,184)	(2,124)	---
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS				
SALARIES AND EXPENSES				
Employment and Unemployment Statistics	210,673	219,043	210,673	---
Labor Market Information	67,303	69,136	67,303	---
Prices and Cost of Living	205,410	232,839	205,410	---
Compensation and Working Conditions	80,418	81,197	80,418	---
Productivity and Technology	12,078	10,201	12,078	---
Executive Direction and Staff Services	34,342	34,614	34,342	---
Total, Bureau of Labor Statistics	610,224	647,030	610,224	---
Federal Funds	542,921	577,894	542,921	---
Trust Funds	67,303	69,136	67,303	---
OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY				
SALARIES AND EXPENSES	38,953	39,031	38,953	---

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT				
SALARIES AND EXPENSES				
Executive Direction	33,283	33,213	33,283	---
Departmental IT Crosscut	---	---	---	---
Departmental Program Evaluation	8,500	18,400	8,500	---
Legal Services	119,121	132,578	129,121	+10,000
Trust Funds	326	331	326	---
International Labor Affairs	92,484	101,504	92,484	---
Administration and Management	30,339	30,745	30,339	---
Adjudication	29,227	30,576	29,227	---
Women's Bureau	11,581	11,620	11,581	---
Civil Rights Activities	6,798	7,223	6,798	---
Chief Financial Officer	5,350	5,364	5,350	---
Total, Salaries and expenses	337,009	371,554	347,009	+10,000
Federal Funds	(336,683)	(371,223)	(346,683)	(+10,000)
Federal Funds (emergency)	---	---	---	---
Trust Funds	(326)	(331)	(326)	---
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING				
State Administration, Grants	165,063	165,394	165,394	+331
Transition Assistance Program	6,986	9,000	9,000	+2,014
Federal Administration	35,242	35,222	35,222	-20
National Veterans Training Institute	2,444	2,449	2,444	---
Homeless Veterans Program	36,257	39,330	38,257	+2,000
Veterans Workforce Investment Programs	9,622	9,641	14,622	+5,000
Total, Veterans Employment and Training	255,614	261,036	264,939	+9,325
Federal Funds	45,879	48,971	52,879	+7,000
Trust Funds	209,735	212,065	212,060	+2,325
INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION				
Departmental support systems	11,852	17,000	11,852	---
Infrastructure technology modernization	8,000	8,000	8,000	---
Total, IT Modernization	19,852	25,000	19,852	---
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL				
Program Activities	77,937	78,453	77,937	---
Trust Funds	5,909	5,992	5,909	---
Total, Office of Inspector General	83,846	84,445	83,846	---
Total, Departmental Management	696,321	742,035	715,646	+19,325
Federal Funds	480,351	523,647	497,351	+17,000
Current Year	(480,351)	(523,647)	(497,351)	(+17,000)
Trust Funds	215,970	218,388	218,295	+2,325
Working Capital Fund	---	4,620	---	---
Total, Workforce Investment Act Programs	5,059,292	5,335,335	4,915,178	-144,114
Current Year	(2,596,292)	(2,897,335)	(3,143,178)	(+546,886)
FY 2013	(2,463,000)	(2,438,000)	(1,772,000)	(-691,000)
Total, Title I, Department of Labor	14,411,701	14,808,361	14,557,142	+145,441
Federal Funds	10,059,823	10,410,831	10,210,939	+151,116
Current Year	(7,555,823)	(7,932,831)	(8,398,939)	(+843,116)
FY 2013	(2,504,000)	(2,478,000)	(1,812,000)	(-692,000)
Trust Funds	4,351,878	4,397,530	4,346,203	-5,675

Title I Footnotes:
1/ FY2012 Budget requested $450 million in Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging.
2/ Two year availability

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES				
HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)				
HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES				
Primary Health Care				
Community Health Centers	1,580,749	2,117,814	1,580,749	---
Free Clinics Medical Malpractice	40	40	40	---
National Hansen's Disease Program	16,077	16,075	16,075	-2
Hansen's Disease Program Buildings and Facilities	129	129	129	---
Payment to Hawaii, Treatment of Hansen's	1,964	1,976	1,964	---
Subtotal	1,598,959	2,136,034	1,598,957	-2
Bureau of Health Professions (BHP)				
National Health Service Corps:				
Field placements	---	24,695	---	---
Marketing	---	---	---	---
Recruitment	24,848	98,782	---	-24,848
Undistributed	---	---	---	---
Total, NHS Corps program level	24,848	123,477	---	-24,848
Health Professions				
Health Professions, Training for Diversity:				
Centers of Excellence	24,452	24,602	22,952	-1,500
Health Careers Opportunity Program	21,998	22,133	15,000	-6,998
Faculty Loan Repayment	1,258	1,266	1,258	---
Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students	49,042	52,921	47,542	-1,500
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(7,079)	---	---
Subtotal, Training for Diversity	96,750	108,001	86,752	-9,998
Training in Primary Care Medicine	39,036	53,018	39,036	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(86,914)	---	---
Subtotal, Training in Primary Care Medicine	39,036	139,932	39,036	---
Oral Health Training	32,781	35,419	32,781	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(14,509)	---	---
Subtotal, Oral Health programs	32,781	49,928	32,781	---
Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages:				
Area Health Education Centers	33,142	33,345	30,142	-3,000
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(1,488)	---	---
Allied Health and Other Disciplines	1,933	---	---	-1,933
Geriatric Programs	33,542	36,907	30,997	-2,545
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(6,840)	---	---
Mental and Behavorial Health	2,927	17,945	2,927	---
Subtotal, Interdisciplinary Community Linkages	71,544	88,197	64,066	-7,478
Subtotal, Evaluation Tap Funding	---	8,328	---	---
Workforce Information and Analysis	2,815	---	2,815	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(20,000)	---	---
State Grants for Health Workforce Development	---	51,000	---	---
Public Health and Preventive Medicine programs	9,609	---	8,209	-1,400
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(10,068)	---	---
Subtotal	9,609	10,068	8,209	-1,400

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
Nursing Programs:				
Advanced Education Nursing	64,046	64,438	64,046	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(40,000)	---	---
Nurse Education, Practice, and Retention	39,653	40,141	39,653	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(19,632)	---	---
Nursing Workforce Diversity	16,009	16,107	16,009	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(3,893)	---	---
Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program	93,292	93,864	83,292	-10,000
Comprehensive Geriatric Education	4,539	---	4,539	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(5,000)	---	---
Nurse Managed Health Centers	---	10,000	---	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(10,000)	---	---
Nursing Faculty Loan Program	24,848	---	24,848	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(30,000)	---	---
Subtotal, Nursing programs	242,387	224,550	232,387	-10,000
Subtotal, Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(108,525)	---	---
Subtotal, Health Professions	494,922	553,106	466,046	-28,876
Subtotal, Evaluation tap funding	---	255,423	---	---
Total, Health Professions	494,922	808,529	466,046	-28,876
Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education	268,356	---	268,356	---
Patient Navigator	4,990	---	---	-4,990
Teaching Health Centers Planning Grants	---	10,000	---	---
National Practitioner Data Bank	19,750	28,016	28,016	+8,266
User Fees	-19,750	-28,016	-28,016	-8,266
Health Care Integrity and Protection Data Bank	3,758	---	---	-3,758
User Fees	-3,758	---	---	+3,758
Total, BHP program level	793,116	686,583	734,402	-58,714
Maternal and Child Health Bureau				
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	656,319	654,489	646,319	-10,000
Sickle Cell Anemia Demonstration Program	4,721	4,740	4,721	---
Traumatic Brain Injury	9,878	9,918	9,878	---
Autism and Other Developmental Disorders	47,708	55,000	47,708	---
Heritable Disorders	9,952	9,992	9,952	---
Congenital Disabilities	---	499	---	---
Healthy Start	104,361	104,776	104,776	+415
Universal Newborn Hearing	18,884	18,960	18,884	---
Emergency Medical Services for Children	21,369	21,454	21,369	---
Subtotal, Maternal and Child Health Bureau	873,192	879,828	863,607	-9,585
HIV/AIDS Bureau				
Ryan White AIDS Programs:				
Emergency Assistance	672,529	679,074	672,529	---
Comprehensive Care Programs	1,308,141	1,358,791	1,323,141	+15,000
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) (NA)	(885,000)	(940,000)	(900,000)	(+15,000)
Early Intervention Program	205,564	211,522	205,564	---
Children, Youth, Women, and Families	77,313	77,787	77,313	---
AIDS Dental Services	13,511	13,594	13,511	---
Education and Training Centers	34,607	34,819	34,607	---
Subtotal, Ryan White AIDS programs	2,311,665	2,375,587	2,326,665	+15,000
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	---
Subtotal, Ryan White AIDs program level	(2,336,665)	(2,400,587)	(2,351,665)	(+15,000)
Subtotal, HIV/AIDS Bureau	2,311,665	2,375,587	2,326,665	+15,000
Healthcare Systems Bureau				
Organ Transplantation	24,896	25,991	24,896	---
National Cord Blood Inventory	11,910	13,883	11,910	---
Bone Marrow Program	23,374	26,544	23,374	---
Office of Pharmacy Affairs	4,480	5,220	4,480	---
340B Drug Pricing User Fees	---	5,000	---	---
User Fees	---	-5,000	---	---
Poison Control	21,866	29,250	18,866	-3,000
Subtotal, Healthcare systems bureau	86,526	100,888	83,526	-3,000

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
Rural Health				
Rural Outreach Grants	55,658	57,266	55,658	---
Rural Health Research/Policy Development	9,885	9,929	9,885	---
Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants	41,118	26,200	41,118	---
Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices	236	---	2,500	+2,264
State Offices of Rural Health	10,055	10,075	10,055	---
Black Lung Clinics	7,153	7,185	7,153	---
Radiation Exposure Screening and Education Program	1,939	1,948	1,939	---
Telehealth	11,524	11,575	11,524	---
Subtotal, Rural health	137,568	124,178	139,832	+2,264
Family Planning	299,400	327,356	297,400	-2,000
Program Management	161,815	170,808	161,815	---
Total, Health resources and services (HRSA)	6,262,241	6,801,262	6,206,204	-56,037
Total, Health resources & services program level	(6,287,241)	(7,081,685)	(6,231,204)	(-56,037)
Total, Evaluation tap funding	(25,000)	(280,423)	(25,000)	---
HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT				
HEAL Liquidating Account	(1,000)	---	(1,000)	---
HEAL Program Management	2,841	---	2,841	---
Total, HEAL	2,841	---	2,841	---
VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM TRUST FUND				
Post-FY 1988 Claims	220,000	235,000	235,000	+15,000
HRSA Administration	6,489	6,502	6,489	---
Total, Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	226,489	241,502	241,489	+15,000
Total, Health Resources & Services Administration	6,491,571	7,042,764	6,450,534	-41,037
Total, Evaluation tap funding	(25,000)	(280,423)	(25,000)	---
Total, HRSA program level	(6,516,571)	(7,323,187)	(6,475,534)	(-41,037)
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION				
DISEASE CONTROL, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING				
Immunization and Respiratory Diseases	479,049	647,200	579,375	+100,326
Evaluation Tap Funding	(12,864)	(12,864)	(12,864)	---
Pandemic Flu balances (Public Law 111-32)	(156,344)	---	---	(-156,344)
Subtotal	(648,257)	(660,064)	(592,239)	(-56,018)
HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention	1,075,995	1,157,133	1,105,995	+30,000
Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases	252,443	289,118	253,919	+1,476
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion	813,987	725,207	760,700	-53,287
Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities	136,072	143,899	138,072	+2,000
Public Health Scientific Services	147,795	205,942	144,795	-3,000
Evaluation Tap Funding	(247,769)	(217,674)	(247,769)	---
Subtotal	(395,564)	(423,616)	(392,564)	(-3,000)
Environmental Health	134,855	128,715	105,598	-29,257
Injury Prevention and Control	143,714	147,501	138,480	-5,234
National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health 1/	224,355	---	182,903	-41,452
Evaluation Tap Funding	(91,724)	(259,934)	(110,724)	(+19,000)
Subtotal	(316,079)	(259,934)	(293,627)	(-22,452)
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program	55,358	55,358	55,358	---
Global Health	340,265	381,245	349,547	+9,282
Public Health Preparedness and Response	1,336,901	1,422,618	1,306,906	-29,995
Pandemic Flu balances (Public Law 111-32)	(68,515)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(-38,515)
Subtotal	1,405,416	1,452,618	1,336,906	-68,510

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support	563,539	568,834	621,445	+57,906
CDC contracting and administrative reduction	---	---	-20,000	-20,000
Total, Centers for Disease Control	5,704,328	5,872,770	5,723,093	+18,765
Discretionary	5,648,970	5,817,412	5,667,735	+18,765
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	(352,357)	(490,472)	(371,357)	(+19,000)
Pandemic Flu balances (Public Law 111-32)	(224,859)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(-194,859)
Total, Centers for Disease Control Program Level	(6,281,544)	(6,393,242)	(6,124,450)	(-157,094)
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH				
National Cancer Institute	5,058,577	5,196,136	5,081,788	+23,211
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	3,069,723	3,147,992	3,084,851	+15,128
National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research	409,608	420,369	411,488	+1,880
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	1,792,224	1,837,957	1,800,447	+8,223
National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	1,622,003	1,664,253	1,629,445	+7,442
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	4,478,668	4,615,970	4,499,215	+20,547
Global HIV/AIDS Fund Transfer	297,300	300,000	---	-297,300
Subtotal, NIAID program level	4,775,968	4,915,970	4,499,215	-276,753
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	2,033,782	2,102,300	2,434,637	+400,855
National Institute of Child Health & Human Development	1,317,854	1,352,189	1,323,900	+6,046
National Eye Institute	700,828	719,059	704,043	+3,215
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	683,724	700,537	686,869	+3,145
National Institute on Aging	1,100,481	1,129,987	1,105,530	+5,049
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	534,349	547,891	536,801	+2,452
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	415,155	426,043	417,061	+1,906
National Institute of Nursing Research	144,381	148,114	145,043	+662
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	458,286	469,197	460,389	+2,103
National Institute on Drug Abuse	1,050,542	1,080,018	1,055,362	+4,820
National Institute of Mental Health	1,477,292	1,517,006	1,483,068	+5,776
National Human Genome Research Institute	511,497	524,807	513,844	+2,347
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	313,802	322,106	338,998	+25,196
National Center for Research Resources	1,257,754	1,297,900	---	-1,257,754
National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine	127,713	131,002	128,299	+586
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	209,714	214,608	276,963	+67,249
John E. Fogarty International Center	69,436	71,328	69,754	+318
National Center for Advancing Translation Sciences	---	---	576,456	+576,456
National Library of Medicine (NLM)	336,733	387,153	338,278	+1,545
Evaluation Tap Funding	(8,200)	(8,200)	(8,200)	---
Subtotal	344,933	395,353	346,478	+1,545
Office of the Director	1,166,963	1,298,412	1,461,880	+294,917
Common fund	(543,021)	(556,890)	(545,962)	(+2,941)
Buildings and Facilities	49,900	125,581	125,581	+75,681
Total, National Institutes of Health (NIH)	30,688,289	31,747,915	30,689,990	+1,701
Global HIV/AIDS Fund Transfer out	-297,300	-300,000	---	+297,300
Pandemic Flu balances (Public Law 111-32)	---	---	---	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	(8,200)	(8,200)	(8,200)	---
Total, NIH Program Level	(30,399,189)	(31,456,115)	(30,698,190)	(+299,001)

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)				
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES				
Mental Health:				
Programs of Regional and National Significance....	338,276	273,342	276,278	-61,998
Mental Health block grant.....	398,936	413,645	439,548	+40,612
Evaluation Tap Funding.....	(20,997)	(21,039)	(21,039)	(+42)
Subtotal, Program level.....	(419,933)	(434,684)	(460,587)	(+40,654)
Children's Mental Health.....	117,803	121,316	117,803	---
Grants to States for the Homeless (PATH).....	64,917	65,047	64,917	---
Protection and Advocacy.....	36,307	36,380	36,307	---
State prevention grants.....	---	90,000	---	---
Subtotal, Mental Health.....	956,239	999,730	934,853	-21,386
Subtotal, Mental health program level.....	(977,236)	(1,020,769)	(955,892)	(-21,344)
Substance Abuse Treatment:				
Programs of Regional and National Significance....	404,480	401,822	399,602	-4,878
Evaluation Tap Funding.....	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	---
Subtotal, Program level.....	(406,480)	(403,822)	(401,602)	(-4,878)
Substance Abuse block grant.....	1,703,452	1,419,603	1,724,391	+20,939
Evaluation Tap Funding.....	(79,200)	(74,711)	(79,200)	---
Subtotal, Program level.....	(1,782,652)	(1,494,314)	(1,803,591)	(+20,939)
Subtotal, Substance Abuse Treatment.....	2,107,932	1,821,425	2,123,993	+16,061
Subtotal, Program level.....	(2,189,132)	(1,898,136)	(2,205,193)	(+16,061)
Substance Abuse Prevention:				
Programs of Regional and National Significance....	186,061	74,582	186,361	+300
Substance abuse prevention grants.....	---	395,000	---	---
Subtotal.....	186,061	469,582	186,361	+300
Total, Substance Abuse.....	2,375,193	2,367,718	2,391,554	+16,361
Health Surveillance and Program Support.....	129,306	96,166	109,106	-20,200
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA).....	(29,346)	(71,995)	(27,428)	(-1,918)
Subtotal, Program level.....	158,652	168,161	136,534	-22,118
Total, SAMHSA.....	3,379,538	3,386,903	3,354,313	-25,225
Evaluation Tap Funding.....	(131,543)	(169,745)	(129,667)	(-1,876)
Total, SAMHSA Program Level.....	(3,511,081)	(3,556,648)	(3,483,980)	(-27,101)
AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY (AHRQ)				
HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY				
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes Program Level.....	(265,653)	(256,612)	(247,768)	(-17,885)
Comparative Effectiveness Research (NA).....	21,000	21,600	16,600	-4,400
Evaluation Tap funding.....	(21,000)	(21,600)	(16,600)	(-4,400)
Patient Safety Research and Health (NA).....	(93,230)	(92,194)	(91,157)	(-2,073)
Preventive/Care Management (NA).....	15,904	23,304	15,904	---
Evaluation Tap funding.....	(15,904)	(23,304)	(15,904)	---
Value Research (NA).....	(3,730)	(3,730)	(3,730)	---
Crosscutting (NA).....	(111,789)	(91,784)	(108,377)	(-3,412)
Subtotal, Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes...	(265,653)	(256,612)	(247,768)	(-17,885)
Subtotal, Evaluation Tap Funding.....	(245,653)	(232,612)	(235,768)	(-9,885)
Medical Expenditures Panel Surveys:				
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA).....	(58,800)	(59,300)	(59,300)	(+500)

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
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	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
Program Support:				
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	(67,600)	(74,485)	(73,985)	(+6,385)
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	(372,053)	(366,397)	(369,053)	(-3,000)
Total, AHRQ Program Level	(372,053)	(366,397)	(369,053)	(-3,000)
Total, Public Health Service (PHS) appropriation	46,263,726	48,050,352	46,217,930	-45,796
Total, Public Health Service Program Level	(47,378,738)	(49,395,589)	(47,152,207)	(-226,531)
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES				
GRANTS TO STATES FOR MEDICAID				
Medicaid Current Law Benefits	242,714,348	253,884,907	253,884,907	+11,170,559
State and Local Administration	13,567,479	12,808,496	12,808,496	-758,983
Vaccines for Children	3,651,354	4,030,996	4,030,996	+379,642
Subtotal, Medicaid Program Level	259,933,181	270,724,399	270,724,399	+10,791,218
Less funds advanced in prior year	-86,789,382	-86,445,289	-86,445,289	+344,093
Total, Grants to States for Medicaid	173,143,799	184,279,110	184,279,110	+11,135,311
New advance, 1st quarter	86,445,289	90,614,082	90,614,082	+4,168,793
PAYMENTS TO HEALTH CARE TRUST FUNDS				
Supplemental Medical Insurance	172,697,622	178,041,000	178,041,000	+5,343,378
Federal Uninsured Payment	275,000	262,000	262,000	-13,000
Program Management	229,000	222,000	222,000	-7,000
General Revenue for Part D Benefit	55,548,000	51,431,000	51,431,000	-4,117,000
General Revenue for Part D Administration	404,000	475,000	475,000	+71,000
HCFAC Reimbursement	310,378	581,000	310,378	---
Total, Payments to Trust Funds, Program Level	229,464,000	231,012,000	230,741,378	+1,277,378
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT				
Research, Demonstration, Evaluation	35,529	31,200	21,200	-14,329
Medicare Operations	2,419,569	---	---	-2,419,569
Program operations	---	3,062,025	2,663,935	+2,663,935
State Survey and Certification	362,076	400,283	355,876	-6,200
High Risk Insurance Pools	54,890	44,000	44,000	-10,890
Federal Administration	766,791	859,465	794,465	+27,674
Total, Program management, Limitation on new BA.	3,638,855	4,396,973	3,879,476	+240,621
HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL				
Part D Drug Benefit/Medicare Advantage (MIP)	219,879	345,295	219,879	---
HHS Office of Inspector General	29,730	97,556	29,730	---
Medicaid/CHIP	31,038	44,644	31,038	---
Department of Justice	29,730	93,085	29,730	---
Total, Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control	310,377	580,580	310,377	---
Total, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services	493,002,320	510,882,745	509,824,423	+16,822,103
Federal funds	489,053,088	505,905,192	505,634,570	+16,581,482
Current year	(402,607,799)	(415,291,110)	(415,020,488)	(+12,412,689)
New advance, FY 2013	(86,445,289)	(90,614,082)	(90,614,082)	(+4,168,793)
Trust Funds	3,949,232	4,977,553	4,189,853	+240,621
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES				
PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS				
Payments to Territories	33,000	33,000	33,000	---
Repatriation	1,000	1,000	1,000	---
Subtotal, Welfare payments	34,000	34,000	34,000	---

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
Child Support Enforcement:				
State and Local Administration	3,507,323	2,942,035	2,942,035	-565,288
Federal Incentive Payments	513,000	519,000	519,000	+6,000
Access and Visitation	10,000	10,000	10,000	---
Subtotal, Child Support Enforcement	4,030,323	3,471,035	3,471,035	-559,288
Total, Family Support Payments Program Level	4,064,323	3,505,035	3,505,035	-559,288
Less funds advanced in previous years	-1,100,000	-1,200,000	-1,200,000	-100,000
Total, Family Support Payments, current year	2,964,323	2,305,035	2,305,035	-659,288
New advance, 1st quarter, FY 2013	1,200,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	-100,000
LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP)				
Formula Grants	4,500,653	1,980,000	3,478,246	-1,022,407
Contingency Fund	199,927	589,551	---	-199,927
Total, LIHEAP, Program Level	4,700,580	2,569,551	3,478,246	-1,222,334
REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE				
Transitional and Medical Services	352,625	394,224	373,000	+20,375
Victims of Trafficking	9,794	9,814	9,794	---
Social Services	153,697	179,005	153,697	---
Preventive Health	4,739	4,748	4,739	---
Targeted Assistance	48,493	48,590	48,493	---
Unaccompanied Minors	149,052	177,225	169,000	+19,948
Victims of Torture	11,066	11,088	11,066	---
Total, Refugee and Entrant Assistance	729,466	824,694	769,789	+40,323
PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT				
Child Care and Development Block Grant	2,222,627	2,926,757	2,282,627	+60,000
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (TITLE XX)	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	---
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS				
Programs for Children, Youth and Families:				
Head Start, current funded	7,559,633	8,099,783	7,983,633	+424,000
Consolidated Runaway, Homeless Youth Program	97,539	102,734	97,539	---
Prevention Grants to Reduce Abuse of Runaway Youth	17,935	17,971	17,935	---
Child Abuse State Grants	26,482	26,535	26,482	---
Child Abuse Discretionary Activities	25,793	29,020	25,793	---
Community Based Child Abuse Prevention	41,606	41,689	41,606	---
Abandoned Infants Assistance	11,605	11,575	11,575	-30
Child Welfare Services	281,181	281,744	281,181	---
Child Welfare Training/ Innovative Approaches to Foster Care	27,153	27,207	26,141	-1,012
Adoption Opportunities	39,253	39,332	39,253	---
Adoption Incentive	39,421	49,875	39,421	---
Strengthening Communities Fund	---	20,000	---	---
Social Services and Income Maintenance Research	---	3,000	---	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	(5,762)	(5,762)	(5,762)	---
Developmental Disabilities Programs:				
State Councils	74,916	75,066	74,916	---
Protection and Advocacy	40,942	41,024	40,942	---
Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities	17,375	---	5,245	-12,130
Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance	14,134	8,333	8,333	-5,801
University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities	38,865	38,943	38,865	---
Subtotal, Developmental Disabilities Programs	186,232	163,366	168,301	-17,931

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
Native American Programs	48,675	48,773	48,675	---
Community Services:				
Community Services Block Grant Act programs:				
Grants to States for Community Services	678,640	350,000	678,640	---
Economic Development	17,964	20,000	30,000	+12,036
Rural Community Facilities	4,990	---	4,990	---
Subtotal	701,594	370,000	713,630	+12,036
Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals	1,641	---	---	-1,641
Individual Development Account Initiative	23,977	23,907	19,907	-4,070
Subtotal, Community Services	727,212	393,907	733,537	+6,325
Domestic Violence Hotline	3,202	4,500	3,203	+1
Family Violence/Battered Women's Shelters	129,792	135,052	129,792	---
Mentoring Children of Prisoners	---	25,000	---	---
Independent Living Training Vouchers	45,260	45,351	45,260	---
Faith-Based Center	1,373	1,376	1,373	---
Disaster Human Services Case Management	1,996	2,000	1,996	---
Program Direction	208,013	224,808	204,013	-4,000
Total, Children and Families Services Programs	9,519,356	9,794,598	9,926,709	+407,353
Current Year	(9,519,356)	(9,794,598)	(9,926,709)	(+407,353)
Evaluation Tap Funding	(5,762)	(5,762)	(5,762)	---
Total, Program Level	(9,525,118)	(9,800,360)	(9,932,471)	(+407,353)
PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES	365,000	365,000	345,000	-20,000
Discretionary Funds	63,184	63,311	63,184	---
PAYMENTS FOR FOSTER CARE AND PERMANENCY				
Foster Care	3,967,000	4,288,000	4,288,000	+321,000
Adoption Assistance	2,480,000	2,495,000	2,495,000	+15,000
Kinship Guardianship	32,000	80,000	80,000	+48,000
Independent Living	140,000	140,000	140,000	---
Total, Payments to States	6,619,000	7,003,000	7,003,000	+384,000
Less Advances from Prior Year	-1,850,000	-1,850,000	-1,850,000	---
Total, payments, current year	4,769,000	5,153,000	5,153,000	+384,000
New Advance, 1st quarter	1,850,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	+250,000
Total, Administration for Children & Families	30,083,536	28,901,946	29,223,590	-859,946
Current year	(27,033,536)	(25,701,946)	(26,023,590)	(-1,009,946)
FY 2013	(3,050,000)	(3,200,000)	(3,200,000)	(+150,000)
Evaluation Tap Funding	(5,762)	(5,762)	(5,762)	---
Total, ACF Program Level	30,089,298	28,907,708	29,229,352	-859,946

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
ADMINISTRATION ON AGING				
AGING SERVICES PROGRAMS				
Grants to States:				
Home and Community-based Supportive Services	367,611	416,476	367,611	---
Preventive Health	20,984	21,026	20,984	---
Protection of Vulnerable Older Americans-Title VII	21,839	26,880	21,839	---
Subtotal	410,434	464,382	410,434	---
Family Caregivers	153,912	192,220	153,912	---
Native American Caregivers Support	6,376	8,388	6,376	---
Subtotal, Caregivers	160,288	200,608	160,288	---
Nutrition:				
Congregate Meals	439,901	440,718	439,901	---
Home Delivered Meals	217,241	217,644	217,241	---
Nutrition Services Incentive Program	160,693	160,991	160,693	---
Subtotal	817,835	819,353	817,835	---
Subtotal, Grants to States	1,388,557	1,484,343	1,388,557	---
Grants for Native Americans	27,653	27,704	27,653	---
Program Innovations	19,069	11,509	---	-19,069
Aging Network Support Activities	8,183	7,948	7,888	-295
Alzheimer's Disease Demonstrations	11,441	11,462	4,018	-7,423
Lifespan Respite Care	2,495	10,000	2,495	---
Chronic Disease Self-Management Program	---	10,000	---	---
Adult Protective Services Demonstration	---	16,500	---	---
Community Service Employment for Older Americans	---	450,000	---	---
Program Administration--Aging services	19,939	24,543	23,107	+3,168
Program Administration--CLASS Administration	---	120,000	---	---
Senior Medicare Patrol Program	9,420	9,438	9,420	---
Elder Rights Support Activities	4,096	4,103	4,096	---
Aging and Disability Resources	6,469	3,434	6,469	---
State Health Insurance Program	---	46,960	---	---
Total, Administration on Aging	1,497,322	2,237,944	1,473,703	-23,619
Federal funds	1,497,322	2,190,984	1,473,703	-23,619
Trust Funds	---	(46,960)	---	---
Total, Administration on Aging program level	1,497,322	2,237,944	1,473,703	-23,619

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY				
GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT				
General Departmental Management:				
Federal Funds	201,713	250,905	220,014	+18,301
Trust Funds	5,851	---	---	-5,851
Subtotal	207,564	250,905	220,014	+12,450
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Community Grants	104,790	---	104,790	---
Teen Pregnancy Prevention approaches				
Evaluation Tap Funding	(4,455)	(8,455)	(8,455)	(+4,000)
Subtotal, Pregnancy Grants	(109,245)	(8,455)	(113,245)	(+4,000)
Abstinence Education	---	---	5,000	+5,000
Adolescent Family Life (Title XX)	12,474	---	---	-12,474
Minority Health	55,888	57,980	55,888	---
Office of Women's Health	33,746	33,746	33,746	---
Minority HIV/AIDS	53,783	---	53,783	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	---	(53,891)	---	---
Transformation of the Commissioned Corps	8,071	7,013	---	-8,071
Embryo Adoption Awareness Campaign	2,004	2,000	2,000	-4
Healthcare-associated infections activities	1,450	5,000	---	-1,450
Acquisition reform	---	7,000	---	---
Planning and Evaluation, Evaluation Tap Funding	(60,756)	(64,356)	(60,756)	---
Total, General Departmental Management	479,770	363,644	475,221	-4,549
Federal Funds	(473,919)	(363,644)	(475,221)	(+1,302)
Trust Funds	5,851	---	---	-5,851
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	(65,211)	(126,702)	(69,211)	(+4,000)
Total, General Departmental Management Program	544,981	490,346	544,432	-549
OFFICE OF MEDICARE HEARINGS AND APPEALS	71,005	81,019	72,147	+1,142
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	42,246	57,013	16,446	-25,800
Evaluation Tap Funding	(19,011)	(21,400)	(44,811)	(+25,800)
Total, Program Level	(61,257)	(78,413)	(61,257)	---
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL				
Inspector General Federal Funds	50,178	53,329	50,178	---
Evaluation tap funding, Planning and Evaluation	---	(10,000)	---	---
HIPAA/HCFAC funding (NA)	(197,998)	(193,387)	(193,387)	(-4,611)
HCFAC funding (NA)	(29,730)	(97,556)	(97,556)	(+67,826)
HCFAC collections (NA)	---	(12,000)	(12,000)	(+12,000)
Medicaid Integrity Program Deficit Reduction Act (P.L. 109-171) (NA)	---	(25,000)	(25,000)	(+25,000)
Total, Inspector General Program Level	(277,906)	(391,272)	(378,121)	(+100,215)
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS:				
Federal Funds	37,709	46,717	41,016	+3,307
Trust Funds	3,307	---	---	-3,307
Total, Office for Civil Rights	41,016	46,717	41,016	---
RETIREMENT PAY AND MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS				
Retirement Payments	386,040	418,082	418,082	+32,042
Survivors Benefits	27,888	31,625	31,625	+3,737
Dependents' Medical Care	103,608	114,798	114,798	+11,190
Total,Medical Benefits for Commissioned Officers	517,536	564,505	564,505	+46,969

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND				
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response				
Operations	12,548	38,624	33,053	+20,505
ASPR Co-located Office Facility	---	10,000	---	---
Preparedness and Emergency Operations	32,999	34,647	29,647	-3,352
National Disaster Medical System	55,925	52,850	52,850	-3,075
Hospital Preparedness Cooperative Agreement Grants:				
Formula Grants	377,997	352,411	352,411	-25,586
Other Costs	---	23,055	23,055	+23,055
Emergency Systems for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP)	5,861	5,000	5,000	-861
Bioterrorism Advanced Research and Development Authority	415,000	765,000	415,000	---
Medical Countermeasure Dispensing	---	5,000	---	---
Global Medicine, Science, and Public Health	8,731	---	---	-8,731
Policy, Strategic Planning, and Communications	4,358	15,708	15,708	+11,350
Subtotal, AS for Preparedness and Response	913,419	1,302,295	926,724	+13,305
Assistant Secretary for Administration				
Assistant Secretary for Administration, Cybersecurity	56,680	40,000	40,000	-16,680
Office of Security and Strategic Information	7,428	6,460	6,460	-968
Public Health and Science				
Medical Reserve Corps	11,925	11,268	11,268	-657
Office of the Secretary				
Parklawn Lease Expiration	34,930	---	---	-34,930
Pandemic Influenza Preparedness:				
Fiscal year 2013	65,447	---	---	-65,447
Subtotal, Office of the Secretary	100,377	---	---	-100,377
Subtotal, Non-pandemic flu/BARDA/BioShield/Parklawn	574,452	585,023	569,452	-5,000
Total, PHSSEF	1,089,829	1,360,023	984,452	-105,377
Total, Office of the Secretary	2,291,580	2,526,250	2,203,965	-87,615
Federal Funds	2,211,417	2,445,231	2,131,818	-79,599
Trust Funds	80,163	81,019	72,147	-8,016
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	(84,222)	(158,102)	(114,022)	(+29,800)
Total, Office of the Secretary Program Level	2,375,802	2,684,352	2,317,987	-57,815
Total, Title II, Dept of Health & Human Services	573,138,484	592,599,237	588,943,611	+15,805,127
Federal Funds	569,109,089	587,493,705	584,681,611	+15,572,522
Current year	(479,613,800)	(493,679,623)	(490,867,529)	(+11,253,729)
FY 2013	(89,495,289)	(93,814,082)	(93,814,082)	(+4,318,793)
Trust Funds	4,029,395	5,105,532	4,262,000	+232,605
Pandemic Flu balances (Public Law 111-32)	(224,859)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(-194,859)

Title II Footnotes:
1/ Includes Mine Safety and Health

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				
EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED				
Grants to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)				
Basic Grants:				
Advance from prior year	(3,448,145)	(2,962,510)	(2,962,510)	(-485,635)
Forward funded	3,618,248	2,806,504	3,618,248	---
Current funded	3,992	4,000	3,992	---
Subtotal, Basic grants current year approp.	3,622,240	2,810,504	3,622,240	---
Subtotal, Basic grants total funds available	(7,070,385)	(5,773,014)	(6,584,750)	(-485,635)
Basic Grants FY 2013 Advance	2,962,510	3,787,442	2,962,510	---
Subtotal, Basic grants, program level	6,584,750	6,597,946	6,584,750	---
Concentration Grants:				
Advance from prior year	(1,365,031)	(1,362,301)	(1,362,301)	(-2,730)
FY 2013 Advance	1,362,301	1,365,031	1,362,301	---
Targeted Grants:				
Forward funded	---	---	30,000	+30,000
Advance from prior year	(3,014,000)	(3,258,183)	(3,258,183)	(+244,183)
FY 2013 Advance	3,258,183	3,264,712	3,258,183	---
Subtotal (excluding emergencies)	3,258,183	3,264,712	3,288,183	+30,000
Education Finance Incentive Grants:				
Forward Funded	---	---	30,000	+30,000
Advance from prior year	(3,014,000)	(3,258,183)	(3,258,183)	(+244,183)
FY 2013 Advance	3,258,183	3,264,712	3,258,183	---
Subtotal	3,258,183	3,264,712	3,288,183	+30,000
Subtotal, Grants to LEAs, program level	14,463,417	14,792,401	14,523,417	+60,000
Title I Rewards	---	300,000	---	---
Subtotal, Grants to LEAs, program level	14,463,417	14,792,401	14,523,417	+60,000
School Improvement Grants	534,562	600,000	534,562	---
Early Learning Challenge Fund	---	350,000	---	---
Striving Readers	---	---	160,000	+160,000
State Agency Programs:				
Migrant	393,981	394,771	393,981	---
Neglected and Delinquent/High Risk Youth	50,326	50,427	50,326	---
Subtotal, State Agency programs	444,307	445,198	444,307	---
Evaluation	8,151	---	3,200	-4,951
High School Graduation Initiative	48,902	---	48,902	---
Migrant Education:				
High School Equivalency Program	36,595	36,668	36,595	---
Total, Education for the disadvantaged	15,535,934	16,224,267	15,750,983	+215,049
Current Year	(4,694,757)	(4,542,370)	(4,909,806)	(+215,049)
FY 2013	(10,841,177)	(11,681,897)	(10,841,177)	---
Subtotal, Forward Funded	(4,597,117)	(4,201,702)	(4,817,117)	(+220,000)

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
IMPACT AID				
Basic Support Payments	1,135,724	1,138,000	1,155,724	+20,000
Payments for Children with Disabilities	48,505	48,602	48,505	---
Facilities Maintenance (Sec. 8008)	4,854	4,864	4,854	---
Construction (Sec. 8007)	17,474	17,509	17,474	---
Payments for Federal Property (Sec. 8002)	67,074	67,208	67,074	---
Total, Impact aid	1,273,631	1,276,183	1,293,631	+20,000
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS				
Effective Teaching and Learning: Literacy	---	383,348	---	---
Effective Teaching and Learning: STEM	---	206,046	---	---
Effective Teaching and Learning for Well-Rounded Educ.	---	246,084	---	---
College Pathways	---	86,000	---	---
State Grants for Improving Teacher Quality	786,613	---	786,613	---
Advance from prior year	(1,678,078)	(1,681,441)	(1,681,441)	(+3,363)
FY 2013	1,681,441	---	1,681,441	---
Subtotal, State Grants for Improving Teacher Quality, program level	2,468,054	---	2,468,054	---
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	175,127	---	150,000	-25,127
Supplemental Education Grants	17,652	17,687	17,652	---
21st Century Community Learning Centers	1,153,854	1,266,166	1,153,854	---
State Assessments/Enhanced Assessment Instruments	389,951	420,000	389,951	---
Foreign Language Assistance	26,874	---	---	-26,874
Consolidated Runaway and Homeless Youth programs	65,296	65,427	65,296	---
Training and Advisory Services (Civil Rights)	6,975	6,989	6,975	---
Education for Native Hawaiians	34,246	34,315	34,246	---
Alaska Native Education Equity	33,248	33,315	33,248	---
Rural Education	174,532	174,882	179,532	+5,000
Comprehensive Centers	51,210	56,313	51,210	---
Total, School improvement programs	4,597,019	2,996,572	4,550,018	-47,001
Current Year	(2,915,578)	(2,996,572)	(2,868,577)	(-47,001)
FY 2013	(1,681,441)	---	(1,681,441)	---
Subtotal, Forward Funded	(2,745,373)	(1,926,475)	(2,725,246)	(-20,127)
INDIAN EDUCATION				
Grants to Local Educational Agencies	104,122	104,331	106,122	+2,000
Federal Programs:				
Special Programs for Indian Children	19,022	19,060	19,022	---
National Activities	3,883	3,891	5,883	+2,000
Subtotal, Federal Programs	22,905	22,951	24,905	+2,000
Total, Indian Education	127,027	127,282	131,027	+4,000

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT				
Race to the Top	698,600	900,000	550,000	-148,600
Investing in Innovation Fund	149,700	300,000	149,700	---
Effective Teachers and Leaders State Grants	---	2,500,000	---	---
Teacher and Leader Innovation Fund	---	500,000	---	---
Teacher and Leader Pathways	---	250,000	---	---
Expanding Educational Options	---	372,000	---	---
Transition to Teaching	41,124	---	26,103	-15,021
Teaching of Traditional American History	45,908	---	---	-45,908
School Leadership	29,162	---	29,162	---
Charter Schools Grants	255,519	---	255,519	---
Voluntary Public School Choice	25,767	---	---	-25,767
Magnet Schools Assistance	99,800	110,000	99,800	---
Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE)	40,900	13,000	65,900	+25,000
Advanced research projects	---	50,000	---	---
Teacher Incentive Fund	399,200	---	300,000	-99,200
Ready-to-Learn television	27,245	---	27,245	---
Advanced Placement	43,253	---	27,000	-16,253
Total, Innovation and Improvement	1,856,178	4,995,000	1,530,429	-325,749
Current Year	(1,856,178)	(4,995,000)	(1,530,429)	(-325,749)
SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION				
Safe and Healthy Students	---	364,966	---	---
Promise Neighborhoods	29,940	150,000	60,000	+30,060
National Programs	119,226	---	65,000	-54,226
Alcohol Abuse Reduction	6,907	---	---	-6,907
Elementary and Secondary School Counseling	52,395	---	52,395	---
Carol M. White Physical Education Program	78,842	---	78,842	---
Civic Education	1,155	---	---	-1,155
Total, Safe Schools and Citizenship Education	288,465	514,966	256,237	-32,228
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION				
Current funded	47,679	48,750	47,679	---
Forward funded	685,851	701,250	685,851	---
Total, English Language Acquisition	733,530	750,000	733,530	---
SPECIAL EDUCATION				
State Grants:				
Grants to States Part B current year	2,889,817	2,272,108	2,298,817	-591,000
Part B advance from prior year	(8,575,198)	(8,592,383)	(8,592,383)	(+17,185)
Grants to States Part B (FY 2013)	8,592,383	9,433,103	9,283,383	+691,000
Subtotal, program level	11,482,200	11,705,211	11,582,200	+100,000
Preschool Grants	373,351	374,099	373,351	---
Grants for Infants and Families	438,548	489,427	443,548	+5,000
Subtotal, program level	12,294,099	12,568,737	12,399,099	+105,000
IDEA National Activities (current funded):				
State Personnel Development	46,846	48,000	44,000	-2,846
Technical Assistance and Dissemination	56,885	57,644	54,885	-2,000
Personnel Preparation	88,466	90,653	88,466	---
Parent Information Centers	27,972	28,028	28,972	+1,000
Technology and Media Services	28,644	33,289	29,644	+1,000
Subtotal, IDEA special programs	248,813	257,614	245,967	-2,846
Mentoring for Individuals with Disabilities	---	5,000	---	---
PROMISE	---	30,000	2,000	+2,000
Total, Special education	12,542,912	12,861,351	12,647,066	+104,154
Current Year	(3,950,529)	(3,428,248)	(3,363,683)	(-586,846)
FY 2013	(8,592,383)	(9,433,103)	(9,283,383)	(+691,000)
Subtotal, Forward Funded	(3,701,716)	(3,135,634)	(3,115,716)	(-586,000)

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH				
Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants	3,084,696	3,121,712	3,121,712	+37,016
Discretionary supplement	---	19,266	---	---
Subtotal, VR State grants program level	3,084,696	3,140,978	3,121,712	+37,016
Client Assistance State grants	12,263	12,288	12,263	---
Training	35,582	33,251	35,582	---
Demonstration and Training programs	6,459	---	5,335	-1,124
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	1,856	---	1,264	-592
Protection and Advocacy of Individual Rights (PAIR)	18,065	18,101	18,065	---
Supported Employment State grants	29,123	---	29,123	---
Independent Living:				
Independent Living grants	---	103,716	---	---
State Grants	23,403	---	23,403	---
Centers	80,105	---	80,105	---
Services for Older Blind Individuals	34,083	34,151	34,083	---
Subtotal	137,591	137,867	137,591	---
National activities to improve rehabilitation	---	8,000	---	---
Access through cloud computing	---	10,000	---	---
Workforce innovation fund	---	30,000	---	---
Helen Keller National Center for Deaf/Blind Youth and Adults	9,163	9,181	9,163	---
National Inst. Disability and Rehab. Research (NIDRR)	109,023	110,485	109,023	---
Assistive Technology	30,898	30,960	32,898	+2,000
Subtotal, Discretionary programs	390,023	419,399	390,307	+284
Total, Rehabilitation services	3,474,719	3,541,111	3,512,019	+37,300
SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES				
AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND	24,551	24,600	24,551	---
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF (NTID):				
Operations	65,306	63,037	65,546	+240
Construction	240	2,000	---	-240
Total, NTID	65,546	65,037	65,546	---
GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY:				
Operations	117,764	118,000	117,764	---
Construction	4,990	---	7,990	+3,000
Total, Gallaudet University	122,754	118,000	125,754	+3,000
Total, Special Institutions for Persons with Disabilities	212,851	207,637	215,851	+3,000
CAREER, TECHNICAL AND ADULT EDUCATION				
Career Education:				
Basic State Grants/Secondary & Technical Education				
State Grants, current funded	332,659	209,000	332,659	---
Advance from prior year	(791,000)	(791,000)	(791,000)	---
FY 2013	791,000	791,000	791,000	---
Subtotal, Basic State Grants, program level	1,123,659	1,000,000	1,123,659	---
National Programs	7,844	7,860	7,844	---
Subtotal, Career Education	1,131,503	1,007,860	1,131,503	---

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
Adult Education:				
State Grants/Adult Basic and Literacy Education:				
State Grants, current funded	596,120	635,000	596,120	---
National Leadership Activities	11,323	23,346	11,323	---
Subtotal, Adult education	607,443	658,346	607,443	---
State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders	---	17,186	---	---
Total, Career and adult education	1,738,946	1,683,392	1,738,946	---
Current Year	(947,946)	(892,392)	(947,946)	---
FY 2013	(791,000)	(791,000)	(791,000)	---
Subtotal, Forward Funded	(947,946)	(892,392)	(947,946)	---
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE				
Pell Grants -- maximum grant (NA)	(4,860)	(4,860)	(4,860)	---
Pell Grants	22,955,996	28,600,059	22,824,000	-131,996
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	735,990	757,465	735,990	---
Federal Work Study	978,531	980,492	978,531	---
Total, Student Financial Assistance (SFA)	24,670,517	30,338,016	24,538,521	-131,996
STUDENT AID ADMINISTRATION				
Salaries and Expenses	675,363	725,104	675,363	---
Servicing Activities	316,649	370,314	370,000	+53,351
Total, Student Aid Administration	992,012	1,095,418	1,045,363	+53,351
HIGHER EDUCATION				
Aid for Institutional Development:				
Strengthening Institutions	83,832	84,000	80,776	-3,056
Hispanic Serving Institutions	104,395	117,429	100,622	-3,773
Promoting Post-Baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans	9,336	10,500	9,028	-308
Strengthening Historically Black Colleges (HBCUs)	236,991	266,586	228,412	-8,579
Strengthening Historically Black Graduate Institutions	61,302	61,425	59,070	-2,232
Strengthening Predominantly Black Institutions	9,602	10,801	9,280	-322
Asian American Pacific Islander	3,199	3,600	3,125	-74
Strengthening Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	13,412	15,084	12,883	-529
Strengthening Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions	3,199	3,600	3,125	-74
Strengthening Tribal Colleges	26,820	30,169	25,762	-1,058
Subtotal, Aid for Institutional development	552,088	603,194	532,083	-20,005
International Education and Foreign Language:				
Domestic Programs	66,712	108,360	66,712	---
Overseas Programs	7,465	15,576	7,465	---
Institute for International Public Policy	1,552	1,945	---	-1,552
Subtotal, International Education & Foreign Lang	75,729	125,881	74,177	-1,552
Fund for the Improvement of Postsec. Ed. (FIPSE)	19,607	150,000	3,500	-16,107
Postsecondary Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities	10,978	---	10,978	---
Minority Science and Engineering Improvement	9,484	9,503	9,484	---
Tribally Controlled Postsec Voc/Tech Institutions	8,146	8,162	8,146	---
Federal TRIO Programs	826,522	920,089	841,522	+15,000
GEAR UP	302,816	323,212	302,816	---
Javits Fellowships	8,084	---	---	-8,084
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	30,968	40,717	30,968	---
Teacher Quality Partnerships	42,914	---	42,914	---
Child Care Access Means Parents in School	16,002	16,034	16,000	-2
GPRA Data/HEA Program Evaluation	608	609	608	---
Hawkins Centers of Excellence	---	40,000	---	---
Thurgood Marshall Legal Education Opportunities	---	3,000	---	---
Total, Higher Education	1,903,946	2,240,401	1,873,196	-30,750

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
HOWARD UNIVERSITY				
Academic Program	202,026	202,431	202,019	-7
Endowment Program	3,593	3,600	3,600	+7
Howard University Hospital	28,888	28,946	28,888	---
Total, Howard University	234,507	234,977	234,507	---
COLLEGE HOUSING AND ACADEMIC FACILITIES LOANS(CHAFL)	460	478	460	---
HBCU CAPITAL FINANCING PROGRAM				
HBCU Federal Administration	353	354	353	---
HBCU Loan Subsidies	20,188	20,228	20,188	---
Total, HBCU Capital Financing Program	20,541	20,582	20,541	---
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES (IES)				
Research, Development and Dissemination	199,796	260,413	190,146	-9,650
Statistics	108,304	117,021	108,954	+650
Regional Educational Laboratories	57,535	69,650	57,535	---
Research in Special Education	50,983	58,085	50,000	-983
Special Education Studies and Evaluations	11,437	11,460	11,437	---
Statewide Data Systems	42,166	100,000	38,149	-4,017
Assessment:				
National Assessment	129,861	135,121	129,861	---
National Assessment Governing Board	8,706	8,723	8,706	---
Subtotal, Assessment	138,567	143,844	138,567	---
Total, IES	608,788	760,473	594,788	-14,000
DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT				
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION				
Salaries and Expenses	447,104	476,327	447,104	---
Building Modernization	8,184	2,711	---	-8,184
Total, Program administration	455,288	479,038	447,104	-8,184
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS	102,818	107,772	102,818	---
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	59,933	67,187	59,933	---
Total, Departmental management	618,039	653,997	609,855	-8,184
Total, Title III, Department of Education	71,430,022	80,522,103	71,276,968	-153,054
Current Year	(49,524,021)	(58,616,103)	(48,679,967)	(-844,054)
FY 2013	(21,906,001)	(21,906,000)	(22,597,001)	(+691,000)

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
TITLE IV - RELATED AGENCIES				
COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED	5,385	5,841	5,385	---
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE				
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Domestic Volunteer Service Programs:				
Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)	98,876	100,000	95,000	-3,876
National Senior Volunteer Corps:				
Foster Grandparents Program	110,774	111,100	110,774	---
Senior Companion Program	46,810	47,000	46,810	---
Senior Corps Demonstration	---	5,000	---	---
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	50,299	63,000	50,299	---
Subtotal, Senior Volunteers	207,883	226,100	207,883	---
Subtotal, Domestic Volunteer Service Programs	306,759	326,100	302,883	-3,876
National and Community Service Programs:				
AmeriCorps State and National Grants	347,360	399,790	345,000	-2,360
Disability Placement Funds	4,990	5,000	---	-4,990
Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities	60,379	80,500	53,381	-6,998
Evaluation	5,988	6,000	3,000	-2,988
National Civilian Community Corps	28,942	35,000	31,942	+3,000
Learn and Serve America	---	39,500	---	---
State Commission Administrative Grants	16,966	17,000	13,466	-3,500
Training and Technical Assistance	7,485	7,500	2,000	-5,485
Subtotal, National & Community Service Programs	472,110	590,290	448,789	-23,321
Total, Operating expenses	778,869	916,390	751,672	-27,197
National Service Trust	201,200	235,326	212,198	+10,998
Salaries and Expenses	87,824	97,694	83,000	-4,824
Office of Inspector General	7,685	8,450	4,000	-3,685
Total, Corp. for National and Community Service	1,075,578	1,257,860	1,050,870	-24,708
CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING:				
FY 2014 (current) with FY 2013 comparable	445,000	451,000	445,000	---
FY 2013 advance with FY 2012 comparable (NA)	(445,000)	(445,000)	(445,000)	---
FY 2012 advance with FY 2011 comparable (NA)	(445,000)	(445,000)	(445,000)	---
Digitalization program, current funded	5,988	6,000	---	-5,988
Subtotal, FY 2012 appropriation	5,988	6,000	---	-5,988

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE	46,559	48,025	46,250	-309
FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION	10,337	22,417	17,637	+7,300
INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES	237,393	242,605	232,393	-5,000
MEDICARE PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION	12,425	13,100	11,800	-625
MEDICAID AND CHIP PAYMENT AND ACCESS COMMISSION	---	11,000	6,000	+6,000
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY	3,264	3,400	3,264	---
NATIONAL HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE COMMISSION	---	3,000	---	---
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD	282,833	287,699	278,833	-4,000
NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD	13,436	13,961	13,436	---
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION	11,689	12,773	11,689	---
RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD				
Dual Benefits Payments Account	56,886	51,000	51,000	-5,886
Less Income Tax Receipts on Dual Benefits	-3,000	-2,000	-2,000	+1,000
Subtotal, Dual Benefits	53,886	49,000	49,000	-4,886
Federal Payment to the RR Retirement Account	150	150	150	---
Limitation on Administration	108,855	112,239	108,855	---
Inspector General	8,170	9,259	8,170	---
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION				
Payments to Social Security Trust Funds	21,404	20,404	20,404	-1,000
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME				
Federal Benefit Payments	52,387,000	47,554,000	47,554,000	-4,833,000
Beneficiary Services	60,000	47,000	47,000	-13,000
Research and Demonstration	42,928	38,000	8,000	-34,928
Administration	3,486,286	3,844,000	3,373,991	-112,295
Subtotal, SSI program level	55,976,214	51,483,000	50,982,991	-4,993,223
Less funds advanced in prior year	-16,000,000	-13,400,000	-13,400,000	+2,600,000
Subtotal, regular SSI current year	39,976,214	38,083,000	37,582,991	-2,393,223
New advance, 1st quarter, FY 2013	13,400,000	18,200,000	18,200,000	+4,800,000
Total, SSI program	53,376,214	56,283,000	55,782,991	+2,406,777
LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES				
OASDI Trust Funds	5,556,741	5,931,407	5,310,602	-246,139
HI/SMI Trust Funds	2,049,942	2,253,780	2,093,751	+43,809
Social Security Advisory Board	2,295	2,150	2,150	-145
Acquisition Workforce Capacity and Capabilities	---	1,863	---	---
SSI	3,144,970	3,546,000	3,148,991	+4,021
Program Integrity adjustment	-272,454	-315,000	---	+272,454
Subtotal, regular LAE	10,481,494	11,420,200	10,555,494	+74,000
User Fees:				
SSI User Fee activities	185,628	163,000	155,000	-30,628
SSPA User Fee Activities	---	1,000	---	---
Subtotal, User fees	185,628	164,000	155,000	-30,628
Subtotal, Limitation on administrative expenses	10,667,122	11,584,200	10,710,494	+43,372
Program Integrity Funding:				
SSI Limitation on administrative expenses	272,454	315,000	---	-272,454
OASDI Trust Funds	142,714	325,000	49,000	-93,714
SSI	341,316	298,000	225,000	-116,316
Subtotal, Program integrity funding	756,484	938,000	274,000	-482,484
Total, Limitation on Administrative Expenses	11,423,606	12,522,200	10,984,494	-439,112

DIVISION F: LABOR - HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - EDUCATION - AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Comparable	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference Vs Comparable
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL				
Federal Funds	28,942	30,000	28,942	---
Trust Funds	73,535	77,113	73,535	---
Total, Office of the Inspector General	102,477	107,113	102,477	---
Adjustment: Trust fund transfers from general revenues	-3,486,286	-3,844,000	-3,373,991	+112,295
Total, Social Security Administration	61,437,415	65,088,717	63,516,375	+2,078,960
Federal funds	53,612,188	56,499,267	55,987,337	+2,375,149
Current year	(40,212,188)	(38,299,267)	(37,787,337)	(-2,424,851)
New advances, 1st quarter	(13,400,000)	(18,200,000)	(18,200,000)	(+4,800,000)
Trust funds	7,825,227	8,589,450	7,529,038	-296,189
Total, Title IV, Related Agencies	63,758,363	67,638,046	65,805,107	+2,046,744
Federal Funds	55,803,686	58,913,998	58,147,244	+2,343,558
Current Year	(41,958,686)	(40,262,998)	(39,502,244)	(-2,456,442)
FY 2013 Advance	(13,400,000)	(18,200,000)	(18,200,000)	(+4,800,000)
FY 2014 Advance	(445,000)	(451,000)	(445,000)	---
Trust Funds	7,954,677	8,724,048	7,657,863	-296,814
RECAP				
Mandatory, total in bill	557,434,753	577,048,325	576,727,703	+19,292,950
Less advances for subsequent years	-102,936,289	-112,054,082	-112,054,082	-9,117,793
Plus advances provided in prior years	105,784,382	102,936,289	102,936,289	-2,848,093
Total, mandatory, current year	560,282,846	567,930,532	567,609,910	+7,327,064
Discretionary, total in bill	165,303,817	178,519,422	163,855,125	-1,448,692
Less advances for subsequent years	-24,814,001	-24,795,000	-24,814,001	---
Plus advances provided in prior years	24,772,666	24,814,001	24,814,001	+41,335
Subtotal, discretionary, current year	165,262,482	178,538,423	163,855,125	-1,407,357
Discretionary Scorekeeping adjustments:				
Office of Job Corps (DOL) (rescission)	-75,000	-25,000	---	+75,000
Investment in Reinvention Fund (DOL) (rescission)	-3,900	---	---	+3,900
PHSSEF (PL111-32) (rescission) (emergency)	-1,259,000	---	---	+1,259,000
SSI User Fee Collection	-185,628	-164,000	-155,000	+30,628
SSA no-year IT funds (rescission)	-275,000	---	---	+275,000
Average Weekly Insured Unemployment (AWIU) Conting	5,000	5,000	5,000	---
Career Pathways Innovation Fund (rescission)	-125,000	---	---	+125,000
Refugee and Entrant Assistance (rescission)	-25,000	---	---	+25,000
Academic Competiveness & SMART grants (rescission)	-560,000	---	---	+560,000
Pell grants (CBO adjustment)	---	3,175,984	---	---
Higher Ed reconciliation (rescission)	-31,000	---	---	+31,000
Medicare Eligible Accruals (permanent,indefinite)	37,470	38,614	38,614	+1,144
BARDA Transfer (from Bioshield to PHSSEF)	-415,000	-765,000	-415,000	---
Highly Qualified Teacher fix (Sec. 163)	3,000	---	---	-3,000
Childrens Health Insurance Program (rescission)	-3,500,000	---	-6,367,964	-2,867,964
Rescissions (CHIMPs) (PL111-148):				
Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP)	-2,200,000	---	-400,000	+1,800,000
Independent Payment Advisory Board	---	---	-10,000	-10,000
Pell grant mandatory adjustment	-492,000	---	---	+492,000
CBO estimate of discretionary FY12 across-the-board (excluding Pell) (rescission)	---	---	-267,000	-267,000
Plus rescissions of emergency appropriations	1,259,000	---	---	-1,259,000
Total, discretionary	157,420,424	180,804,021	156,283,775	-1,136,649
Adjustment to balance with 2011 enacted	21,576	---	---	-21,576
Total, discretionary (FY 2011 enacted)	157,442,000	180,804,021	156,283,775	-1,158,225
Grand total, current year (incl FY 2011 comparable)	717,703,270	748,734,553	723,893,685	+6,190,415

DIVISION G - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH				
SENATE				
Expense allowances:				
Vice President	20	20	19	-1
President Pro Tempore of the Senate	40	40	38	-2
Majority Leader of the Senate	40	40	40	---
Minority Leader of the Senate	40	40	40	---
Majority Whip of the Senate	10	10	10	---
Minority Whip of the Senate	10	10	10	---
Chairman of the Majority Conference Committee	5	5	5	---
Chairman of the Minority Conference Committee	5	5	5	---
Chairman of the Majority Policy Committee	5	5	5	---
Chairman of the Minority Policy Committee	5	5	5	---
Subtotal, expense allowances	180	180	177	-3
Representation allowances for the Majority and Minority Leaders	30	30	28	-2
Total, Expense allowances and representation	210	210	205	-5
Salaries, Officers and Employees				
Office of the Vice President	2,512	2,517	2,361	-151
Office of the President Pro Tempore	750	752	705	-45
Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders	5,202	5,212	5,202	---
Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips	3,281	3,288	3,281	---
Committee on Appropriations	15,812	15,844	14,864	-948
Conference committees	3,445	3,452	3,238	-207
Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority	848	850	797	-51
Policy Committees	3,519	3,526	3,308	-211
Office of the Chaplain	414	415	406	-8
Office of the Secretary	25,738	25,790	24,194	-1,544
Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper	76,846	77,588	73,000	-3,846
Offices of the Secretaries for the Majority and Minority	1,832	1,836	1,722	-110
Agency contributions and related expenses	45,409	45,500	42,684	-2,725
Total, Salaries, officers and employees	185,608	186,570	175,762	-9,846
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate				
Salaries and expenses	7,140	7,411	6,995	-145
Office of Senate Legal Counsel				
Salaries and expenses	1,541	1,544	1,449	-92
Expense Allowances of the Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, and Secretaries for the Majority and Minority of the Senate: Expenses allowances	30	30	28	-2
Contingent Expenses of the Senate				
Inquiries and investigations	140,219	161,346	131,306	-8,913
Expenses of United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control	519	520	488	-31
Secretary of the Senate	6,188	6,200	5,816	-372
Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate	142,116	141,588	130,722	-11,394
Miscellaneous items	21,103	18,860	19,360	-1,743
Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account	409,180	446,967	396,180	-13,000
Official Mail Costs				
Expenses	299	300	281	-18
Total, Contingent expenses of the Senate	719,624	775,781	684,153	-35,471
Total, Senate	914,153	971,546	868,592	-45,561

DIVISION G - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES				
Salaries and Expenses				
House Leadership Offices				
Office of the Speaker	4,878	4,877	6,943	+2,065
Speaker's Office for Legislative Floor Activities	498	497	---	-498
Republican Steering Committee	941	942	---	-941
Republican Policy Committee	344	348	---	-344
Training and Program Development, Majority	278	279	---	-278
Cloakroom Personnel, Majority	477	477	---	-477
Subtotal, Office of the Speaker	7,416	7,420	6,943	-473
Office of the Majority Floor Leader	2,433	2,430	2,278	-155
Office of the Minority Floor Leader	4,378	4,385	7,433	+3,055
Democratic Steering and Policy Committee	1,319	1,312	---	-1,319
Nine minority employees	1,487	1,491	---	-1,487
Training and Program Development, Minority	277	279	---	-277
Cloakroom Personnel, Minority	477	477	---	-477
Subtotal, Office of the Minority Floor Leader	7,938	7,944	7,433	-505
Office of the Majority Whip	2,105	2,108	1,971	-134
Office of the Minority Whip	1,629	1,624	1,525	-104
Republican Conference	1,680	1,679	1,573	-107
Democratic Caucus	1,660	1,657	1,554	-106
Subtotal, House Leadership Offices	24,861	24,862	23,277	-1,584
Transition to Calendar Year Funding				
Office of the Speaker	---	---	1,736	+1,736
Office of the Majority Floor Leader	---	---	569	+569
Office of the Minority Floor Leader	---	---	1,858	+1,858
Office of the Majority Whip	---	---	493	+493
Office of the Minority Whip	---	---	381	+381
Republican Conference	---	---	393	+393
Democratic Caucus	---	---	388	+388
Subtotal, Transition to Calendar Year Funding	---	---	5,818	+5,818
Members' Representational Allowances Including Members' Clerk Hire, Official Expenses of Members, and Official Mail				
Expenses	613,052	633,848	573,939	-39,113
Committee Employees				
Standing Committees, Special and Select	134,549	134,549	125,965	-8,584
Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations)	28,483	28,483	26,666	-1,817
Subtotal, Committee employees	163,032	163,032	152,631	-10,401
Salaries, Officers and Employees				
Office of the Clerk	28,589	30,516	26,114	-2,475
Office of the Sergeant at Arms	9,034	15,009	8,140	-894
Office of Emergency Management	---	4,445	4,445	+4,445
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer	127,782	130,782	116,782	-11,000
Office of the Inspector General	5,045	5,045	5,045	---
Office for Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Operations	4,445	---	---	-4,445
Office of General Counsel	1,415	1,415	1,415	---
Office of the Chaplain	179	179	179	---
Office of the Parliamentarian	2,060	2,060	2,060	---
Office of the Parliamentarian	(1,466)	(1,466)	(1,466)	---
Compilation of precedents of the House of Representatives	(594)	(594)	(594)	---
Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House	3,258	3,258	3,258	---
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House	8,814	8,814	8,814	---

DIVISION G - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Office of Interparliamentary Affairs	859	859	859	---
Other authorized employees	1,249	1,249	347	-902
Office of the Historian	597	170	170	-427
Subtotal, Salaries, officers and employees	193,326	203,801	177,628	-15,698
Allowances and Expenses				
Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims	3,948	3,948	3,696	-252
Official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House	201	201	201	---
Government contributions	280,349	276,703	264,848	-15,501
Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery	22,912	17,098	17,112	-5,800
Transition activities	2,907	2,907	1,722	-1,185
Wounded Warrior program	2,000	2,500	2,500	+500
Energy demonstration projects	2,500	2,500	---	-2,500
Office of Congressional Ethic	1,548	1,548	1,548	---
Miscellaneous items	760	760	760	---
Subtotal, Allowances and expenses	317,125	308,165	292,387	-24,738
Total, House of Representatives	1,311,396	1,333,708	1,225,680	-85,716
JOINT ITEMS				
Joint Economic Committee	4,490	4,814	4,203	-287
Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies	---	---	1,237	+1,237
Joint Committee on Taxation	10,530	11,327	10,004	-526
Office of the Attending Physician				
Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances	3,400	3,403	3,400	---
Office of Congressional Accessibility Services	1,374	1,363	1,363	-11
Total, Joint items	19,794	20,907	20,207	+413
CAPITOL POLICE				
Salaries	277,133	299,343	277,133	---
General expenses	63,004	88,273	63,004	---
Total, Capitol Police	340,137	387,616	340,137	---
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE				
Salaries and expenses	4,077	4,782	3,817	-260
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE				
Salaries and expenses	46,771	46,865	43,787	-2,984
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL				
General administration	106,569	119,150	101,340	-5,229
Capitol building	33,116	41,545	36,154	+3,038
Capitol grounds	10,952	10,799	9,852	-1,100
Senate office buildings	74,243	87,253	71,128	-3,115
House of Representatives buildings:				
House office buildings	100,265	119,647	94,154	-6,111
House Historic buildings revitalization fund	49,900	50,000	30,000	-19,900
Capitol Power Plant	126,879	150,101	132,229	+5,350
Offsetting collections	-7,984	-8,000	-9,000	-1,016
Subtotal, Capitol Power Plant	118,895	142,101	123,229	+4,334
Library buildings and grounds	45,703	67,888	46,876	+1,173
Capitol police buildings, grounds and security	26,958	32,312	21,500	-5,458
Botanic garden	11,367	12,344	12,000	+633
Capitol Visitor Center:				
CVC Operations	22,414	23,016	21,276	-1,138
Total, Architect of the Capitol	600,382	706,055	567,509	-32,873

DIVISION G - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS				
Salaries and expenses	438,122	462,329	420,093	-18,029
Authority to spend receipts	-6,337	-6,350	-6,350	-13
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses	431,785	455,979	413,743	-18,042
Copyright Office, salaries and expenses	54,367	56,440	51,650	-2,717
Authority to spend receipts	-36,539	-34,717	-35,513	+1,026
Subtotal, Copyright Office	17,828	21,723	16,137	-1,691
Congressional Research Service, salaries and expenses	111,018	117,102	106,790	-4,228
Books for the blind and physically handicapped Salaries and expenses	68,046	71,927	50,674	-17,372
Total, Library of Congress	628,677	666,731	587,344	-41,333
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE				
Congressional printing and binding	93,580	100,001	90,700	-2,880
Office of the Superintendent of Documents, salaries and expenses	39,831	42,173	35,000	-4,831
Government Printing Office Revolving Fund	1,656	6,300	500	-1,156
Total, Government Printing Office	135,067	148,474	126,200	-8,867
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE				
Salaries and expenses	565,715	575,153	533,600	-32,115
Offsetting collections	-19,461	-18,304	-22,304	-2,843
Total, Government Accountability Office	546,254	556,849	511,296	-34,958
OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER				
Payment to the Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund	11,377	12,600	10,000	-1,377
JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT				
Stennis Center for Public Service	429	430	430	+1
GENERAL PROVISIONS				
Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Visitor Center (rescission)	-14,600	---	---	+14,600
Grand total	4,543,914	4,856,563	4,304,999	-238,915
RECAPITULATION				
Senate	914,153	971,546	868,592	-45,561
House of Representatives	1,311,396	1,333,708	1,225,680	-85,716
Joint Items	19,794	20,907	20,207	+413
Capitol Police	340,137	387,616	340,137	---
Office of Compliance	4,077	4,782	3,817	-260
Congressional Budget Office	46,771	46,865	43,787	-2,984
Architect of the Capitol	600,382	706,055	567,509	-32,873
Library of Congress	628,677	666,731	587,344	-41,333
Government Printing Office	135,067	148,474	126,200	-8,867
Government Accountability Office	546,254	556,849	511,296	-34,958
Open World Leadership Center	11,377	12,600	10,000	-1,377
Stennis Center for Public Service	429	430	430	+1
General provisions	-14,600	---	---	+14,600
Grand total	4,543,914	4,856,563	4,304,999	-238,915
Scorekeeping adjustments: GAO buyout authority (CBO estimate)	---	---	2,000	+2,000
Grand total, discretionary	4,543,914	4,856,563	4,306,999	-236,915

DIVISION H - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE				
Military construction, Army	3,780,023	3,235,991	3,006,491	-773,532
Rescission	-263,000	---	---	+263,000
Total	3,517,023	3,235,991	3,006,491	-510,532
Military construction, Navy and Marine Corps	3,297,004	2,461,547	2,112,823	-1,184,181
Rescission	-61,050	---	---	+61,050
Total	3,235,954	2,461,547	2,112,823	-1,123,131
Military construction, Air Force	1,104,781	1,364,858	1,227,058	+122,277
Rescission	-121,700	---	---	+121,700
Total	983,081	1,364,858	1,227,058	+243,977
Military construction, Defense-Wide	2,867,316	3,848,757	3,431,957	+564,641
Rescission	-148,500	---	---	+148,500
Total	2,718,816	3,848,757	3,431,957	+713,141
Total, Active components	10,454,874	10,911,153	9,778,329	-676,545
Military construction, Army National Guard	871,917	773,592	773,592	-98,325
Military construction, Air National Guard	194,596	116,246	116,246	-78,350
Military construction, Army Reserve	317,539	280,549	280,549	-36,990
Military construction, Navy Reserve	61,434	26,299	26,299	-35,135
Military construction, Air Force Reserve	7,816	33,620	33,620	+25,804
Total, Reserve components	1,453,302	1,230,306	1,230,306	-222,996
Total, Military construction	11,908,176	12,141,459	11,008,635	-899,541
Appropriations	(12,502,426)	(12,141,459)	(11,008,635)	(-1,493,791)
Rescissions	(-594,250)	---	---	(+594,250)
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program	258,366	272,611	247,611	-10,755
Family housing construction, Army	92,184	186,897	176,897	+84,713
Family housing operation and maintenance, Army	517,104	494,858	493,458	-23,646
Family housing construction, Navy and Marine Corps	186,071	100,972	100,972	-85,099
Family housing operation and maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps	365,613	367,863	367,863	+2,250
Family housing construction, Air Force	77,869	84,804	60,042	-17,827
Family housing operation and maintenance, Air Force	512,764	404,761	429,523	-83,241
Family housing construction, Defense-Wide	---	---	---	---
Family housing operation and maintenance, Defense-Wide	50,363	50,723	50,723	+360
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund	1,094	2,184	2,184	+1,090
Homeowners assistance fund	16,482	1,284	1,284	-15,198
Total, Family housing	1,819,544	1,694,346	1,682,946	-136,598
Appropriations	(1,819,544)	(1,694,346)	(1,682,946)	(-136,598)
Rescissions	---	---	---	---
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---
Chemical demilitarization construction, Defense-Wide	124,721	75,312	75,312	-49,409
Base realignment and closure:				
Base realignment and closure account, 1990	359,753	323,543	323,543	-36,210
Base realignment and closure account, 2005	2,349,576	258,776	258,776	-2,090,800
Rescission	-232,363	---	---	+232,363
Total	2,117,213	258,776	258,776	-1,858,437
Total, Base realignment and closure	2,476,966	582,319	582,319	-1,894,647
Rescission (Sec. 126):				
Base Realignment and Closure, 1990	---	---	---	---

DIVISION H - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Rescissions (Sec. 131):				
Military Construction, Army	---	---	-100,000	-100,000
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps	---	---	-25,000	-25,000
Military Construction, Air Force	---	---	-32,000	-32,000
Military Construction, Defense-Wide	---	---	-131,400	-131,400
Rescission (Sec. 132):				
Base Realignment and Closure, 2005	---	---	-258,776	-258,776
Total, title I	16,587,773	14,766,047	13,049,647	-3,538,126
Appropriations	(17,414,386)	(14,766,047)	(13,596,823)	(-3,817,563)
Rescissions	(-826,613)	---	(-547,176)	(+279,437)
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS				
Veterans Benefits Administration				
Compensation and pensions	53,978,000	58,067,319	51,237,567	-2,740,433
Readjustment benefits	10,396,245	11,011,086	12,108,488	+1,712,243
Veterans insurance and indemnities	77,589	100,252	100,252	+22,663
Veterans housing benefit program fund (indefinite)	19,078	318,612	318,612	+299,534
(Limitation on direct loans)	(500)	(500)	(500)	---
Credit subsidy	-165,000	---	---	+165,000
Administrative expenses	164,752	154,698	154,698	-10,054
Guaranteed Transitional Housing Loans for Homeless Veterans	(750)	---	---	(-750)
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account	29	19	19	-10
(Limitation on direct loans)	(2,298)	(3,019)	(3,019)	(+721)
Administrative expenses	328	343	343	+15
Native American veteran housing loan program account	662	1,116	1,116	+454
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration	64,471,683	69,653,445	63,921,095	-550,588
Veterans Health Administration				
Medical services:				
Advance from prior year	(37,061,728)	(39,649,985)	(39,649,985)	(+2,588,257)
Advance appropriation, FY 2013	39,649,985	41,354,000	41,354,000	+1,704,015
Subtotal	39,649,985	41,354,000	41,354,000	+1,704,015
Medical support and compliance:				
Advance from prior year	(5,296,454)	(5,535,000)	(5,535,000)	(+238,546)
Fiscal year 2011 payraise rescission	(-34,000)	---	---	(+34,000)
Advance appropriation, FY 2013	5,535,000	5,746,000	5,746,000	+211,000
Subtotal	5,535,000	5,746,000	5,746,000	+211,000
Medical facilities:				
Advance from prior year	(5,728,550)	(5,426,000)	(5,426,000)	(-302,550)
Fiscal year 2011 payraise rescission	(-15,000)	---	---	(+15,000)
Advance appropriation, FY 2013	5,426,000	5,441,000	5,441,000	+15,000
Subtotal	5,426,000	5,441,000	5,441,000	+15,000
Medical and prosthetic research	579,838	508,774	581,000	+1,162
Medical care cost recovery collections:				
Offsetting collections	-3,393,000	-3,326,000	-3,326,000	+67,000
Appropriations (indefinite)	3,393,000	3,326,000	3,326,000	-67,000
Total, Veterans Health Administration	51,141,823	53,049,774	53,122,000	+1,980,177
Appropriations	(579,838)	(508,774)	(581,000)	(+1,162)
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---
Rescissions	-49,000	---	---	+49,000
Advance from prior year	(48,086,732)	(50,610,985)	(50,610,985)	(+2,524,253)
Advance appropriations, FY 2013	(50,610,985)	(52,541,000)	(52,541,000)	(+1,930,015)
National Cemetery Administration				
National Cemetery Administration	249,500	250,934	250,934	+1,434

DIVISION H - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Departmental Administration				
General operating expenses	2,529,207	2,466,989	---	-2,529,207
General administration	---	---	416,737	+416,737
General operating expenses, VBA	---	---	2,018,764	+2,018,764
Information technology systems	3,140,604	3,161,376	3,111,376	-29,228
Rescission	-147,000	---	---	+147,000
Office of Inspector General	108,782	109,391	112,391	+3,609
Construction, major projects	1,148,734	589,604	589,604	-559,130
Rescission	-75,000	---	---	+75,000
Construction, minor projects	466,765	550,091	482,386	+15,621
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities	84,830	85,000	85,000	+170
Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries	45,908	46,000	46,000	+92
Total, Departmental Administration	7,302,830	7,008,451	6,862,258	-440,572
Appropriations	(7,524,830)	(7,008,451)	(6,862,258)	(-662,572)
Rescissions	(-222,000)	---	---	(+222,000)
Medical Care - Section 225 (Rescission)	---	-713,000	---	---
Medical Care - Section 226	---	953,000	---	---
Total, title II	123,165,836	130,202,604	124,156,287	+990,451
Appropriations	(72,825,851)	(78,374,604)	(71,615,287)	(-1,210,564)
Emergency appropriations	---	---	---	---
Rescissions	(-271,000)	(-713,000)	---	(+271,000)
Advance from prior year	(48,086,732)	(50,610,985)	(50,610,985)	(+2,524,253)
Advance appropriations, FY 2013	(50,610,985)	(52,541,000)	(52,541,000)	(+1,930,015)
(Limitation on direct loans)	(2,798)	(3,519)	(3,519)	(+721)
Discretionary	(58,859,924)	(60,705,335)	(60,391,368)	(+1,531,444)
Mandatory	(64,305,912)	(69,497,269)	(63,764,919)	(-540,993)
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES				
American Battle Monuments Commission				
Salaries and expenses	64,072	61,100	61,100	-2,972
Foreign currency fluctuations account	20,168	16,000	16,000	-4,168
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission	84,240	77,100	77,100	-7,140
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims				
Salaries and expenses	27,560	55,770	30,770	+3,210
Department of Defense - Civil				
Cemeterial Expenses, Army				
Salaries and expenses	45,010	45,800	45,800	+790
Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund				
Operation and maintenance	69,058	65,700	65,700	-3,358
Capital program	2,000	2,000	2,000	---
Armed Forces Retirement Home - General Fund				
Capital program	---	---	14,630	+14,630
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home	71,058	67,700	82,330	+11,272
Total, title III	227,868	246,370	236,000	+8,132
TITLE IV - OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS				
Military Construction, Army	981,346	---	80,000	-901,346
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps	---	---	189,703	+189,703
Military Construction, Air Force	195,006	---	---	-195,006
Military Construction, Defense-Wide	46,500	---	---	-46,500

DIVISION H - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Rescission from Title IV, Division E of P.L. 111-117..	---	---	-269,703	-269,703
Total, title IV.....	1,222,852	---	---	-1,222,852
Grand total.....	141,204,329	145,215,021	137,441,934	-3,762,395
Appropriations.....	(90,468,105)	(93,387,021)	(85,448,110)	(-5,019,995)
Rescissions.....	(-1,097,613)	(-713,000)	(-547,176)	(+550,437)
Emergency appropriations.....	---	---	---	---
Rescission of emergency funding.....	---	---	---	---
Advance from prior year.....	(48,086,732)	(50,610,985)	(50,610,985)	(+2,524,253)
Advance appropriations, FY 2013.....	(50,610,985)	(52,541,000)	(52,541,000)	(+1,930,015)
Overseas contingency operations.....	(1,222,852)	---	---	(-1,222,852)
(By transfer).....	---	---	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(2,798)	(3,519)	(3,519)	(+721)

DIVISION I - DEPARTMENT OF STATE - FOREIGN OPERATIONS - AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY				
DEPARTMENT OF STATE				
Administration of Foreign Affairs				
Diplomatic and consular programs	7,275,420	6,116,472	5,195,947	-2,079,473
Agency acquisition workforces (Sec. 7059)	---	(3,000)	---	---
Worldwide security protection	1,497,000	1,453,730	1,355,000	-142,000
Total, Diplomatic and consular programs	8,772,420	7,570,202	6,550,947	-2,221,473
Conflict stabilization operations	34,930	92,200	---	-34,930
Capital investment fund	59,380	125,000	59,380	---
Office of Inspector General	99,800	65,154	61,904	-37,896
Educational and cultural exchange programs	598,800	637,100	583,200	-15,600
Representation allowances	7,484	8,175	7,300	-184
Protection of foreign missions and officials	27,944	27,744	27,000	-944
Embassy security, construction, and maintenance	823,350	863,317	762,000	-61,350
Worldwide security upgrades	793,410	938,200	775,000	-18,410
Total, Embassy security	1,616,760	1,801,517	1,537,000	-79,760
Emergencies in the diplomatic and consular service	9,480	10,000	9,300	-180
Repatriation Loans Program Account:				
Direct loans subsidy	737	1,089	737	---
Administrative expenses	710	711	710	---
Total, Repatriation loans program account	1,447	1,800	1,447	---
Payment to the American Institute in Taiwan	21,108	23,320	21,108	---
Payment to the Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund	158,900	158,900	158,900	---
Total, Administration of Foreign Affairs	11,408,453	10,521,112	9,017,486	-2,390,967
International Organizations				
Contributions to international organizations, current year assessment	1,578,651	1,619,400	1,449,700	-128,951
Contributions for international peacekeeping activities, current year assessment	1,883,931	1,920,000	1,828,182	-55,749
Total, International Organizations	3,462,582	3,539,400	3,277,882	-184,700
International Commissions				
International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico:				
Salaries and expenses	43,213	45,591	44,722	+1,509
Construction	26,447	31,900	31,453	+5,006
Total, Boundary and Water Commission	69,660	77,491	76,175	+6,515
American sections, international commissions	12,583	11,996	11,687	-896
International fisheries commissions	50,399	31,291	36,300	-14,099
Total, International commissions	132,642	120,778	124,162	-8,480
RELATED AGENCY				
Broadcasting Board of Governors				
International Broadcasting Operations	730,037	754,261	740,100	+10,063
Broadcasting capital improvements	6,861	12,769	7,030	+169
Total, Broadcasting Board of Governors	736,898	767,030	747,130	+10,232
Related Programs				
The Asia Foundation	17,864	14,906	17,000	-864
United States Institute of Peace operating expenses	39,420	42,740	30,589	-8,831
Center for Middle Eastern-Western dialogue	838	840	840	+2
Eisenhower Exchange Fellowship program	499	500	500	+1
Israeli Arab scholarship program	374	375	375	+1
East-West Center	20,958	10,830	16,700	-4,258

DIVISION I - DEPARTMENT OF STATE - FOREIGN OPERATIONS - AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
National Endowment for Democracy	117,764	104,000	117,764	---
Total, Related programs	197,717	174,191	183,768	-13,949
OTHER COMMISSIONS				
Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad				
Salaries and expenses	634	656	634	---
Commission on International Religious Freedom				
Salaries and expenses	4,291	4,400	3,000	-1,291
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe				
Salaries and expenses	2,605	2,715	2,715	+110
Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China				
Salaries and expenses	1,996	2,000	1,996	---
United States - China Economic and Security Review Commission				
Salaries and expenses	3,493	3,500	3,493	---
Total, title I, Department of State and Related Agency	15,951,311	15,135,782	13,362,266	-2,589,045
TITLE II - ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE				
Funds Appropriated to the President				
United States Agency for International Development				
Operating expenses of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)	1,347,300	1,503,420	1,092,300	-255,000
Agency acquisition workforces (Sec. 7058)	---	(3,530)	---	---
Conflict stabilization operations	4,990	---	---	-4,990
Capital Investment Fund	129,740	189,200	129,700	-40
Operating expenses of the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General	44,910	51,500	46,500	+1,590
Total, title II, Administration of Foreign Assistance	1,526,940	1,744,120	1,268,500	-258,440
TITLE III - BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE				
Funds Appropriated to the President				
Global Health Initiative:				
Global Health Initiative	---	---	---	---
U.S. Agency for International Development	2,495,000	3,073,600	2,625,000	+130,000
Department of State	5,334,310	5,641,900	5,542,860	+208,550
(Global fund contribution)	(748,500)	(1,000,000)	(1,050,000)	(+301,500)
Total, Global Health and Child Survival	7,829,310	8,715,500	8,167,860	+338,550
Development assistance	2,519,950	2,918,002	2,519,950	---
(Transfer out)	(-30,000)	(-50,000)	---	(+30,000)
International disaster assistance	863,270	860,700	825,000	-38,270
Transition initiatives	54,890	56,000	50,141	-4,749
Complex Crisis fund	39,920	75,000	10,000	-29,920
Development Credit Authority:				
(By transfer)	(30,000)	(50,000)	(40,000)	(+10,000)
Administrative expenses	8,283	8,300	8,300	+17
Economic Support Fund:				
Egypt	249,500	250,000	250,000	+500

DIVISION I - DEPARTMENT OF STATE - FOREIGN OPERATIONS - AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Other	5,696,685	5,718,663	2,751,745	-2,944,940
Total, Economic support fund	5,946,185	5,968,663	3,001,745	-2,944,440
Democracy Fund	114,770	---	114,770	---
Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia	695,740	626,718	626,718	-69,022
Department of State				
Migration and refugee assistance	1,686,620	1,613,100	1,639,100	-47,520
United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund	49,900	32,000	27,200	-22,700
Total, Department of State	1,736,520	1,645,100	1,666,300	-70,220
Independent Agencies				
Peace Corps	374,250	439,600	375,000	+750
Millenium Challenge Corporation	898,200	1,125,100	898,200	---
Inter-American Foundation	22,454	19,100	22,500	+46
African Development Foundation	29,441	24,000	30,000	+559
Total, Independent Agencies	1,324,345	1,607,800	1,325,700	+1,355
Department of the Treasury				
International Affairs Technical Assistance	25,448	30,120	25,448	---
Debt restructuring	49,900	15,000	12,000	-37,900
Total, Department of the Treasury	75,348	45,120	37,448	-37,900
Total, title III, Bilateral economic assistance	21,208,531	22,526,903	18,353,932	-2,854,599
Appropriations	(21,208,531)	(22,526,903)	(18,353,932)	(-2,854,599)
(By transfer)	(30,000)	(50,000)	(40,000)	(+10,000)
(Transfer out)	(-30,000)	(-50,000)	---	(+30,000)
TITLE IV - INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE				
Department of State				
International narcotics control and law enforcement	1,593,806	1,511,838	1,061,100	-532,706
Total, International narcotics control	1,593,806	1,511,838	1,061,100	-532,706
Nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, demining and related programs	738,520	708,540	590,113	-148,407
Peacekeeping operations	304,390	292,000	302,818	-1,572
Funds Appropriated to the President				
International Military Education and Training	105,788	109,954	105,788	---
Foreign Military Financing Program:				
Grants:				
Israel	2,994,000	3,075,000	3,075,000	+81,000
Egypt	1,297,400	1,300,000	1,300,000	+2,600
Other	1,082,830	1,175,463	835,000	-247,830
Total, Foreign Military Financing Program	5,374,230	5,550,463	5,210,000	-164,230
Global security contingency fund	---	50,000	---	---
Total, title IV, Security assistance	8,116,734	8,222,795	7,269,819	-846,915
Appropriations	(8,116,734)	(8,222,795)	(7,269,819)	(-846,915)
TITLE V - MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE				
Funds Appropriated to the President				
International Organizations and Programs	354,290	348,705	348,705	-5,585
International Financial Institutions				
World Bank Group				
Clean Technology Fund	184,630	400,000	184,630	---
Strategic Climate Fund	49,900	190,000	49,900	---

DIVISION I - DEPARTMENT OF STATE - FOREIGN OPERATIONS - AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):				
Contribution to the IBRD paid in capital	---	117,364	117,364	+117,364
(Limitation on callable capital)	---	(2,928,991)	(2,928,991)	(+2,928,991)
Global Environment Facility	89,820	143,750	89,820	---
Subtotal, IBRD	89,820	261,114	207,184	+117,364
Contribution to the International Development Association	1,232,530	1,358,500	1,325,000	+92,470
Multilateral debt relief initiative	---	167,000	167,000	+167,000
Total, World Bank Group	1,556,880	2,376,614	1,933,714	+376,834
Contribution to the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund	24,950	25,000	25,000	+50
Contribution to the Inter-American Development Bank paid in capital	---	102,018	75,000	+75,000
(Limitation on callable capital)	---	(4,098,795)	(4,098,795)	(+4,098,795)
Inter-American Development Bank, Inter-American Investment Corporation	20,958	20,429	4,670	-16,288
Total, Inter-American Development Bank	20,958	122,447	79,670	+58,712
Contribution to the Asian Development Fund	---	115,250	100,000	+100,000
Asian development bank paid in capital	106,373	106,586	106,586	+213
(Limitation on callable capital)	(2,558,049)	(2,558,049)	(2,558,049)	---
Contribution to the African Development Bank:				
Paid in capital	---	32,418	32,418	+32,418
(Limitation on callable capital)	---	(507,861)	(507,861)	(+507,861)
Contribution to the African Development Fund	109,780	195,000	172,500	+62,720
Total, African Development Bank	109,780	227,418	204,918	+95,138
Multilateral debt relief initiative	---	7,500	7,500	+7,500
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (limitation on callable capital)	---	---	(1,252,332)	(+1,252,332)
Contribution to the International Fund for Agricultural Development	29,440	30,000	30,000	+560
Global agriculture and food security program	99,800	308,000	135,000	+35,200
Total, International Financial Institutions	1,948,181	3,318,815	2,622,388	+674,207
Total, title V, Multilateral assistance	2,302,471	3,667,520	2,971,093	+668,622
(Limitation on callable capital)	(2,558,049)	(10,093,696)	(11,346,028)	(+8,787,979)
TITLE VI - EXPORT AND INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE				
Export-Import Bank of the United States				
Subsidy appropriation	58,000	76,400	58,000	---
Administrative expenses	83,880	124,600	89,900	+6,020
Inspector General	2,495	4,000	4,000	+1,505
Offsetting collections	-141,800	-417,900	-417,900	-276,100
Total, Export-Import Bank of the United States	2,575	-212,900	-266,000	-268,575
Overseas Private Investment Corporation				
Noncredit account:				
Administrative expenses	52,310	57,890	54,990	+2,680
Insurance fees and other offsetting collections	-272,300	-277,000	-277,000	-4,700
Subtotal	-219,990	-219,110	-222,010	-2,020
Program account	18,115	31,000	25,000	+6,885
Total, Overseas Private Investment Corporation	-201,875	-188,110	-197,010	+4,865

DIVISION I - DEPARTMENT OF STATE - FOREIGN OPERATIONS - AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Funds Appropriated to the President				
Trade and Development Agency	49,900	56,270	50,000	+100
Total, title VI, Export and investment assistance	-149,400	-344,740	-413,010	-263,610
TITLE VII - GENERAL PROVISIONS				
Intl Broadcasting Operations (BBG) (Sec. 2121 (g)(2))	9,980	---	---	-9,980
Diplomatic and Consular (Sec. 2118 (f)) (Rescission)	-55,000	---	---	+55,000
Dev Assistance Prior Yr (Sec. 2118 (c)) (Rescission)	-1,000	---	---	+1,000
Economic Support Funds (Sec. 2118 (g)) (Rescission)	-120,000	---	---	+120,000
Visa Fraud Prevention (Sec. 2118 (h)) (Rescission)	-140,000	---	---	+140,000
Buying Power Maint Acct (BPMA) (Sec. 2118 (b)) (Resc)	-17,000	---	---	+17,000
Export Import Bank - Balances (Rescission) (Sec. 2118 (a))	-275,000	---	-400,000	-125,000
Assistance for the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union - FY2007 (Resc) (Sec. 2118 (d))	-11,700	---	---	+11,700
Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, Central Asia (AEECA) (Sec. 2118 (i)) (Rescission)	-19,000	---	---	+19,000
Intl Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement - FY2002 (Sec. 2118 (e)) (Rescission)	-7,183	---	---	+7,183
ESF - MRA (By transfer)	(7,000)	---	---	(-7,000)
Fraud Prevention & Detection Fees	---	---	---	---
Sec. 7041 debt relief, enterprise funds, Tunisia	---	---	---	---
Diplomatic and consular programs (Rescission)	---	---	-13,700	-13,700
Economic Support Funds (Rescission)	---	---	-100,000	-100,000
SDAF Transfer (Sec. 7083(a))	---	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000
SDAF Obligation Limitation (Sec. 7083(b))	---	100,000	100,000	+100,000
Total, title VII, General Provisions	-635,903	---	-513,700	+122,203
Appropriations	(9,980)	---	---	(-9,980)
Rescissions	(-645,883)	---	(-513,700)	(+132,183)
(By transfer)	(7,000)	---	---	(-7,000)
TITLE VIII - OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS / GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM				
Diplomatic and consular programs (OCO/GWOT)	---	4,323,255	4,389,064	+4,389,064
(Worldwide security protection)	---	(246,854)	(236,201)	(+236,201)
(Transfer to other agencies)	---	(-230,000)	(-230,000)	(-230,000)
Conflict stabilization operations	---	---	8,500	+8,500
Office of Inspector General (OCO/GWOT)	---	62,932	67,182	+67,182
Education and cultural exchange programs (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	15,600	+15,600
Embassy security, construction, and maintenance	---	---	33,000	+33,000
Contributions to int'l organizations (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	101,300	+101,300
Broadcasters board of governors (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	4,400	+4,400
United States Institute of Peace (USIP) (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	8,411	+8,411
Contributions for international peacekeeping activities, current year assessment	---	---	---	---
United States Institute of Peace - Operating expenses	---	---	---	---
Operating expenses of USAID (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	255,000	+255,000
Operating expenses of USAID International Development: OIG (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	4,500	+4,500
International Disaster Assistance (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	150,000	+150,000
Transition Initiatives (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	6,554	+6,554
Complex Crises fund	---	---	30,000	+30,000
Economic Support Fund (OCO/GWOT)	---	1,216,600	2,761,462	+2,761,462
Migration and Refugee assistance (MRA) (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	229,000	+229,000
International Affairs Technical Assistance	---	---	1,552	+1,552
International narcotics control and law enforcement (OCO/GWOT)	---	1,000,000	983,605	+983,605
Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related programs (NADR) (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	120,657	+120,657
Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	81,000	+81,000
Foreign Military Financing program (OCO/GWOT)	---	1,000,000	1,102,000	+1,102,000
Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund (OCO/GWOT)	---	1,100,000	850,000	+850,000
Global Stability contingency fund (OCO/GWOT)	---	---	---	---
Total, Title VIII - OCO / GWOT	---	8,702,787	11,202,787	+11,202,787

DIVISION I - DEPARTMENT OF STATE - FOREIGN OPERATIONS - AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2012
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2011 Enacted	FY 2012 Request	Conference	Conference vs. Enacted
Grand total	48,320,684	59,655,167	53,501,687	+5,181,003
Appropriations	(48,966,567)	(50,952,380)	(42,812,600)	(-6,153,967)
Overseas contingency operations	---	(8,702,787)	(11,202,787)	(+11,202,787)
Rescissions	(-645,883)	---	(-513,700)	(+132,183)
(By transfer)	(37,000)	(50,000)	(40,000)	(+3,000)
(Transfer out)	(-30,000)	(-50,000)	---	(+30,000)
(Limitation on callable capital)	(2,558,049)	(10,093,696)	(11,346,028)	(+8,787,979)

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

The conference report before us contains nine separate bills: Defense; Energy and Water; Financial Services; Homeland Security; Interior; Labor-HHS and Education; Legislative Branch; Military Construction and VA; and State and Foreign Operations. It is a bipartisan agreement reached after many hours of deliberation and debate. It reflects the fact that neither party can pass this bill on its own in either the House or the Senate.

The conference report is a remarkable product of the hard work of all members of the Appropriations Committee and, as the chairman mentioned, especially the ranking members and the cardinals, the chairmen of the subcommittees.

I especially want to congratulate the staff. I was a staff person myself, and as the chairman has said, I have never seen people work harder than the staff on the House Appropriations Committee. And I want to commend Bill Inglee and David Pomerantz for their work all during this year, their cooperation, and their leadership of the staff. And we have a great staff. You know, these people have enormous experience, they have great background, and we're proud of all of them.

I also want to congratulate BILL YOUNG, my chairman on the Defense Subcommittee, former chairman of the full committee. We've been good friends, and I want to wish him a happy birthday. It's ironic that here we are on the last day getting this big bill passed on both of our birthdays. So somebody smiled on us. Maybe it was the other body by slowing things down.

We're going to have our ranking members present their statements after the chairmen on the other side.

I want to thank Mr. ROGERS again for all of his courtesy and his great work. He had to have the patience of Job in order to get this thing done, but he did it and I commend him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DICKS. I yield myself an additional 15 seconds.

I just want to commend him for his patience and his determination, and next year we're going to get all 12 bills to the floor.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the gentleman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman, the chairman, for yielding me the time.

It's not really adequate to explain this bill, this defense bill, which is the largest part of this mini-bus, omnibus, or call it what you will, but thank you, Chairman ROGERS, especially for bringing back regular order in the appropriations process, which we haven't done for a while. You've done a really great job in leading this committee in getting this job done.

To my friend, Mr. DICKS, I've already wished him personally a happy birthday, but, Mr. Speaker, we appreciate Mr. DICKS' relationship with the Congress, with our subcommittee, with the full committee. Together, they've made a great team; they've done a great job.

As I said, the defense bill is the biggest part of this bill. It is actually $21 billion less than was requested in the budget. We were given a number. We were instructed to make reductions. This subcommittee, the members and the staff, worked diligently to make sure that any reductions that we had to make would not affect the readiness of our Nation or would not adversely affect any of our troops. We successfully concluded that task. We kept our commitment to maintain readiness and to remain strong in the support of our troops.

It makes me feel good that we have an agreement that was agreed upon by the Republicans and the Democrats in the House and the Republicans and the Democrats in the Senate. We won't get a unanimous vote on this package at all, but we worked together.

People have wondered, and I'm sure all of us have been asked by our constituents, Why can't you guys in Congress work together and get things done?

When Congress acts as a Congress and avoids a lot of outside political influence, it's amazing what we can do. I just would call attention to the fact we just concluded the intelligence bill on a bipartisan basis.

We did the National Defense Authorization Act last week on a bipartisan basis. This omnibus bill that we will pass today on a bipartisan basis, we worked together and we got things done when we were able to work as a Congress.

I am very happy to be supportive of especially the defense part of this bill.

□ 1210

Again, I want to congratulate Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member DICKS for their strong leadership in getting us back to the regular order. As Mr. DICKS said, next year we're going to do all of the appropriations bills one at a time, which is just like it's supposed to be done.

Mr. Speaker, there is so much more to talk about with regard to this bill—so many details—that we have written copies of a report on what it does and what it doesn't do, and we'll be happy to provide that for any Member who asks. Other than that, let's vote for this package and let's get our job done.

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Hopefully, I won't have to wish you a happy New Year until after we come back next year, but we'll see how that goes.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent the fiscal year 2012 Defense Appropriations bill before the House today.

The Defense bill provides funding for critical national security needs, provides the necessary resources to continue the Nation's military efforts abroad, and contains essential funding for health and quality of life programs for the men and women of the Armed Services and their families.

The bill is separated into two subdivisions, the Department's base funding and the Overseas Contingency Operations funding. The base funding in this bill totals $518 billion—$5 billion above last year and $21 billion below the request. The Overseas Contingency Operations portion totals $115 billion—$43 billion below last year and $2.8 billion below the request.

These reductions were not easily achieved; but the Subcommittee reviewed in detail the budget request, and found areas and programs where reductions were possible without adversely impacting the warfighter or readiness.

This was extremely important in finalizing this bill. I committed long ago that I would never write or support a bill which adversely affected any soldier or had an adverse effect on our Nation's readiness. I firmly believe I have kept that promise with this bill.

The bill before us provides $131.1 billion for military personnel—including the requested 1.6 percent military pay raise.

It funds $163.1 billion in Operation and Maintenance for equipment and facility maintenance, base operations, and critical readiness programs to prepare for and conduct combat and peace-time missions.

The bill provides $32.5 billion for the Defense Health Program, including an additional $603.6 million for military medical research, including +$239 million for cancer research and +$135 million for Psychological Health/Traumatic Brain Injury (PH/TBI).

It provides $104.6 billion in procurement for new equipment and upgrades to ensure that our military has the systems, weapons, and equipment they need to train, maintain infrastructure, and conduct successful operations. This includes $15.3 billion for the construction of 11 Navy ships; $5.9 billion for 31 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft; $3.2 billion for 28 F–18 Super Hornets and 12 EA–18 Growlers; $2.8 billion for 127 H–60 Blackhawk helicopters; and $720 million for 48 MQ–9 Reaper UAVs.

And the bill funds $72.4 billion in essential basic and applied research that will help prepare our forces with the systems and equipment necessary to meet potential future challenges. This includes $2.7 billion for continued development and testing of the Joint Strike Fighter.

As I mentioned before, analytically based and rational reductions were taken to reach the subcommittee's allocation. These include: programs which have been terminated or restructured since the budget was submitted; savings from favorable contract pricing adjustments; contract and schedule delays resulting in fiscal year 2012 savings; unjustified cost increases or funding requested ahead of need; anticipated or historical under-execution; rescissions of unneeded prior year funds; and Department-identified funds which were no longer required.

For example, we reduced $435 million for contract delays on the Army's Ground Combat Vehicle; $515 million for excess Working Capital Fund cash balances; $540 million in program delay savings for the Enhanced Medium

Altitude Reconnaissance and Surveillance System (EMAARS); and $2.6 billion in unneeded prior year funds.

While representative of the reductions that were made, these were by no means easy decisions. Staff on both sides of the aisle, and both sides of the Capitol, worked tirelessly to ensure that the readiness of our Nation's military was not impacted, and its future not jeopardized, in the name of budget cuts.

That effort is a strong indication of the bipartisan nature of this bill, which is the longstanding tradition of this subcommittee. And I would like to thank Ranking Member DICKS for working with us in upholding that tradition.

It is a good bill that maintains our commitments to our soldiers and their families, and continues to support and maintain the finest military in the world. I urge its adoption.

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

The Department of Defense appropriations bill is part of this package:

This bill includes the base funding of $518 billion, a reduction of $21 billion below the President's budget request;

The bill also provides $115 billion for overseas contingency operations, $2.8 billion below the budget request;

The bill balances funding essential for U.S. troops and their families with readiness, weapons acquisition, and technology development;

For military personnel and family programs, the bill includes full funding of the military pay accounts, including a 1.6 percent pay raise for our troops. For community support programs, the bill includes $40 million above the request for Impact Aid and $250 million to replace inadequate schools located on DOD bases that are owned and operated by our local educational authorities and by the U.S. Department of Education;

For readiness, the bill includes $163 billion for operations and maintenance. With this account, the bill includes $150 million above the request for ship depot maintenance and $34 million to fully fund the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program;

For procurement and research programs, the bill includes $255 million to prevent the shutdown of the M–1 tank production; $1 billion for National Guard and Reserve equipment; $200 million for Rapid Innovation Funding; $230 million to procure equipment needed to enhance special operations; $130 million above the request for ongoing cooperative missile defense programs with Israel; and $100 million above the request to mature technologies for the next-generation bomber;

For overseas contingencies, the bill includes $115 billion, $2.8 billion below the request and $43 billion below 2011. The decline compared to that of last year reflects the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. The bill provides for the withdrawal of U.S. personnel from Iraq by the end of this month; the operation of U.S. forces in Afghanistan; and programs to train and equip Afghan security forces so they are capable of assuming security responsibility.

This bill is essential to maintaining the readiness and capabilities of U.S. forces. It provides for the need of our men and women in uniform and their families. The bill also includes responsible reductions from the budget request, recognizing the fiscal realities that our Nation faces. This is a must-pass bill, which I support.

Again, I commend Chairman YOUNG and the staff of the Defense Subcommittee for their extraordinary work. This is the largest appropriations bill. It is essential to national security.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I want to thank the chairman for his support and leadership as we work through the appropriations process.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I am pleased to support this appropriations bill that keeps our government open for business but that also substantially reduces Federal spending in almost every Department.

A special thanks to my ranking member and good friend, PETE VISCLOSKY, for his hard work, his knowledge of our energy and water bill, and his passionate support for so many priorities.

Our portion of the bill has an important national security component so that we increase funding for the safety and the reliability of our nuclear deterrent, as well as for a new generation of naval reactors.

While funding for the Department of Energy is below the President's request, we continue to ensure that our Nation has a diversity of energy supply, that nuclear energy will be a critical part of that future, and that important research and development will continue at our remarkable national laboratories. Additionally, our bill provides funds for the Army Corps of Engineers to protect public safety, to keep America open for business, and to meet emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support a bill that ensures our national security, our safety, and our economic security with fewer taxpayer dollars.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana, the ranking member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, Mr. VISCLOSKY.

(Mr. VISCLOSKY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

There is great substance in this bill, but I really want to address the process and to begin my remarks by saying how very proud I am of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, the Appropriations Committee is composed of serious and intelligent people. Our members and our terrific staff—I was also on the staff at one time—work hard to invest in our country and to improve the lives of the people we represent.

As Chairman ROGERS indicated, our members do disagree, but they thoughtfully consider the facts; they consider each other's perspectives and positions and reach reasonable compromises that improve the Government of the United States of America. This is how this entire body should conduct itself.

I especially want to thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member DICKS and their staffs for leading the way.

I also want to express my gratitude to Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, who is also my friend and a consummate gentleman; and to our subcommittee members and our exceptional staffs for their dedication and hard work in crafting a wonderful piece of legislation.

The agreement on energy and water provides $2.3 billion for nonproliferation activities, $30 million above last year's level, ensuring that our ability to counter the most serious threat confronting our national security, the threat of nuclear terrorism, is adequately funded;

The agreement provides for renewable energy programs at level funding from last year. The science account, so critical to the competitiveness of our Nation, is $46 million above last year; and ARPA–E provides and drives innovation to support our scientific competitiveness;

The Army Corps of Engineers is funded at $5 billion, a slight increase over last year's level, ensuring that some ongoing projects will not be terminated.

We must invest in our infrastructure. While this bill does increase funding for Corps, we are not adequately investing in infrastructure. But I do urge the support of the legislation.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of the conference report.

I want to thank Chairman ROGERS, as well as Ranking Member NORMAN DICKS, for his leadership and their commitment as we went back to regular order in producing this agreement.

Mr. Speaker, we had challenging negotiations with our colleagues from the other body, but I believe we have forged a disciplined agreement that puts a priority on limited spending and on true priorities like border security, immigration enforcement, and disaster relief while at the same time instilling robust fiscal discipline and oversight.

This conference report provides a total of $39.6 billion in discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security. That is $4 billion below the President's request, 9.1 percent. It is $3 billion below the FY 2010, and it is $2 billion below that of last year. These are genuine reductions, not just budget gimmicks.

□ 1220

Within this contracted funding, frontline operations are made a priority as well, including funding and direction to ICE to maintain a daily detention bed capacity of 34,000 beds, which is the highest detention capacity in its history. Also, funding for the highest-ever levels of staffing for Border Patrol agents, CBP officers, and ICE agents.

This conference agreement also terminates two ineffectual offices at the Department of Homeland Security. It installs unprecedented oversight at FEMA, and it includes a statutory requirement for the Secretary of Homeland Security to enforce the immigration laws that are on the books.

Finally, this conference agreement and the disaster supplemental bill that we are also considering today fully funds FEMA's disaster relief requirements for 2012. That means that devastated areas all across the country will get what they need to get back on their feet. And this funding can be offset through reductions that will also be considered later this afternoon, which I support.

Let me close again by thanking all those involved in this process on the Appropriations Committee. I would like to thank Ben Nicholson, with the majority, as well as the majority staff, and Stephanie Gupta, with the minority, and her staff. I would also like to thank Senator LANDRIEU and Senator COATS, as well as the gentleman from North Carolina, Ranking Member PRICE, of course, who was my partner in this process, for their hard work and compromise as we worked toward forging this reasonable agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference aagreement.

We had a long, challenging negotiation with our colleagues from the other body, but I believe we have forged a disciplined and reasonable agreement, that adheres to the requirements, constraints, and principles of the Budget Control Act; requires strict fiscal discipline; instills hard-hitting oversight; and prioritizes limited spending on true priorities like border security, immigration enforcement, and disaster relief.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report provides a total of $39.6 billion dollars in discretionary spending for the Department of Homeland Security. That's $4 billion dollars, or 9.1 percent, below the President's request; $3 billion dollars, or 7.2 percent, below fiscal year 2010's enacted level; and $2 billion dollars, or 5.0 percent, below last year's enacted level.

These are actualized spending reductions, not just some budget gimmicks.

Within this contracted funding, frontline operations are prioritized, including: Funding and statutory direction to ICE to maintain a daily detention bed capacity of 34,000 beds—the highest detention capacity in its history—to strengthen immigration enforcement and achieve increased removals; supporting the highest-ever levels of staffing for Border Patrol agents, CBP officers, and ICE agents; and fully funding major re-capitalization efforts by the Coast Guard and Secret Service protective operations during next year's Presidential campaign.

The fiscal discipline, oversight, and spending reductions in this conference agreement include: Two terminations of ineffectual and redundant offices at DHS; unprecedented reporting requirements for FEMA's grant programs and disaster relief operations; numerous planning, justification, and reporting requirements; and a statutory requirement for the Secretary of Homeland Security to enforce immigration law.

Finally, this conference agreement and the disaster supplemental bill that is also being considered by the House today, fully fund FEMA's disaster relief requirements for fiscal year 2012—that means that devastated areas like Joplin, Missouri; numerous flooded communities along the Mississippi River and East Coast; and tornado-ravaged towns in my home state of Alabama will get the full assistance they need to rebuild and get back on their feet.

And, this funding can be offset through reductions we will also consider later today—reductions I support.

Mr. Speaker, this conference agreement represents some of the very best from this Chamber—a product forged out of intense and open debate; a product that followed regular order; and a product that meets the goals and objectives laid out by Speaker BOEHNER, Majority Leader CANTOR, and Chairman ROGERS at the beginning of this Congress.

This is a strong conference agreement and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Let me close by sincerely thanking Senators LANDRIEU and COATS as well as Ranking Member PRICE for their hard work and contributions toward forging this reasonable agreement on funding for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2012.

Let me also thank Chairman ROGERS, Chairman INOUYE, and the House and Senate Appropriations front office staff for the support of our Subcommittee's efforts—I sincerely appreciate their leadership through this laborious process as well as their fidelity to regular order.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina, the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, Mr. PRICE.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are finally considering an omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal 2012 to fund critical Federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security. After a year of lurching from one manufactured crisis to another, destabilizing the American economy and sending Congress' approval ratings to record lows, it's high time we restored some measure of regular order to this critical legislative function.

I applaud Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member DICKS, and my subcommittee chairman, Mr. ADERHOLT, for their commitment to restoring regular order and maintaining the pattern of bipartisan cooperation that distinguishes our committee, even in today's hyperpartisan environment. I also want to thank our talented and dedicated staff for drafting and negotiating what was a very difficult package to put together.

With respect to DHS, overall funding will drop for a second year in a row to $39.6 billion. But this drop is compensated for by the separate disaster relief bill we will be considering shortly. When these two measures are combined, FEMA will receive a total of $7.1 billion for disaster relief, ensuring that families and businesses affected by recent disasters will receive assistance vital for recovery and rebuilding.

Beyond disaster assistance, the reduced allocation meant that we had to make some tough decisions. I'm pleased that sufficient funding is provided in this bill for our frontline DHS employees to conduct critical operations along our borders, protect our Nation's airports and seaports, and thwart cybersecurity attacks on our Federal Government.

Other accounts which were radically underfunded in the House bill, have been increased modestly in this omnibus bill but nowhere near adequate levels. Research and development funding has been cut by 38 percent since 2010, undermining our investments in new technologies targeted specifically at homeland security threats. And State and local grants have been reduced by more than 50 percent from the 2010 level, requiring our States and communities to delay or abandon vital preparedness efforts.

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

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. These cuts in grants will seriously hamper States and communities in their preparedness efforts. We simply have to do better next year.

While this is an imperfect bill, under the circumstances we know it could have been much worse. It's the product of bicameral and bipartisan decisions about how best to allocate our scarce resources to protect the American people. With that in mind, I urge colleagues to support the omnibus bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the very distinguished chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Appropriations, the gentlelady from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON).

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. I know he hasn't enjoyed an easy task, but he has done a tremendous job in bringing us to this point today. So thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I also want to express my appreciation to Ranking Member SERRANO and Laura Hogshead, on his staff. They have been terrific to work with. And

even when we might not have agreed on something, we still had dialogue, and they were terrific. Our own staff on the subcommittee, very ably led by John Martens, Winnie Chang, Kelly Shea, Ariana Sarar, and Karen Thomas, have done a tremendous job.

There are a lot of reasons to be happy about this bill and to vote for it, from the perspective of the Financial Services Committee. The bill reduces this portion of the President's budget request by $4.2 billion. Compared to 2010, discretionary funding in this bill is reduced by 11 percent. We are heeding the American people's call for a limited, more transparent, more responsive Federal Government.

The bill prohibits funds for certain White House czars, rescinds $25 million from a mandatory slush fund at the Securities and Exchange Commission, and dedicates much-needed resources for the counterterrorism activities at the Department of Treasury. The bill also provides funding for the Small Business Administration's business loans program. Our small businesses are critical to our economy, and this program extends accessible and affordable credit to help them grow.

As fortunate as I feel to have reached agreement with my colleagues in so many areas, I'm still startled and a bit dismayed by the White House's refusal to submit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency whose mission is to promote accountability and transparency in the financial industry, to the usual and customary transparency measures accorded to Congress and the American people.

Provisions in the House's bill would have limited the budget of the bureau to $200 million and subjected the CFPB to annual congressional review. I'm really hard-pressed to understand why a $200 million limitation is not enough for a bureau without a director, or why the centerpiece of the Dodd-Frank Act cannot withstand meaningful, regular review by the Congress, which established it in the first place.

The checks and balances envisioned by our Founders apply to every other consumer-oriented agency in the executive branch of government. The CFPB ought to be treated no different from the Federal Trade Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, and others in this important regard. I can promise that the CFPB will be revisited again and again by Congress.

Leaving that subject though for another day, I do urge my colleagues to support the bill and the savings it contains on behalf of the American people.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York, the ranking member of the Financial Services Subcommittee, Mr. SERRANO.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman DICKS for yielding me time so that I can comment on the Financial Services and General Government section of this bill. I would also like to thank both him and Chairman ROGERS for their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor. Please let me also express my appreciation to Chairwoman EMERSON, who worked so well with me and our staff throughout this process.

Unfortunately, because of the budget agreement and the allocation that was given to the subcommittee, there are significant cuts to many important agencies. However, this is a much better bill than what emerged from our committee markup, and we worked hard to provide sufficient funding in order to avoid layoffs of hardworking Federal employees. I am especially pleased that the health care repeal provisions and the many anti-Dodd-Frank provisions that were a part of the committee-passed bill have not been included in this final conference agreement.

I am, however, distressed that this agreement once again interferes in the local affairs of the District of Columbia. Although D.C. will be able to continue to use its own local funds for syringe exchange programs, this conference report prohibits them from using their own local funds for abortion services, a restriction that no other American city has dictated to it by the Federal Government.

□ 1230

Finally, I am pleased that the provision reinstating the harsh Bush-era restrictions on Cuban-American travel to Cuba and limitations on remittances was dropped from the conference report. Had this provision stayed in the bill, there would have been an immediate shutdown of family travel to Cuba, which would have been particularly difficult just days before the holiday season.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the majority and minority subcommittee staff for all of their hard work and to acknowledge the efforts of my own personal staff.

Mr. Speaker, within the strict budgetary limitations that were given the committee and this section, an improved version, I am in favor of the bill, and I would ask my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chair of the State-Foreign Ops Subcommittee, the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the State-Foreign Operations division of this conference agreement, which contains $42.1 billion in discretionary budget authority. This means that since January, spending in this bill will decrease in this bill by $6.6 billion, or more than 13 percent.

The agreement includes overseas contingency operations spending for State and USAID to implement in frontline states and conflict areas. These costs are temporary and extraordinary and will be reduced over time.

This bill has been written to address our foreign assistance and State Department funding through the lens of what is most important to our national security interests and the security of our allies and our neighbor Mexico. The bill provides security assistance for critical allies, including full finding for the U.S.-Israel memorandum of understanding.

The bill also carries new language on the Palestinian Authority, cutting off their economic aid and stopping their ability to have a U.S. office if they obtain member state status at the United Nations. Additionally, the bill addresses concerns about assistance to Egypt and to Pakistan.

New restrictions are also placed on the U.N. and other international organizations. For example, funds are withheld from these organizations until they publicly display their audit and financial reports.

I want to thank the members of the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and, in particular, my ranking member, Mrs. LOWEY, who has been extremely helpful in developing this compromise. I also thank my colleagues across the Capitol who worked in good faith for the best possible outcomes. I believe we were successful in protecting our national security while providing appropriate oversight of taxpayer dollars.

I want to sincerely thank the staff: from Mrs. LOWEY's staff, Steve Marchese, Erin Kolodjeski and Talia Dubovi; and on my staff, Anne Marie Chotvacs, Clelia Alvarado, Alice Hogans, Susan Adams, Craig Higgins, Jamie Guinn, Johnnie Kaberle, and Matt Leffingwell. They all worked appreciable hours and with great dedication.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from New York, the ranking member of the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee, Mrs. LOWEY.

Mrs. LOWEY. As ranking member of the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I want to congratulate Chairwoman GRANGER, Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member DICKS, and the outstanding majority and minority staff. Thank you all for working together with me on a bill that will help maintain our global leadership, protect national security, and promote economic growth.

Our wise investments in better health and education systems, economic opportunity in the developing world, humanitarian assistance, international financial institutions, development assistance, economic support funds, and international family planning will help to save lives, develop the next generation of U.S. trading partners to boost job growth domestically, and confront the conditions that foster radicalism and instability that threaten the long-term security of the United States.

This bill also fully funds our agreements with vital allies, including Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and supports governance and development activities in Egypt to aid the transition to democracy.

However, we do not write blank checks. Stringent conditions on continued assistance for Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Pakistan, and Afghanistan will help ensure accountability and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

This bill is aimed at advancing our economic and strategic interests around the world through effective and efficient diplomacy and development, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, the Democratic whip, Mr. HOYER, my good friend and a former member of the Appropriations Committee who has worked very strongly with us all year to move these bills forward.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments and for yielding.

I rise in support of this legislation.

This ought to be a lesson for us in some humility. I was the majority leader. Had I, as majority leader, brought that bill that sits on that floor, 1,207 pages, within the last 24 hours to the floor, I think the response from that side of the aisle would have been harsh, accusatory, and not helpful.

Now, why do I say that? Because it happened. And it ought to be a portion of humility for all of us to understand the legislative process is difficult. We bring different views and we represent different constituencies and we have different priorities.

I rise in strong support of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation. None of them have read it. Not one of us has read every page of this bill. I see the chairman raising his hand, and I take him at his word. That means 434 of us will have to rely on his advice and counsel. And I'm sure Mr. DICKS has read it as well. My point is we work by committees, as President Wilson said, and we've worked hard on this bill through the year.

My Republican colleagues, during the course of the last election, said, We're going to bring bills one at a time to the floor and consider them. The Labor-Health bill that is included in a substantial portion of those pages, not only has it not been brought to the floor, it didn't pass the subcommittee. Nor the full committee. Nor this floor.

But this bill has been worked on carefully, and I want to congratulate Mr. ROGERS and Mr. DICKS and all of the subcommittee chairs for working out the differences that we had so we could do what the American people expect us to do—come to agreement on a bill that none of us perceives as perfect but perceive as a positive step for our country.

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

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. HOYER. I, therefore, urge all of my colleagues to support this bill. Yes, it will keep government open, which is essential; but it will also do the most fundamental job that this Congress has to do every year, and that is to fund appropriately the priorities that this Congress puts before the country.

In closing, let me congratulate my friend, HAL ROGERS from Kentucky, with whom I served on the Appropriations Committee for over two decades, and Mr. DICKS, with whom I have served every day of my congressional career. Both are decent, hardworking, conscientious Representatives. They and their subcommittee chairs and ranking members have come together to present this product.

It is time to act. It is time to act positively. I will, when the roll is called, be supporting this piece of legislation.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the gentleman for those comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Interior Subcommittee, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

Mr. SIMPSON. First, let me thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member DICKS.

As I've told many Members, if this is your first term or your second term or your third term here in this body, this is the first time you've actually seen an appropriation bill come to the floor under an open rule, and I know that is something we both want. The majority party wants that, and I know the minority party wants that, also. And while Mr. HOYER was correct, we didn't get them all done, we are moving in the right direction. And we will get there where every bill comes under an open rule so that Members have input into that legislation, and that's what we're working toward. And I want to thank you for that.

□ 1240

But first let me also thank my partner in this effort, Mr. MORAN from Virginia. He's been a great asset in working out this bill. We don't always agree on every issue. I'm from Idaho, he's from Virginia, and so we sometimes have differences of opinion. But we're able to sit down and work together to solve those differences and work out a bill that I think is in the best interests of the American people.

The Interior bill conference agreement is $29.175 billion, which is $384 million below the FY enacted level. The conference agreement funds the EPA at $8.45 billion, which is $233 million below the FY11 enacted level and $524 million below the President's request. The bill also includes in title IV a general provision that amends the Clean Air Act to transfer air quality permitting authority as of the date of this enactment from the Environmental Protection Agency to the Department of the Interior. This will provide regulatory parity for the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea planning areas with the western and central Gulf of Mexico planning areas. It fully funds the newly created Bureau of Ocean Energy Management with $60 million to help expedite the review of offshore exploration plans. It also fully funds the newly created Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement at $76 million, including $15 million for oil spill research.

It provides authority for the collection of $62 million in inspection fees, but it dedicates funding for approving permits, expediting exploration plans, and hiring much-needed inspectors and engineers while also accelerating the approval of drilling plans. It fully funds wildfire suppression at the 10-year average. It cuts the NEA and NEH funding by $17.4 million combined in this bill from the '011 appropriation.

It provides $4.3 billion to the Indian Health Service. This has been a bipartisan effort with Mr. DICKS when he was chairman of this committee, with Mr. MORAN when he was chairman of this committee, and now with me that we fully fund the Indian Health Services. This is a 5.8 percent increase in this bill to address the health care needs in Indian Country, including access to Indian health facilities and contractual obligations to tribes. It provides $108 million for the Smithsonian, including $75 million for the construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

It does several things for Westerners that live in public land States relative to grazing. There is a new provision that requires that the administrative review process first be exhausted before litigating on grazing issues and provides protection for trailing of livestock.

This, overall, is a good bill, and I think it's one that we can all be proud of. And, again, I want to thank Mr. MORAN for his dedication and work on this. But, most of all, I want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle. If you're not on this committee, if you don't work with this committee, you don't know how much time they put in, and they do an incredible job for Congress and for the American people.

MR. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia, the ranking member of the Interior Subcommittee, Mr. MORAN.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I too want to join the chorus in commending Chairman ROGERS, Chairman SIMPSON, and our ranking member, NORM DICKS, and the phenomenal work of the appropriations staff on both sides. Rich Healey and Shalanda Young, for example, have been working on this bill for the last several months, sometimes through the night. But all the pros on the appropriations staff, they are led by David Pomerantz; his deputy, Lesley Turner; Bill Inglee. They are pros, and they all deserve special recognition.

Mr. Speaker, this is a vast improvement over the Interior and Environment bill considered by the House in July. The agreement provides $1.7 billion more than the initial House allocation. And $8.4 billion is provided for EPA, it's 1.3 over the House bill. The agreement maintains basically level funding for the operation of the National Park Service, and it restores funding for the science programs in USGS land and water conservation front programs are increased by $22 million over last year's level. And it's important to note that we've restored funding for endangered species and critical habitat listings.

Subcommittee Chairman MIKE SIMPSON spearheaded a bipartisan effort in support of funding for Native American programs. And as a result, the Indian Health Service is increased by 6 percent, important increases in education, public safety, and tribal government. This agreement doesn't abandon our commitment to the arts.

In fact, NEA and NEH are each given $11 million over the House allocation. It's equal to the President's request.

Just as important, though, as what is included in this agreement is what is not. The conferees dropped more than two dozen unacceptable environmental riders that were a part of the House bill. Gone are the greenhouse gas, the Grand Canyon uranium mining, the mountain top mining removal riders to name just a few. This is not to say that the bill is completely devoid of any environmental restrictions, but this is a compromise. And I can say that in nearly every instance what has been included is significantly improved over what was originally proposed.

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

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to say this. This is the way things were meant to be done in this body. Politics was meant to be the art of compromise, with people acting in good faith for the betterment of their country. That's what this omnibus appropriations bill is all about. And so it deserves to be passed unanimously.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the chairman for yielding the time, and I thank him for his leadership.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this conference report because I think it takes another step to change this culture of spending that we've had in this town to a culture of savings. And we actually spent less money this year than we spent last year.

When you look at the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, which I chair, you'll find that we reduced spending this year by 7½ percent. In fact, the money that we spend on the legislative branch is less than we spent last year, it's less than we spent in 2010, and it's less money than we spent in 2009.

When you look specifically at the House of Representatives, which we are all a part of, the last two cycles we have reduced spending on the House of Representatives by over 10 percent.

When we ask other agencies of the Federal Government to do more with less, to rein in spending, to tighten their belt, be more effective and be more efficient, we have not exempted ourselves from that, and we have led by example. Every Member's office account in this body has been reduced by 10 percent these last 2 years. The leadership offices have had their funding reduced by 10 percent, and the committees as well, even the Appropriations Committee, has been reduced by even more than 10 percent. So I think this is another step forward to fund our priorities but exercise spending discipline.

I certainly want to thank my ranking member, Mr. HONDA, for his cooperation and hard work and thank all our staff members for their dedication and commitment, and I urge my colleagues to support this very good bill.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, the ranking member of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, Mr. HONDA.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today Congress is considering a bill to keep the government running for the remainder of the fiscal year. That is our basic responsibility as Members of Congress. I am pleased that we are operating under regular order in considering the conference report. The American people want us to work together. This package is a reflection of what we can accomplish through hard work and compromise.

The Legislative Branch appropriations bill will provide the Congress and its agencies with $4.3 billion to work with, which is a reduction from the previous fiscal year. I have hope for more funds for the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office, which have experienced increased demands from Members during these budget-focused times. However, I am glad we restored funding for agencies that were the targets of the most extreme cuts proposed in the original House bill.

This conference report restores $18 million to the Government Printing Office, $12 million to the Library of Congress, averting layoffs the original House bill would have caused. Capitol Police funding remains at last year's level of $340.1 million. It is the only legislative branch agency that was not cut from last year's level.

This conference report includes language requiring the Chief Administrative Officer and the Sergeant At Arms to take on more of a leadership role in setting policies regarding district office security, including helping Members renegotiate leases to secure more favorable terms on security requirements. This bill provides the basic level of funding for the leg branch of the government and should be sufficient to keep current services in place. That is why I support this bill and ask my colleagues to do the same.

I want to thank Chairman CRENSHAW and his staff for the collegial working relationship throughout this process: Liz Dawson, the majority clerk; Chuck Turner and Jennifer Kisiah from the subcommittee; and Michael Kirlin from his personal staff. I also want to thank my staff, Shalanda Young, the minority clerk, and Mark Nakamoto from my personal staff.

Mr. Speaker, while not perfect, this bill is the result of a lot of hard work and compromise. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

□ 1250

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), a very hardworking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I'd like to congratulate Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member DICKS for an exceptionally hard job which yielded, frankly, a very good product.

This bill spends less—$70 billion less—than the President requested and $6 billion less than we spent last year. It's the second year in a row we've actually cut discretionary spending.

The bill cuts by 5 percent the funding for EPA regulatory programs which have passed some wildly unpopular and costly rules. The bill eliminates 23 programs totaling more than $240 million. And while this bill cuts wasteful spending, it actually focuses additional funds on things that count—defending our country, helping some of our most vulnerable and challenged citizens, and providing funds to educate some of our most disadvantaged young people.

The bill provides a 1.6 percent pay increase for the military, as requested by the President, and funds the Defense Health and Military Family programs at $1.1 billion above FY2011 and $283 million above the President's request.

Along with supporting our Armed Forces, this bill exceeds FY2011 levels for our veterans. With $58 billion in discretionary spending, this bill fully funds $2.1 billion above last year's level for those who have served our country.

In addition, the Indian Health Service is funded at $4.3 billion, an increase of nearly 6 percent. I particularly want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member MORAN for their hard efforts. The original House bill was actually even higher; it's our friends in the Senate who actually reduced funding here. The House really did a great job in this area.

Finally, I want to note TRIO funding was increased in a difficult environment by $15 million.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It reprioritizes our spending away from wasteful programs that don't work toward things that are truly important

for the American people. I urge its passage. I thank my friends for their hard work.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLE. I yield to my friend from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I just want to commend the gentleman for his work in support of Indian Country, both the Indian Health Service and the BIA. You have been a tireless advocate. Our subcommittee on the Interior has had bipartisan work on this issue, and I commend you for your strong leadership on that important issue.

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentleman very much and appreciate that.

I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut, the ranking member of the Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO.

Ms. DELAURO. I thank the ranking member. And I want to say a thank you to my colleague, Congressman DICKS, and to the chairman, Mr. ROGERS, also to the staff, both majority and minority, for their tireless work in this effort, including David Pomeranz, Steve Crane, David Reich, Lisa Molyneux and Letty Mederos, Susan Frost as well. They did unbelievable work in this effort.

I rise in support of this budget for FY2012. It funds the government at a level consistent with the Budget Control Act without many of the damaging and extraneous ideological riders that marked earlier efforts.

Make no mistake, there are real cuts here, including hard cuts to vital programs like the LIHEAP program, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Still, I believe this legislation has been improved.

In terms of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, the agreement restores $2.9 billion in cuts made in the chairman's draft. These restorations are key investments in job creation, education, and the health and well-being of families that will lead us to recovery. We know, especially as over 13 million of our fellow Americans look for work, that investments in human capital like job training and reemployment services are part of the core, essential role for government. They help responsible people succeed. And I am pleased that this agreement restores the 74 percent cut to job training programs that was proposed in the original chairman's bill, which was never considered before the committee.

Health care is no longer shortchanged. With an aging population and a nursing shortage before us, we need to make wise investments in our health workforce. The programs that help to train primary care doctors, nurses, and other health providers, cut by 61 percent in the majority's draft, are now only cut by 6 percent. Funding for vital mental health services, once cut by 17 percent, are now only cut by 3 percent. And this agreement retains key investments in the Affordable Care Act implementation and in title X.

I'm glad to see the National Institutes of Health receive a funding increase of $299 million; and a new National Center for Advancing Translational Science, as proposed by Director Francis Collins, is established. NIH can now keep funding life-saving research and pushing the frontiers of medical knowledge.

Perhaps no other investments we make are as important as the ones we make in our children. This agreement includes a $16 million increase for the Childcare and Development Block Grant, providing desperately needed aid to working parents for safe and reliable child care. It provides a $424 million increase for Head Start, allowing our kids to continue a path to academic success.

It includes a $60 million increase to title I, supporting schools serving low-income children, and a $100 million increase to IDEA, supporting children with special needs.

One of the hardest issues for this conference has been Pell Grants. The agreement maintains the maximum grant amount of $5,550. For too many students I have met, even a $100 cut would have derailed their prospects for higher education. At the same time, we have made some targeted cost-saving changes to the program that should eliminate the funding shortfall for this year and perhaps next year as well.

I am pleased to see that the virtual elimination of the Corporation for National and Community Service proposed in the majority's draft has been rolled back. Instead of ending AmeriCorps, it will continue.

I intend to support this conference agreement and would encourage others to do so as well.

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

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia, the ranking member of the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee, Mr. BISHOP.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference agreement. The MILCON/VA section of the conference agreement includes a discretionary total of $71.7 billion, a decrease of $1.4 billion below last year's level and a decrease of $2.1 billion below the President's request.

For Military Construction, the conference agreement provides $13.1 billion for military construction projects. And reductions to the budget request are possible because of savings on projects that were appropriated in previous years.

However, even with these reductions, the agreement funds family housing construction at $1.7 billion, which provides for a total of 48 new family housing units, 80 replacement units, and improvements to 216 family housing units.

For Veterans Affairs, the conference agreement provides a total of $122.2 billion for the FY12 programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, of which $58.5 billion is discretionary funding.

The agreement also contains $52.5 billion in advance funding for the VA, the identical level that was requested by the President for the VA medical accounts.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased that the conference agreement provides $45.8 million for Arlington National Cemetery, which is $700,000 over last year's level.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement fully funds the Armed Forces Retirement Home request and includes $14.6 million for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to facilitate the repairs at the D.C. campus to repair damages sustained by the earthquake in August.

Mr. Speaker, let me just thank the committee and the subcommittee staff for all of their hard work in putting the bill together in a bipartisan, bicameral, cooperative way, taking leadership from our chairman and our ranking member, who have worked tirelessly to get this appropriations process back to regular order.

I urge the adoption of the conference report, and I urge all my colleagues to support it. It's a good bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is the next ranking member on the Democratic side on the House Appropriations Committee.

□ 1300

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank my dear friend and colleague Congressman DICKS.

I rise in support of this conference report.

This bill is welcome news and helps restore confidence that America can govern. It is essential to economic growth and job creation in our country, and the bill cuts overall discretionary spending by $7 billion over last year and also $98 billion less than the President's FY12 budget proposal.

This bill demonstrates the Appropriations Committee is still one of the few that properly functions in this institution, and I can't thank enough Chairman HAL ROGERS and Ranking Member NORM DICKS for their bipartisan leadership and hard work, along with their staff, to bring this House to regular order.

This legislation includes vital funding for the defense of our Nation and our domestic imperative. The bill includes support for our Great Lakes ports, as in Cleveland, Lorain, Sandusky, and Toledo, as well as around the country, and invests in their infrastructure necessary to modernize those facilities to increase our exports and increase jobs.

It also includes environmental restoration funding needed for the Great Lakes to allow economic revitalization as we create more maritime jobs and nature tourism. The bill keeps our commitment to establish America's energy independence with robust investments in renewable energy in solar, wind, and biomass. The investments in technology for those represent not just jobs for today, but for tomorrow.

As we grow our economy forward, budget certainty matters for fiscal year 2012. I urge my colleagues to support this so that we can govern our Nation and the Nation's interests.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me thank the gentleman for yielding and also thank our chairman and ranking member and subcommittee chairs, really, for bringing together a bipartisan bill to the floor. But I cannot support the bill because, once again, poor and low-income communities are taking the brunt of the terrible cuts.

While there are good provisions in this bill, what we have, however, is a bill loaded with special interest, Tea Party Republican riders at the expense of low-income people, especially women of color, right here in Washington, D.C.

Cutting off low-income women in Washington, D.C. from access to the same health and reproductive services available throughout the country is really not critical to preventing a shutdown. Forcing the continuation of abstinence-only sex education that fails to meet the needs of young people, that's not critical to preventing the government shutdown. Increasing the spread of HIV and hepatitis C through dirty needles is not critical to preventing a government shutdown.

Finally, let me just say this bill continues to fund over $2 billion a week, mind you, $2 billion a week on a war without end in Afghanistan. We must allow the Afghan people to control their own destiny and immediately begin to pull our great young men and women in uniform out of harm's way.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 1 minute remaining, and the gentleman from Kentucky has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I advise the gentleman from Washington that I have no further requests for time.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) for a colloquy.

Ms. BORDALLO. I thank the gentleman very much.

Section 2207 of the recently passed FY12 Defense authorization bill restricts transfer of funding from the Department of Defense to support civilian infrastructure requirements on Guam, except funding specifically authorized in law.

Does the language of section 8110 of division A of this bill require any further authorization?

Mr. DICKS. I thank the gentlelady from Guam for raising this question.

It is our intent that section 8110 of division A of this bill has the required authorization and should be executed by the Department of Defense as specified in division A of this bill to support civilian infrastructure requirements on Guam.

Ms. BORDALLO. I thank the gentleman for the clarification.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge an ''aye'' vote on the measure.

Mr. DICKS. I urge an ''aye'' vote too.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act. I support a number of provisions included in this bill such as the $10 million for the Gulf War Veterans' Illness Research Program. Yet I cannot support legislation that includes billions of dollars for our military operations overseas.

I remain concerned over the funding for the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) fund at DoD and the State Department included in this bill. H.R. 2055 includes a total of $126.3 billion for the OCO account, which is used to support our military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The U.S. has spent a total of 19 years combined in Iraq and Afghanistan, at a total of more than $1.3 billion. As official military operations in Iraq draw to a close, we have to note that Iraq is not much closer to a democracy than it was when we first invaded the country in 2003. Similarly, we would be foolish to think that our support of the corrupt central government and continued military intervention in Afghanistan would result in stability.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this appropriations bill presents us with a number of difficult, if not outright conflicting, choices. Certainly I and other members would prefer to have debated each of these bills individually with an opportunity to offer amendments.—6 of 12. The spending decisions being made today will have far reaching implications for all Americans, whether it's access to a community health center, quality classroom instruction or support for local police and firefighters. Some of these priorities enjoy bipartisan agreement, but some do not. We ought to have those debates, Mr. Speaker, so the public can be more informed and have time to weigh in with their thoughts to better inform our decisions.

In reviewing this bill, I once again come to the conclusion that the Republican leadership in the House knows the cost of everything yet the value of nothing. For example, the Energy and Water bill preserves level funding for the renewable energy program to support research and development of alternative fuels in support of America's energy independence. Yet the same bill undercuts the foundation of our Nation's economic innovation by cutting half the budget for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy (ARPA–E) and reducing funds for basic science research. Similarly, this bill slashes funding for virtually every environmental safety initiative the federal government has pursued to protect public safety, including those promoting clean air and water. Thankfully, this bill maintains level funding for the National Institutes of Health and our community health centers, as such services will likely be in more demand due to unwise—or unhealthy, to be more precise—decisions made elsewhere in the bill.

While this bill maintains our commitment to our servicemembers, veterans, and their families, it actually undermines their hard work by further hollowing out our international aid programs. The bill cuts $6 billion from two of the three pillars of our national security agenda: diplomacy and development. While the bill provides new funding for counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and civilian programs in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, it cuts more than 15% from the State Department budget and continues the disinvestment in USAID by putting a freeze on hiring and closing 3 overseas missions. Such cuts jeopardize the stability achieved in Iraq and Afghanistan and our engagement in the power shift under way in the Middle East through the Arab Spring. How can we expect to foster moderate political movements in the Middle East if we don't invest in development and diplomacy?

The same foolhardy choices are applied with respect to assistance for our local partners. This bill cuts assistance for our community first responders by 40%, and it reduces federal support for local fire station personnel and equipment by 17%. Our local police and fire personnel represent the front lines of our homeland security, and the federal government must continue to be a full partner in that effort. The bill does, however, increase ever so slightly federal assistance for local classrooms by boosting Title I funding and adding $100 million in special education aid. While the federal government still falls considerably short of meeting its commitment of funding 40% of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, this bill inches us closer and relieves pressure on local taxpayers to foot the bill for this unfunded mandate.

So you see, Mr. Speaker, these are difficult choices that merit further debate than this current process allows. This is certainly not the bill I would have drafted, but it is the one we have been presented. I believe the positives do outweigh the negatives ever so slightly. Faced with an up-or-down vote to support this package or shut down the federal government, I will unenthusiastically support this bill. The public expects us to conduct the Nation's business, and this bill does accomplish that. But the public also expects us to do it in a responsible manner, and this process has been anything but that, and I hope my Republican colleagues more fully engage in this debate on spending priorities when Congress reconvenes next year. I suspect such an exercise will better inform our public, which will better inform our politics and our decisions.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the conference report accompanying H.R. 2055 clearly states that Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has the ability to create the Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group. I worked closely with members of the House and Senate to include the funding for this important panel and I am extremely pleased that it is now possible for it to become a reality.

Despite numerous requests for Secretary Panetta to create this panel using his existing

authority, he has steadfastly refused to do so. His letter of November 3, 2011, which I include for the RECORD, states that he believes ''fresh eyes'' have already been put on our mission and strategy in Afghanistan. He neglects to mention whether his definition of ''fresh eyes'' includes those who devised and implemented the current U.S. strategy. It is clear that his strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan has not yet been successful—and the American people are concerned about the outcome.

I also include for the RECORD my initial letter to President Obama outlining the importance of the Af/Pak Study Group, as well as letters of support from prominent foreign policy experts. This panel presents the Obama Administration with the opportunity to engage the brightest minds outside of government in reviewing current strategy in South Asia and bring their considerable experience to bear to ensure that we have the best possible strategy going forward in this vitally important region.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary Panetta now has clear ability and funding to create the Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group. I believe we owe it to our servicemembers and their families to consider all opinions on how to achieve success in Afghanistan in Pakistan.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 4, 2010.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
The President, The White House, Washington DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On September 14, 2001, following the catastrophic and deliberate terrorist attack on our country, I voted to go to war in Afghanistan. I stand by that decision and have the utmost confidence in General Petraeus's proven leadership. I also remain unequivocally committed to the success of our mission there and to the more than 100,000 American troops sacrificing toward that end. In fact, it is this commitment which has led me to write to you. While I have been a consistent supporter of the war effort in both Afghanistan and Iraq, I believe that with this support comes a responsibility. This was true during a Republican administration in the midst of the wars, and it remains true today.

In 2005, I returned from my third trip to Iraq where I saw firsthand the deteriorating security situation. I was deeply concerned that Congress was failing to exercise the necessary oversight of the war effort. Against this backdrop I authored the legislation that created the Iraq Study Group (ISG). The ISG was a 10-member bipartisan group of well-respected, nationally known figures who were brought together with the help of four reputable organizations—the U.S. Institute for Peace, the Center for the Study of the Presidency, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University—and charged with undertaking a comprehensive review of U.S. efforts there. This panel was intended to serve as ''fresh eyes on the target''—the target being success in Iraq.

While reticent at first, to their credit President Bush, State Secretary Rice and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld came to support the ISG, ably led by bipartisan co-chairs, former Secretary of State James Baker and former Congressman Lee Hamilton. Two members of your national security team, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and CIA Director Leon Panetta, saw the merit of the ISG and, in fact, served on the panel. Vice President Biden, too, then serving in the Senate, was supportive and saw it as a means to unite the Congress at a critical time. A number of the ISG's recommendations and ideas were adopted. Retired General Jack Keane, senior military adviser to the ISG, was a lead proponent of ''the surge,'' and the ISG referenced the possibility on page 73. Aside from the specific policy recommendations of the panel, the ISG helped force a moment of truth in our national conversation about the war effort.

I believe our nation is again facing such a moment in the Afghanistan war effort, and that a similar model is needed. In recent days I have spoken with a number of knowledgeable individuals including former senior diplomats, public policy experts and retired and active military. Many believe our Afghanistan policy is adrift, and all agreed that there is an urgent need for what I call an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group (APSG): We must examine our efforts in the region holistically, given Pakistan's strategic significance to our efforts in Afghanistan and the Taliban's presence in that country as well, especially in the border areas.

This likely will not come as a surprise to you as commander in chief. You are well acquainted with the sobering statistics of the past several weeks—notably that July surpassed June as the deadliest month for U.S. troops. There is a palpable shift in the nation's mood and in the halls of Congress. A July 2010 CBS news poll found that 62 percent of Americans say the war is going badly in Afghanistan, up from 49 percent in May. Further, last week, 102 Democrats voted against the war spending bill, which is 70 more than last year, and they were joined by 12 members of my own party. Senator Lindsay Graham, speaking last Sunday on CNN's ''State of the Union,'' candidly expressed concern about an ''unholy alliance'' emerging of anti-war Democrats and Republicans.

I have heard it said that Vietnam was not lost in Saigon; rather, it was lost in Washington. While the Vietnam and Afghanistan parallels are imperfect at best, the shadow of history looms large. Eroding political will has consequences—and in the case of Afghanistan, the stakes could not be higher. A year ago, speaking before the Veterans of Foreign War National Convention, you rightly said, ''Those who attacked America on 9/11 are plotting to do so again. If left unchecked, the Taliban insurgency will mean an even larger safe haven from which al Qaeda would plot to kill more Americans. So this is not only a war worth fighting . . . this is fundamental to the defense of our people.'' Indeed it is fundamental. We must soberly consider the implications of failure in Afghanistan. Those that we know for certain are chilling—namely an emboldened al-Qaeda, a reconstituted Taliban with an open staging ground for future worldwide attacks, and a destabilized, nuclear-armed Pakistan.

Given these realities and wavering public and political support, I urge you to act immediately, through executive order, to convene an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group modeled after the Iraq Study Group. The participation of nationally known and respected individuals is of paramount importance. Among the names that surfaced in my discussions with others, all of whom more than meet the criteria described above, are ISG co-chairs Baker and Hamilton; former Senators Chuck Robb, Bob Kerrey and Sam Nunn; former Congressman Duncan Hunter; former U.S. ambassador Ryan Crocker, former Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger, and General Keane. These names are simply suggestions among a cadre of capable men and women, as evidenced by the makeup of the ISG, who would be more than up to the task.

I firmly believe that an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group could reinvigorate national confidence in how America can be successful and move toward a shared mission in Afghanistan. This is a crucial task. On the Sunday morning news shows this past weekend, it was unsettling to hear conflicting statements from within the leadership of the administration that revealed a lack of clarity about the end game in Afghanistan. How much more so is this true for the rest of the country? An APSG is necessary for precisely that reason. We are nine years into our nation's longest running war and the American people and their elected representatives do not have a clear sense of what we are aiming to achieve, why it is necessary and how far we are from attaining that goal. Further, an APSG could strengthen many of our NATO allies in Afghanistan who are also facing dwindling public support, as evidenced by the recent Dutch troop withdrawal, and would give them a tangible vision to which to commit.

Just as was true at the time of the Iraq Study Group, I believe that Americans of all political viewpoints, liberals and conservatives alike, and varied opinions on the war will embrace this ''fresh eyes'' approach. Like the previous administration's support of the Iraq Study Group, which involved taking the group's members to Iraq and providing high-level access to policy and decision makers, I urge you to embrace an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group. It is always in our national interest to openly assess the challenges before us and to chart a clear course to success.

As you know, the full Congress comes back in session in mid-September—days after Americans around the country will once again pause and remember that horrific morning nine years ago when passenger airlines became weapons, when the skyline of one of America's greatest cities was forever changed, when a symbol of America's military might was left with a gaping hole. The experts with whom I have spoken in recent days believe that time is of the essence in moving forward with a study panel, and waiting for Congress to reconvene is too long to wait. As such, I am hopeful you will use an executive order and the power of the bully pulpit to convene this group in short order, and explain to the American people why it is both necessary and timely. Should you choose not to take this path, respectfully, I intend to offer an amendment by whatever vehicle necessary to mandate the group's creation at the earliest possible opportunity.

The ISG's report opened with a letter from the co-chairs that read, ''There is no magic formula to solve the problems of Iraq. However, there are actions that can be taken to improve the situation and protect American interests.'' The same can be said of Afghanistan.

I understand that you are a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln. He, too, governed during a time of war, albeit a war that pitted brother against brother, and father against son. In the midst of that epic struggle, he relied on a cabinet with strong, often times opposing viewpoints. Historians assert this served to develop his thinking on complex matters, Similarly, while total agreement may not emerge from a study group for Afghanistan and Pakistan, I believe that vigorous, thoughtful and principled debate and discussion among some of our nation's greatest minds on these matters will only serve the national interest. The biblical admonition that iron sharpens iron rings true.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

P.S. We as a nation must be successful in Afghanistan. We owe this to our men and women in the military serving in harm's way and to the American people.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY AND CONGRESS,
Washington, DC, June 1, 2011.

Hon. FRANK WOLF,
U.S. House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK: To say that the May 2, 2011 targeted elimination of Osama bin Laden by a team of U.S. Navy SEALs was welcome news would be the understatement of the 21st century. The death of a terrorist icon that had directed the murder of thousands of American, European, and Muslim civilians has also caused almost immediate speculation as to what his demise will mean for the international mission in Afghanistan.

Within hours of President Obama's announcement of bin Laden's death, pundits and politicians from both the Right and Left are calling for a speedier withdrawal in the wake of the al-Qaeda leader's demise. However, many are concerned that such a move would risk reversing the gains that have been made by our nearly ten-year military effort and could cause Afghanistan to once again remerge as a destabilizing pariah that violates human rights and threatens international security.

As the country becomes increasingly divided over the issue of our involvement in Afghanistan, many questions have been raised regarding our relationship with Pakistan. Despite spending billions in aid and security assistance, America's approval rating in Pakistan is a mere 17%. Furthermore the discovery of Osama bin Laden in a compound located less than a mile from the Pakistan Military Academy has dramatically amplified concerns that elements of the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence service may be maintaining links with al-Qaeda and other violent extremist organizations. While many understand that cutting off or reducing aid to Pakistan would be risky, the American public is unlikely to tolerate continued perceived double-dealing on the part of the Pakistani security services. New creative and independent thinking is needed to overcome the current deadlock.

As the country struggles to find the appropriate way forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan, I am heartened by your efforts to establish a bipartisan and independent Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group that will take a comprehensive look at America's current and future role in the region.

I had the privilege of helping organize the Iraq Study Group (ISG), which the proposed Af-Pak Study Group would be modeled after, and feel that a similar such effort would be of great help today.

Such a group can provide an effective unifying rallying point that will enable the country to come together in support of a comprehensive strategy that will guard our interests in the region and foster a more stable and secure world.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

DAVID ABSHIRE.

BIRMINGHAM-SOUTHERN COLLEGE,
Birmingham, AL, July 25, 2011.

Congressman FRANK R. WOLF,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you so much for your letter of July, 20, 2011 forwarding me your letter to Secretary Panetta. You asked for my thoughts on the proposed Af/Pak Study Group and here they are:

I think you are spot on! It should be obvious to everyone concerned that the time has come to do a professional evaluation of the current policy in the region. When I mention ''region'', I believe it is important to include India. At the end of the day, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India are inextricably linked. . . . you cannot establish policies in a stove pipe manner. The Study Group will immediately recognize that fact and accommodate it.

It is important to understand that conflict occurs at three levels. . . . Strategic, Operational, and Tactical. Too often we look at the tactical level . . . see the heroism and accomplishments of our servicemen and women . . . and make conclusions re. the conduct of the war. Unfortunately, that is NOT the way to look at this current conflict. Like Vietnam, we can do a solid job at the Tactical Level and lose the war at the Operational and Strategic Levels. This is where we find ourselves today in Afghanistan . . . and the path to any kind of victory is closely linked to success in Pakistan and India. The possibility of achieving such success across all three countries is small . . . certainly following the policies in place today (and yesterday.)

Again, I applaud your work and on behalf of those young men and women who are sacrificing so far from home, I thank you.

Semper Fidelis,

CHARLES C. KRULAK,
General, USMC (Ret.), 31th Commandant of the Marine Corps, 13th President, Birmingham-Southern College.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON,
Washington, DC.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOLF: Thank you for your letters regarding our strategy in Afghanistan and your proposal to create an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group.

To address your main point, I have examined our policy with fresh eyes, and I believe the current U.S. strategy is indeed the best way forward. The United States and our Coalition partners are seeing clear progress through our strategy in Afghanistan, particularly in our core goal of disrupting, dismantling, and ultimately defeating al-Qaida and its extremist affiliates. Our surge forces, along with those of our Allies and partners and the expanding Afghan National Security Forces, have reversed the insurgency's momentum and continue to build on our gains. There has also been a marked decline in violence in Afghanistan so far in 2011, compared to the same period last year. We have also made steady progress in assisting Afghanistan's development of its own forces, which have begun assuming the lead for security for more than a quarter of the Afghan population, with the transition of seven provinces and municipalities having occurred this past summer.

I agree with your concern that one of the greatest risks to the progress we have made is from terrorist and militant groups who find safe havens in Pakistan. To that end, we are working hard with Pakistan to improve the level of cooperation to close these safe havens and promote the emergence of a stable and durable political solution in Afghanistan, which is beneficial not only to the United States, but also to the region.

Given that the Coalition is making undeniable progress, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I continue to think that creating an Afghanistan-Pakistan Study Group, as described in your letter and amendment to the FY 2012 Defense Appropriations bill, is not necessary. Our view is that the establishment of such a group would divert attention and resources from the implementation of our current strategy. Additionally, this assessment requirement would duplicate already ongoing, periodic assessments, such as the semi-annual section 1230 ''Report on Progress Toward Security and Stability in Afghanistan.''

In your letters, you also mention the work and writings of Ambassador Peter Tomsen. In early October, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (DASD) for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Central Asia, David Sedney, spoke to Ambassador Tomsen at length on a variety of issues, including Ambassador Tomsen's recommendations in his book, The Wars of Afghanistan.

If you would like to discuss further the way forward in Afghanistan and with Pakistan—and hear more about the discussion with Ambassador Tomsen—please let the Department know, and DASD David Sedney will provide you a comprehensive brief.

Thank you again for your thoughtful letters, as well as for your unwavering Support of our courageous men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

LEON E. PANETTA,
Secretary of Defense.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to clarify the intent of language included in the conference report on H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY12, regarding the management of forest roads.

In May of 2011 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a final ruling in NEDC v. Brown declaring for the first time that forest roads used for timber management are point sources and must have permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act. The State of Oregon and the industry defendants have now asked the Supreme Court to review this decision. On Monday, December 12, the Supreme Court issued an order seeking the views of the Solicitor General signaling the possibility that the Court will review the case. However, the Ninth Circuit's decision remains in effect.

Section 429 of Division E exempts stormwater discharges from forest roads and other forestry activities from any such permit requirement for the rest of the fiscal year. This will ensure that neither EPA nor any state is forced to impose a permitting requirement while the Supreme Court is considering whether to review the Ninth Circuit's decision. With such an abrupt change in interpretation of the Act, it is important that there be an opportunity for the Supreme Court to weigh in. We encourage the Supreme Court to proceed with its determination of whether to review of the case, and this provision should in no way deter the Court's proceedings.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Yucca Mountain is the repository for our nation's high level defense nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel under current law. This conference report does not change that fact. Regardless of the politically-based preferences of the Obama Administration, the Senate Majority Leader or the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, terminating Yucca Mountain would require Congress to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

Mr. Speaker, if it in fact were the position of Congress to support termination of Yucca Mountain, surely we would have acted to amend the law. Congress has not amended the Nuclear Waste Policy Act—or even considered terminating Yucca Mountain.

Decades were spent studying potential locations for a national repository—and Yucca Mountain was determined to be the best solution. Congress designated Yucca Mountain in 1987 as the national repository and has voted

to reaffirm that decision several times. There is no science-based or safety-based reason to abandon Yucca Mountain.

Those who work on nuclear waste issues will undoubtedly note that this bill no longer contains explicit language adopted by the House that prohibits the use of funds to close Yucca Mountain. Explicit language like this, though, is not required as it continues to be illegal for the Department of Energy to terminate the project—and thus illegal for the Department to spend federal dollars for that purpose. The Department of Energy has funding leftover from previous years should it choose to comply with the law and continue the Yucca Mountain licensing process regardless of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that the final bill clarifies that the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission cannot terminate any project without a majority vote of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should not be overlooked. Over a year ago, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board rejected the Department of Energy's motion to withdraw the Yucca license application. That ruling should have been finalized after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission voted sustain it with two-to-two tie vote with one Commissioner abstaining. The Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission refused to release the results of their vote on the matter for almost a year. Instead, the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has acted unilaterally to shut down the ongoing review of the Yucca Mountain application. This unprecedented, bureaucratic and orchestrated stall tactic has been questioned by Congress and former and current members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Unfortunately, in congressional hearings just this week we learned that this abuse of power is the rule—not the exception—when it comes to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman. It extends well beyond the policy and safety issue of Yucca Mountain and instead, absent serious changes, it appears to be putting the entire mission of the NRC at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I'm hopeful that Congress will continue vigorous oversight over the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and continue to take all actions possible to ensure that the federal government keeps its existing legal obligation to move forward with Yucca Mountain.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference agreement. While it has many flaws, it represents a substantial improvement from the grossly inadequate House spending bills.

Our top priority must be to grow our economy and create jobs, and the underlying bill makes critical investments, including:

Providing the National Institutes of Health with an additional $299 million, which will inject $45 million into New York's economy;

Investing in early childhood education by maintaining Head Start slots, child care grants, and continuing quality education programming by supporting the Corporation for Public Broadcasting;

Increasing resources for the two major federal K–12 grants, Title I and IDEA;

Continuing the maximum Pell Grant award of $5,500, which helps approximately nine million students afford college; and

Restoring most of the proposed Republican reductions to youth and adult job training services.

The bill also largely rejects the Republican assault on women's health. Investing in family planning saves taxpayer dollars—every dollar spent on family planning saves nearly four dollars in Medicaid expenses—yet Republicans attempted to eliminate the program. The final agreement restores most of the funds.

The conference report drops many of the mean-spirited policy riders aimed at women, including those that would have prevented Planned Parenthood from offering preventive care, allowed health professionals to deny safe and legal care to women, blocked funding for the United Nations Population Fund, and restored the global gag rule. While removing these riders is a positive step, unfortunately the final bill continues to prohibit the District of Columbia from using its own, non-federal funds for a full range of reproductive health services.

Another area where the bill is significantly improved compared to the extremely poor House proposal is homeland security, although it may still be insufficient.

In these difficult fiscal times, federal homeland security resources must be prioritized for those areas that face the highest threat of an attack. I am pleased that the final agreement includes altered language to ensure funds are distributed by the Secretary on the basis of threat, vulnerability and consequence.

However, I am concerned about practical implementation of this new block grant as it combines the State Homeland Security Grant Program, which has a statutory minimum funding requirement for each state, with risk-based programs such as the Urban Area Security Initiative.

The conference report continues funding for the Securing the Cities program, a vital initiative building the capability for New York's first responders to detect illicit radiological materials and weapons, which is a top priority for Mayor Bloomberg, Commissioner Kelly, and me.

It is unfortunate that during an economic crisis, some are fixated on mining near the Grand Canyon, eliminating clear air protections, and prioritizing fossil fuel technology. Ultimately the most egregious environmental riders were removed, but we must do more to invest in clean, renewable energy sources that will create high-paying research, development, manufacturing, and servicing jobs and increase our competitiveness in the global marketplace.

I am pleased that the Small Business Administration receives an additional $189 million to support small businesses, provide disaster assistance, and improve access to capital. In Westchester and Rockland Counties, I have seen firsthand what government can do to create jobs. Small Business Administration loan programs help economic development organizations provide micro-loans to emerging small businesses, and SBA 7(a) and 504 loans help small businesses receive access to capital to expand the create jobs.

In addition, Westchester and Rockland Counties benefit from the Long Island Sound, which contributes almost $5 billion a year to the regional economy through boating, commercial and sport fishing, and tourism. This bill provides nearly $4 million for the EPA to continue its program to clean the Long Island Sound and strengthen its ecosystem for generations to come, as well as funds to clean up and improve navigable waterways, including the Hudson River.

As the ranking member of the subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, the bill will help maintain our global leadership, protect national security and promote economic growth.

Our wise investments in better health and education systems, economic opportunity in the developing world, humanitarian assistance, international financial institutions, development assistance, economic support funds, and international family planning will help to save lives, develop the next generation of U.S. trading partners to boost job growth domestically, and confront the conditions that foster the radicalism and instability that threaten the long-term security of the United States.

This bill also fully funds our agreements with vital allies including Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, and supports governance and development activities in Egypt to aid the transition to democracy.

However, we do not write blank checks. Stringent conditions on continued assistance for Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Pakistan and Afghanistan will help ensure accountability and responsible use of tax-payer dollars.

The bill is far from perfect, but it is a reasonable compromise. I urge your support.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the reauthorization of the Lautenberg Amendment, a lifeline for Iranian Jews, Christians, Baha'is and other religious minorities under threat of the Iranian regime.

Life in Iran for Jews, Christians and Baha'is is dangerous. Each year, the State Department cites Iran as a ''Country of Particular Concern'' for its ''systematic and egregious violations of religious freedom.'' President Ahmadinejad has engaged in a campaign of virulent anti-Semitism, and according to the 2011 Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, ''Since the disputed June 12, 2009 elections, human rights and religious freedom conditions in Iran have regressed to a point not seen since the early days of the Islamic revolution.'' The regime has a history of targeting religious minorities for harassment, imprisonment or worse.

The Lautenberg Amendment provides an escape route for these vulnerable individuals. First enacted in 1989, and extended to include Iran in 2003, the provision establishes a presumption of refugee eligibility for certain categories of historically religiously persecuted minorities.

The Fiscal Year 2011 funding measure only authorized the program for 45 days, leaving thousands of Iranians seeking escape at great risk when it expired on June 1. Although I oppose this Fiscal Year 2012 spending bill due to its deep cuts to programs, and its riders prohibiting the use of federal funds for reproductive health services in the District of Columbia, needle exchange programs and enforcement of light bulb efficiency standards, I welcome the reinstatement of this critical provision.

Our nation was founded by individuals escaping religious persecution. Their experience, and desire to practice their beliefs freely, undergirds our shared values of religious liberty and tolerance. The United States has a long and proud history of welcoming groups escaping religious discrimination—and emigrating so that they may worship freely—and the Lautenberg Amendment is an extension of this tradition. I applaud the reauthorization of this critical program.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, The nation's fiscal footing is serious business. It is too bad, then, that so much of the conversation around funding the federal government was consumed by policy riders and petty projects championed by narrow interest groups. Congress should be investing in the foundations of American prosperity and the infrastructure that supports the success of individual Americans. Rebuilding and renewing our nation's badly eroded infrastructure, strengthening our nation's healthcare system, protecting our environment, streamlining and reforming the Department of Defense, and ensuring that our financial watchdogs have the resources they need to rein in financial bad actors are all necessary investments and key obligations of our nation's government. I'm pleased that this funding package dropped many of the damaging and narrow riders that would have hurt our environment, women, and our diplomatic relationships, and, while I am still disappointed that Congress could not do more, this compromise marks a step forward from the terrible choices outlined in the Republican budget earlier this year.

DEFENSE

One of the greatest areas of disappointment for me in this legislation is defense spending. This bill provides more funding for our military than nearly the rest of the world combined, and represents a missed opportunity for much needed reform. The greatest threat to our future is losing control of our ability to make tough decisions that will enable us to sustain our military and, more importantly, to sustain the economy. Wasteful weapons programs that continue to arm us for the Cold War, unsustainable deployment strategies, and the tragic ongoing funding for an unwinnable war in Afghanistan could have been addressed. Sadly, this bill fails to set down a marker for real change, and forfeits and opportunity to lead responsibly.

EDUCATION

I am pleased that this bill protects the Pell Grant program and maintains the current $4,860 maximum. In addition, the small increases in IDEA and Title I funding, while far less than what are necessary, are a significant improvement compared to earlier Republican proposals. While many of the programs are facing cuts, I appreciate the continued funding for the Arts in Education program, as well as the programs that support teacher development and special education.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

With regard to environment and energy, this bill could have been worse. I'm pleased that many of the most egregious riders were removed from the Interior-Environment and Energy and Water titles. It is inappropriate to use the appropriations process to make policy and score political points. I am strongly opposed to the legislative riders that remain, including language that would stop the Department of Energy from enforcing new efficiency standards for light bulbs. These standards stemmed from a non-controversial and bi-partisan initiative in 2005 and this rider is sadly indicative of how partisan and politically-motivated the legislative process has become.

I am also extremely disappointed in the funding levels for important environmental and public health protections. The Environmental Protection Agency suffers an almost 20 percent cut, including significant reductions for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and climate and air research programs that are used by states. These reductions undermine the Federal partnership with local communities and will make it more difficult to clean the air and water and protect important public lands.

While overall I am concerned about the funding levels for the Environmental Protection Agency, I am pleased that the Committee maintained funding for EPA's Office of Smart Growth, part of the Interagency Partnership between HUD, DOT and EPA. The funds allocated to the Office of Smart Growth and the Interagency Partnership recognize the model that the Partnership presents. At a time of dwindling government funds, we need to ensure that our programs are working in concert, that we reduce red tape when possible, and that we are encouraging communities to use federal dollars to address multiple areas: economic development, public health, transportation planning, environmental protection, affordable housing and community planning. I am pleased that the Committee has recognized the importance of the Office of Smart Growth and its associated offices at HUD and DOT.

With bipartisan support including that of President George W. Bush, Congress amended the Lacey Act—which bars trade in illegal wildlife products—in 2008 to include a ban on illegally harvested wood. These amendments have helped U.S. businesses compete on a level playing field, saved over $1 billion annually, and protected thousands of U.S. jobs. Crucial to continuing these successes comes from investing in the enforcement of this law. I am happy to see $200 million for enforcement, but it's my belief that we ought to be making a greater investment.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Excessive risk-taking by banks coupled with lax regulations contributed to the financial crisis that devastated millions of families. Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Act to give federal regulatory agencies the tools they need to protect consumers and the global financial system. This bill increases the resources of the Securities Exchange Commission by 8 percent, which will aid enforcement and implementation of Dodd-Frank. Despite some improvements, I retain significant concerns with the legislation. I urge my colleagues to continue buttressing the budgets of critical agencies like the Internal Revenue Service, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Securities and Exchange Commission, to ensure adequate policing of financial markets and limit the risk of another global financial collapse.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The omnibus legislation takes a refreshing break from partisan politics when it comes to making a critical investment in our public broadcasting system. After a long year of fighting hard to protect funding and to depoliticize this issue, I am extremely pleased to see $445 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, CPB, the advanced appropriation for CPB, Fiscal Year 2013 funding untouched, and flat-level funding for Ready to Learn, a program which brings award-winning educational content into underserved classrooms.

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

As the founder and co-chairman of the Unexploded Ordnance, UXO, Caucus, which aims to raise awareness in Congress of the heath, safety, and environmental risks of UXO and the challenges faced by communities and the federal government to clean up UXO on former military sites, I am very pleased to see our government willing to lead by example and invest in necessary environmental cleanup. For too long, former military bases are left littered with dangerous, unexploded munitions and toxic chemicals. The government has a responsibility to clean up theses sites and return the land to the local community so it can put it to use and boost their economy.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Water is essential to just about every kind of development assistance. If developing countries don't have access to clean water or adequate sanitation facilities, it doesn't matter how many schools we build or vaccines we pass out. Those investments are wasted because children can't learn if they have to stay home to collect water, or can't ingest retroviral medications because of waterborne disease. Water must be a priority in any development discussion, and I extremely pleased to see this legislation do just that by setting aside $315 million to provide greater access for the world's poorest.

It is vital that Congress renew its focus on investing in the infrastructure that underpins America's growth. I reluctantly support this legislation but I urge my colleagues to redouble their efforts to renew and rebuild America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the conference report.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3672

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 500, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 94) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 94

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 3672) making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) In the heading for title III, strike ''PROVISION'' and insert ''PROVISIONS''.

(2) After section 301, insert the following new section:

''SEC. 302. (a) ACROSS-THE-BOARD RESCISSION.—There is hereby rescinded an amount equal to 1.83 percent of—

''(1) the budget authority provided for fiscal year 2012 for any discretionary account in any fiscal year 2012 appropriation Act (except the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2012 and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012); and

''(2) the budget authority provided in any advance appropriation for fiscal year 2012 for any discretionary account (other than for the Department of Veterans Affairs) in any prior fiscal year appropriation Act.

''(b) PROPORTIONATE APPLICATION.—Any rescission made by subsection (a) shall be applied proportionately—

''(1) to each discretionary account and each item of budget authority described in such subsection; and

''(2) within each such account and item, to each program, project, and activity (with programs, projects, and activities as delineated in the appropriation Act or accompanying reports for the relevant fiscal year covering such account or item, or for accounts and items not included in appropriation Acts, as delineated in the most recently submitted President's budget).

''(c) EXCEPTIONS.—The rescission in subsection (a) shall not apply to budget authority provided for fiscal year 2012 that is designated by the Congress as being for—

''(1) disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; or

''(2) Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

''(d) SUBSEQUENT APPROPRIATIONS LAWS.—In the case of any fiscal year 2012 appropriation law enacted after the enactment of this section, any rescission required by subsection (a) shall take effect immediately after the enactment of such law.

''(e) OMB REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying the account and amount of each rescission made pursuant to subsection (a).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I rise to present H. Con. Res. 94. This bill contains a legislative provision to offset the $8.1 billion in disaster funding provided by H.R. 3672, which we will consider shortly.

This offset is funded by a 1.83 percent across-the-board cut to all of fiscal 2012 base discretionary spending, except the Department of Defense, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

Such an offset ensures that we are living within our means while still providing for the hundreds of thousands of Americans affected by recent natural disasters with the help that they need.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, which, in effect, pays for the disaster funding which will come later.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

It is the opinion of our side that this is unnecessary, but we've got to move forward and get this bill passed. So I don't object to this particular provision. I hope we can move forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield back the balance of my time, urging support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 500, I call up the bill (H.R. 3672) making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3672

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DISASTER RELIEF

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

For an additional amount for the ''Disaster Relief Fund'' for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), $6,400,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For an additional amount for ''Mississippi River and Tributaries'' for necessary expenses for repair of damages to Federal projects resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et. seq.), $802,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a monthly report detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for ''Operation and Maintenance'' for necessary expenses to dredge navigation channels in response to, and repair damage to Corps projects resulting from, a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et. seq.), $534,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a monthly report detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For an additional amount for ''Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'', as authorized by section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n), for necessary expenses to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repair, and other activities as authorized by law, in response to a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et. seq.), $388,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a monthly report detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—COMBATING WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For an additional amount for continuing disability reviews under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act and for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, not more than $483,484,000 may be expended, as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act, from any one or all of the trust funds referred to therein: *Provided*, That such amount is additional new budget authority specified for purposes of subsection 251(b)(2)(B) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and shall be treated for such purposes as being included under this heading in the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, or any continuing appropriation Act, for fiscal year 2012.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISION

SEC. 301. Each amount appropriated or made available in this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

This Act may be cited as the ''Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to present H.R. 3672, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, which is the third bill in our final appropriations package for fiscal year 2012.

This bill provides a total of $8.1 billion in funding for critical aid and recovery assistance for disaster emergencies. Of this total, $6.4 billion will go to FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund. This includes funding for fire assistance, emergency declarations, major disasters, surge operations, and disaster readiness support.

□ 1310

In addition, these funds will help cover costs from large-scale previous disasters such as the summer 2011 tornadoes and Hurricane Irene.

We've had a historic chain of disasters in this country over the last year or so.

The legislation also provides $1.7 billion in funding for disaster recovery assistance through the Army Corps of Engineers. This funding will help repair damage to critical infrastructure caused by recent storms and floods and will help prepare for future disaster events. This total adheres to the total disaster funding level agreed to under the Budget Control Act this past summer.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, to provide our communities and families with the support they need as they recover from these devastating natural disasters.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

This year natural disasters have had devastating impacts on the lives of many Americans. Today we are considering a bill that provides relief to those severely damaged communities.

In total, the bill provides $8.1 billion in vital funding to rebuild areas affected by numerous horrific disasters in 2011, as well as funding long-term rebuilding needs that date back as far as Hurricane Katrina. Of the $8.1 billion, $6.4 billion is for FEMA.

This funding will meet the Federal commitment to restore impacted areas after hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, and severe snowstorms. Almost every State and territory will receive a portion of this funding. With the adoption of this bill, families and businesses will receive the funding they need for vital recovery and rebuilding efforts.

The bill also provides $1.7 billion to repair damage to Corps of Engineers facilities, roughly equal to the need identified by the Corps within Presidentially declared disaster areas.

In nearly every year since 1997, the Congress has recognized the need to provide funding to respond to natural disasters. This bill recognizes that responsibility.

I urge strong support of this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Appropriations, the gentlelady from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON).

Mrs. EMERSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm so relieved that this measure today will provide desperately needed funds for emergencies and disasters which occurred all over the country this past year.

For most Americans, the thought of the suffering caused by tornadoes and floods fades with the newspaper headlines. Months later, though, so many in our country are still trying to recover from storms and events that took them from their homes, their livelihoods, their safety, or all of the above. This funding and a reminder of their plight are very important to call to mind as we vote upon this measure.

I'd like to recognize these folks in southern Missouri who have been through it all and have set such a remarkable example and have really come out fighting. We have:

Wendell Choate, who's over 80 years old, and his daughter Beth, who runs their sweet corn farm of several thousand acres. All of it was destroyed;

Brother Bennett, who lived in the floodway for over 80 years. He lost his home;

Milus and Wanda Wallace. They lost their home and so much of their land was damaged by scouring;

Lynell and Mary Robinson, along with the entire historic black community of Pinhook, including the Williams and the Strahorns;

Randy Sutton, Ellot Rafferty, the Story family, the Dugan family, Eddie Marshall, Lester Goodin, Carlin Bennett, our presiding commissioner, and Kevin Mainard, mayor of East Prairie and a farmer in the floodway.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana, the ranking member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, Mr. VISCLOSKY.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I rise in strong support of the legislation.

I would like to begin my remarks by indicating that I consider investing in our water infrastructure as a key component in disaster relief, that is if we can avoid disasters in the first place. We prevent harm, and we certainly save the taxpayers much money.

Several years ago, perhaps, if we had made an adequate investment in water infrastructure, we might not have avoided the issue of spending more money in one city in this country in one year, New Orleans, than we did on every water project in the United States of America combined.

In the omnibus bill that we have just considered, we have increased funding for the Army Corps over the budget request and over last year's level. However, despite the best efforts of the subcommittee, we are still $443 million below that provided to the Corps in fiscal year 2010. At these levels, we are not close to addressing the Corps backlog of navigation and flood control projects. That is why I am pleased today to rise in support of this bill that does provide $1.7 billion in Corps disaster relief funding. This has been an extraordinary flood season. Further, in August, Hurricane Irene caused significant damage.

Assuming there are no additional natural disasters in 2012, this funding appears adequate to address damages within Presidential declared disaster areas. However, my colleagues should be aware there are damages to the tune of $233 million which must be addressed at locations outside declared disaster areas for which the bill does not provide funding.

Again, we must note that there are no moneys provided for emergencies that may occur between now and October 1 of 2012. We know that, potentially, wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and earthquakes will occur. So I will simply conclude by saying that moving forward—and again, I strongly support this bill—we must, as an institution, have the intestinal fortitude to budget for emergencies in anticipation of them on an annual basis.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to yield back if the gentleman is.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge an ''aye'' vote.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted to support funding our Nation's disaster relief programs for an additional year. However, I remain unsatisfied by the work Congress has engaged in this year regarding our Nation's budgeting for disaster. The funding we included this year for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers is significant, but it is likely that the cost of next year's disasters outstrip even those significant sums.

Worldwide, disasters last year caused a record $350 billion in damage, much of it not covered by insurance. In the U.S., two storms alone—the tornadoes of April and May—in the Southeast cost more than $14 billion. These losses were absorbed by those who suffer from the disaster, by insurers, and by Federal agencies. In the end, the taxpayers are on the hook to protect our communities, to aid those who have lost loved ones, homes, and possessions, and to rebuild what is lost. The amount we have appropriated this year will be insufficient to accommodate these tasks in the year ahead; when the money runs out, Congress will have to take action in an emergency setting to ensure an adequate Federal response.

What is needed is not merely an increase in these budgets. Congress must find the time and resources to focus on prevention, and to strengthen the programs that minimize this

damage when inevitable storms and disasters befall us. Our emergency response should be robust, but our preventative efforts should be irreproachable and I urge my colleague to help prevent the next disaster, not merely respond to it.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this disaster relief measure and urge all of my colleagues to support it.

The $8.1 of funding contained in this measure for FEMA and the Corps of Engineers is vitally important to a lot of communities around the country, including those communities in Missouri River Basin in Iowa and other States.

FEMA monies go a long way in restoring communities hit by natural disasters, both in terms of individual aid and assistance to communities for infrastructure repair and rebuild.

The funds for the Corps of Engineers in the bill are also important, particularly for restoration of flood control infrastructure, and damage to other infrastructure.

This past spring and summer in southwest Iowa, the residents experienced enormous damage to their communities, their homes, their farms and their small businesses. The damage that resulted has climbed well into the multi-millions—and is still rising in some cases. That is why this money is especially meaningful. It shows that we in the Congress are aware of the needs at the local level, and will provide the assistance required.

I intend to continue to work with my fellow committee members, and the Water Resources Subcommittee in the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee to restore flood control infrastructure in S.W. Iowa, and to carry out the necessary repairs and rebuild activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055; adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 94; and passage of H.R. 3672.

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

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2055, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on adoption of the conference report on the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, 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 conference report.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 296, nays 121, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 941]

YEAS—296

Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Benishek
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Burgess
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Edwards
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gonzalez
Gosar
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Grimm
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
King (NY)
Kingston
Kissell
Kline
Lance
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pitts
Platts
Pompeo
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schiff
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stivers
Sullivan
Sutton
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walden
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Webster
Welch
West
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—121

Adams
Akin
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bartlett
Berg
Bishop (UT)
Boustany
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burton (IN)
Campbell
Capuano
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Coffman (CO)
Cooper
Costello
Cravaack
DeFazio
DesJarlais
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Flake
Fleming
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Fudge
Gardner
Garrett
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Guinta
Hahn
Harris
Holden
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hurt
Johnson (OH)
Jones
Jordan
Kind
King (IA)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kucinich
Labrador
Lamborn
Landry
Lee (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren, Zoe
Lummis
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Matheson
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Pence
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Poe (TX)
Polis
Posey
Quayle
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Ribble
Richardson
Rivera
Ross (FL)
Royce
Ryan (OH)
Schakowsky
Schilling
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Sensenbrenner
Southerland
Stark
Stearns
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Tipton
Towns
Turner (OH)
Velázquez
Walberg
Walsh (IL)
Waters
Waxman
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Woolsey

NOT VOTING—16

Bachmann
Cardoza
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Coble
Davis (KY)
Filner
Giffords
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Herger
Johnson, E. B.
Napolitano
Nunnelee
Paul
Speier

□ 1346

Messrs. KINZINGER of Illinois, DUNCAN of South Carolina, TOWNS, Ms. RICHARDSON, Messrs. SOUTHERLAND and COFFMAN of Colorado changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. MILLER of Florida, GONZALEZ, RICHMOND, CONYERS, RUSH and WATT changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the conference report 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. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 941 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 2011, I missed rollcall vote 941. I was detained because of physical illness and could not make it to the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 941.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 941, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16th, 2011, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 941 in order to attend an important event in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on Adoption of the Conference Report on H.R. 2055—Consolidated Appropriations Act.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have served or fallen in Afghanistan, and in honor of all who have served or fallen in Operation Iraqi Freedom as it draws to a close.

Our men and women return home having freed Iraq from a vicious tyrant, thwarted a violent insurgency that threatened the Iraqi people, and helped to build a stable and democratic government that is a friend of the United States. We honor the hard work and sacrifice of our servicemembers, and the courage of their families.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 3672

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 94) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the concurrent resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 255, nays 165, answered not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 942]

YEAS—255

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Austria
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
DeFazio
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Emerson
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Quigley
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (SC)
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Stearns
Stivers
Stutzman
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Upton
Walberg
Walden
Walsh (IL)
Walz (MN)
Webster
West
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—165

Ackerman
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nadler
Neal
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—13

Bachmann
Coble
Davis (KY)
Filner
Giffords
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Herger
Johnson, E. B.
Napolitano
Nunnelee
Paul
Speier

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1354

Ms. BASS of California and Mr. GARAMENDI changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 942, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16th, 2011, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 942 in order to attend an important event in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on H. Con. Res. 94—Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3671.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, as Members are aware, there are ongoing conversations in the Senate over how to proceed on the House's Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act. At this time the fate of the Senate's conversations are unclear. Therefore, we will conclude our business for the week at the end of this vote series.

Should the Senate follow regular order and amend the House's bill, I

would expect us to return to review and potentially consider their proposed changes.

As all of my colleagues are painfully aware, the Senate has the ability to move both as quickly and as slowly as it wants. So it is difficult, Mr. Speaker, to predict if or when we may need to return.

My best guess is that the earliest we would return is this Monday, December 19. But I can assure my colleagues that we will provide at least 24 hours' notice prior to scheduling any further votes in the House this year.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I wish all of my colleagues a merry Christmas, a happy Chanukah, and happy holidays.

Mr. HOYER. Will my friend yield?

Mr. CANTOR. Yes.

Mr. HOYER. Just to clarify, it is my understanding, therefore, that we do intend, before we leave for the year, to address the House-passed bill or a Senate version thereof.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. CANTOR. As I indicated earlier, it is all pending the Senate's action. As I indicated, no one really knows how quickly or slowly that will occur and if it will occur.

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

DISASTER RELIEF APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3672) making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes, 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 passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 351, nays 67, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 943]

YEAS—351

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amodei
Andrews
Austria
Baca
Bachus
Baldwin
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Bass (CA)
Bass (NH)
Becerra
Berg
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blumenauer
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Canseco
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Critz
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Gardner
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guinta
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heinrich
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hochul
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kissell
Kline
Kucinich
Labrador
Lance
Landry
Langevin
Lankford
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Manzullo
Marino
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Nadler
Neal
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Olver
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Platts
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross (AR)
Ross (FL)
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schilling
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (SC)
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stark
Stivers
Sutton
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tierney
Tipton
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner (NY)
Turner (OH)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
West
Whitfield
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woolsey
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

NAYS—67

Amash
Barton (TX)
Benishek
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Burgess
Camp
Campbell
Coffman (CO)
Conaway
Cooper
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold
Flake
Fleming
Flores
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gohmert
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Harris
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Jordan
Kingston
Lamborn
Lummis
Mack
Marchant
McCotter
McHenry
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Petri
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Ribble
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Schweikert
Sensenbrenner
Southerland
Stearns
Stutzman
Sullivan
Thornberry
Tiberi
Upton
Walberg
Walsh (IL)
Webster
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Woodall
Yoder

NOT VOTING—15

Bachmann
Coble
Davis (KY)
Filner
Garamendi
Giffords
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Johnson, E. B.
Napolitano
Nunnelee
Paul
Peters
Rangel
Speier

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1404

Mr. WESTMORELAND changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 943, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16, 2011, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 943 in order to attend an important event in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 3672—Disaster Relief Appropriations Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, December 16, 2011, I was unable to vote due to an important family event. Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 937—yes—Previous Question on H. Res. 500, Rule for consideration of the Conference Report for H.R. 2055.

On rollcall No. 938—yes—H. Res. 500, Rule for consideration of the Conference Report for H.R. 2055.

On rollcall No. 939—yes—Senate Amendment to H.R. 1892, Intelligence Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2012.

On rollcall No. 940—yes—S. 278, Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District Land Exchange Act.

On rollcall No. 941—yes—H.R. 2055, Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012.

On rollcall No. 942—yes—H. Con. Res. 94, Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672.

On rollcall No. 942—yes—H.R. 3672, Making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 20, 2012.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 94) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. DICKS. Reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I yield to the distinguished chairman to explain this CR.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This continuing resolution extends funding for government operations by 1 day to give the other body an extra day to consider and pass the consolidated appropriations bill.

Mr. DICKS. I withdraw my reservation.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 94

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–36) is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting ''December 17, 2011''.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 95) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. DICKS. Reserving the right to object, I yield to the chairman to explain the amendment.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This continuing resolution ensures that government operations will continue to be funded through December 23. The resolution is a simple date extension that gives Congress time to prepare the consolidated appropriations bill for presentation to the President. This is a noncontroversial measure that has signoff from both sides of the aisle, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. DICKS. I withdraw my reservation and urge a positive vote.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 95

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–36) is further amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting ''December 23, 2011''.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO INSERT EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) be authorized to insert extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3589

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3589.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING BOULDER COUNTY

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 150th anniversary of Boulder County, Colorado.

Boulder County is one of 17 Colorado counties officially created in 1861 by the Territory Assembly.

In the mid-1800s, settlers began flocking to Boulder County because of the robust and profitable mining sector. Local businesses were created to support the growing number of new miners to the area.

The original founders of Boulder had more aspirations than to just be a simple Colorado mining town. Residents pushed strongly in the Territorial Assembly to have the State university located in the region.

In 1877, 1 year after Colorado was admitted to the United States, the University of Colorado—the State's first university—opened its doors. From its early status as a college town and mining community, Boulder County has expanded, with a population now reaching over 300,000 people. The picturesque scenery and outdoor lifestyle has allowed this county to grow significantly over the past 150 years.

Aside from the University of Colorado, Boulder County boasts an excellent technology sector, numerous small businesses, and countless microbreweries. One of my personal favorites is Oskar Blues Brewing Company in Longmont, Colorado. This region of Colorado continues to rate high in national polls for overall health and well-being, and is rated as one of the best places to raise a family in the country.

Boulder County is the gateway to the Rocky Mountains. It's known for its tremendous outdoor recreation. From skiing, hiking, fishing, hunting, and biking—just to name a few—Boulder is an outdoorsman's town. It is my honor to recognize the 150th anniversary of Boulder County on the House floor.

□ 1410

ANTI-AMERICAN ACTIVITY

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

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, it was recently discovered that a Venezuelan national prone to anti-American activity is present and active on U.S. soil.

Livia Antonieta Acosta Noguera, consulate general of Venezuela in Miami, has been linked to a potential cyberattack on the United States involving affiliates of the Iranian, Cuban, and Venezuelan regimes. In 2008, while serving at the Venezuelan Embassy in Mexico, Ms. Noguera worked with members from the Iranian and Cuban Embassies to develop plans for an attack on critical U.S. Government infrastructure systems.

Ms. Noguera's actions demonstrate her willingness to undermine U.S. interests by partnering with Iran and Cuba, two U.S.-designated state sponsors of terrorism. This discovery heightens our concern for the growing Iranian presence in the hemisphere. The Obama administration should take decisive action against Iran in order to prevent the development of any sort of Latin American-Iranian diplomatic relations.

This is an essential component of the preservation of our national security; and, if the allegations are found true, it begins with the immediate diplomatic expulsion of Ms. Noguera.

FUNDING FOR DISASTERS AND HONORING OUR RETURNING SOLDIERS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we just finished debating and reviewing, although the time was very short, the language that would fund this Nation. That is our duty.

I'm concerned, however, that some of the cuts impacted our seniors, our young people, and our environment. We must do better, and I certainly disagree with cutting again the appropriations for this Nation impacting our veterans and their families another 2 percent.

I voted against it, and I believe that we must ensure that if America is hit by a disaster, we pay for it. We have to fight this fight again.

However, Mr. Speaker, as our soldiers return, I thank Members who are wearing the yellow ribbon, but I ask you to go home and yellow ribbon your district offices. Ask your cities and hamlets and States to put yellow ribbons out to welcome the troops who are coming home and say a job well done.

It ended yesterday with the casing of the colors in Iraq. It is our obligation and duty to not let one soldier come home to a silent America and a silent community.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I awoke this morning to unfortunate news. A friend of mine and one of the world's most brilliant writers and intellects, Christopher Hitchens, passed away yesterday.

Christopher Hitchens was a brilliant man who was a writer and a provocateur. You may not have disagreed with him, you may not have agreed with him, but I think everybody knew that Christopher Hitchens was well-versed on the subject on which he spoke and could express it in a way unlike any other. I don't think there was a more erudite, knowledgeable individual on the face of this Earth.

He has left us.

To me, he was a good friend. He made my visit to Washington here easier. To his friends, he was loyal, gracious, and fun. To his foes, he was a feared enemy, a feared foe.

The world was lucky for his being here, and I was lucky for my life intersecting with his. The world shall miss him, a life well lived.

Rest in peace, my friend.

END OF WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROOKS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the official end of America's 9-year war in Iraq. In a low-key ceremony in Baghdad, U.S. troops lowered the American flag of command that flew over the Iraqi capital. The 4,000 remaining U.S. servicemembers in Iraq will leave by this year's end.

The Iraq war was a painful and difficult time, extraordinarily costly in terms of Americans, America's lives and resources. Nearly 4,500 Americans, including 45 Nebraskans, were killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom. 227 Nebraskans were wounded in combat. Tens of thousands of Iraqis lost their lives. We lost good men and women, individuals full of life and blessed with talent, whose proud families awaited their return to the country they loved so dear and served so well.

But in spite of our wounds, we are proud—proud of our fallen heroes, proud of the veterans who have come back to us, proud of their sacrifice, proud of their noble vision that has significantly changed the global environment where democratic ideals are now making steady gains everywhere.

The work of our troops, steadily done in the midst of extensive public debate and strategy deliberations about the war was the strength of this mission. These troops achieved what was set before them. The victories were theirs. Their unwavering commitment, their skill, and their bravery got the job done.

The troops' efforts unbound an Iraqi people held hostage for decades by an egomaniacal dictator. Insurgencies led by terrorists seeking to wreak havoc and disorder were put down by our troops. Space was created to allow Iraqis the time necessary to build the foundations of a representative government in a more open society.

But there are still challenges and significant obstacles. It would have been preferable, Mr. Speaker, for a small stay-behind force to remain for ongoing response and stabilization efforts.

The way forward will not be easy, but today Iraqis determine Iraq's future. No longer constricted by the dictates of a despot, they have held elections, they have written a constitution, and hopefully they will build a culture that respects the rights and dignity of all of their people.

America and the world needs a stabilized Iraq. Our security is strengthened by it, and we will continue a strong, diplomatic relationship to help achieve it. An Iraq that protects the rights of all of its people, Sunni and Shiite, Christian and Yazidi, and employs a government that maintains order and preserves liberties will be an Iraq that can help transform the entire Middle East looking for a new way forward.

The foundation for this has been laid, after much toil and bloodshed, by valiant American soldiers who return to us now as modern-day heroes.

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

□ 1420

FAIRTAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for the remainder of the time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the time.

I want to get to tax policy here in just a moment, but I want to take just a few minutes, having just passed the appropriations bill for fiscal year 2012, to talk about how long that's been.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know you have been a proponent of regular order since you came to this body. But as I went back and looked to see when was the last time the House was able to operate not under a continuing resolution but under a regular appropriations process, Mr. Speaker, it's been since December of 2009. December of 2009 is when we last passed an appropriations bill.

Now granted appropriations bills come in all sorts and sizes. The one we're dealing with today came in the large size. We'll call that the jumbo size. I know the minority whip shares my passion for that. My hope is we will be able to get to regular order next year and go through each appropriations bill one by one by one.

But what I say to you, Mr. Speaker, is that I came to this body a year ago to make a difference, and I wanted to make all the difference last January, I'll be honest with you. And when I couldn't do it all in January, I hoped that we could do it all in February. When we couldn't do it all in February, I hoped we could do it all in March. And, of course, we were able to pass the budget here in the House, the budget that took the first step towards reforming entitlements that we've seen come out of this body since I would argue Lyndon Johnson began these programs in the 1960s. But we have begun to make a difference.

As I look at this stack of papers here that represent the spending, the appropriations process, for 2012, Mr. Speaker, it's the first time in 2 years we've had that. Of course, over a thousand days since the Senate has been able to pass a budget. We have made progress. As 2011 comes to a close, I hope we can celebrate some of those successes along the way.

Because in terms of real spending, Mr. Speaker, in this document what we see is for the second year in a row, the first time since World War II, two consecutive years, Mr. Speaker, with this leadership team and this appropriations committee and this bipartisan House, we've been able to reduce Federal discretionary spending—$95 billion.

A lot of folks say, well, ROB, is that going to be funny math? Is that going to be just some items but not all

items? As you know, Mr. Speaker, that's everything. That's the regular appropriations process, that's the so-called emergency spending, that's the war spending, what they call the OCO account. That's everything. And we've brought it down $95 billion in just 1 year, just the 1 year you and I have been here, Mr. Speaker.

But it can't all be done in appropriations bills, Mr. Speaker, you know. Only about a third of all of the money that goes out the door here in Washington, D.C., goes out the door through this process that we did today, the appropriations process. The rest of it goes out through mandatory spending programs—Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, interest on the national debt—those mandatory spending programs.

In fact, as you know, Mr. Speaker, we could zero out everything else. We could decide there will be no Congress, there will be no White House, there will be no FBI, there will be no Army, there will be no Navy, no Marine Corps, no Coast Guard, no Air Force, no parks, no Environmental Protection Agency, no Education Department, no nothing. We could zero out absolutely everything that we fund through the appropriations process and the budget still wouldn't be balanced. Not cutting it. Zeroing it out. And we still couldn't balance the budget just on appropriations bills alone.

There's two sides of every budget balancing operation, Mr. Speaker, as you know. There's the spending side, and there's the revenue side. I want to talk about the revenue side here for just a minute.

I put up a poster here, Mr. Speaker. You can't see it from where you sit. It says H.R. 25, the FairTax. I'm going to leave it up here the whole half hour, Mr. Speaker, because H.R. 25, named the FairTax, is the only tax bill in Congress, the only piece of legislation on either the House side or the Senate side that goes into the Tax Code and says every exception, exemption, exclusion, special carve-outs, special favor, anything that gives you a break over your neighbor, your company an advantage over the one next door, all of those tax breaks, special exceptions, loopholes—gone.

It's the only bill in either the House or the Senate that does it.

But that's not even the good news, Mr. Speaker. The good news is it's also the most popular fundamental tax bill in either the House or Senate as well. That's right. More Members of this body have cosponsored the FairTax than any other fundamental tax reform legislation that's been introduced here. And more United States Senators in the other body have cosponsored their version of the FairTax than any other fundamental tax reform proposal in the Senate.

Now, why is that important? Why is it important to end all the loopholes?

Well, Mr. Speaker, the chart I have here is the cost of tax expenditures. Now tax expenditures—I've got to tell you that's a tough word in conservative circles because the government doesn't actually have any money. As you know, Mr. Speaker, every nickel that gets spent in Washington, D.C., got sucked into Washington, D.C., from the heartland from back in my district in Georgia, from back in your district, from somebody's family kitchen table. Every nickel that gets spent in Washington got sucked up here to Washington, D.C.

Oftentimes when we talk about taxes and we talk about giving people their money back, that's not spending, that's giving people their own hard-earned money back.

Today, Mr. Speaker, when we have $15 trillion in national debt, when the amount of money we owe has eclipsed the entire productive capacity of America for an entire year, our entire annual GDP, the question now is when you have a tax break, when you agree to let a loophole into the Tax Code and let somebody else pay less, what happens? Well, what happens is that we then borrow more.

That's a new debate, Mr. Speaker, because so often we can talk about tax cuts like the capital gains tax cut, like interest in dividends. We can talk about tax cuts that stimulate the economy, tax cuts that we think will help the economy grow faster and bring more revenue in; but all tax cuts aren't like that. Some tax cuts are just free money that you're giving away to people. Instead of passing a bill that says, I hereby give you a hundred dollars, it makes Congress feel better to pass a bill that says, I hereby tax you a hundred dollars less. I'm going to bill your neighbors for it, and I'm going to bill your kids for it, and I'm going to bill your grandkids for it, but I'm going to tax you a hundred dollars less.

It's time, Mr. Speaker, for us as conservatives to be honest about where the Tax Code takes this country when we fill it full of loopholes and exemptions, because I will tell you, and you know better than most, Mr. Speaker, the art of the loophole is a time-honored Washington tradition.

□ 1430

It's not something that has been perfected by Republicans. It's not something that has been perfected by Democrats. It's not even something that was perfected by the Whigs, Mr. Speaker. It's been around as long as taxes have been around.

And the folks who work in this town who try to manipulate the Tax Code have been around just as long as well.

But let's look at this. Let's look at what's happening in 2012, just in 2012. The annual budget deficit for 2012, Mr. Speaker, is projected by the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Congressional Research Service to be $1.1 trillion and change. It's a $1.1 trillion projected budget deficit for 2012.

How much money do you think we've carved out in loopholes and exceptions and exemptions and carve-outs and deductions and credit? How much money do you think we've carved out? $1.065 trillion. That's a powerful message, Mr. Speaker. We could balance the budget this year if we eliminated every single tax break in the U.S. Tax Code.

Now, that's a debate worth having.

I don't want to eliminate every single deduction in the U.S. Tax Code, every single credit in the U.S. Tax Code. Every credit in the U.S. Tax Code is not created equally. Every deduction in the U.S. Tax Code is not created equally. There are some that help move this economy forward, and there are some that don't. That's the debate that we have, and this is the end result of it.

What if we started over from scratch, Mr. Speaker? What if we started over from scratch with a bill like the FairTax—with something that ends all loopholes by starting a Tax Code that has no loopholes, that ends the loopholes by starting a Tax Code that has no loopholes?

So often we talk about reforming the Tax Code as if we're stuck with the Tax Code that we've got. Are we? I tell you we're not. That's what this body does. This body could zero out the entire Tax Code and start again with a blank sheet of paper tomorrow. We have that ability; we have that authority; and we ought to use it.

If we used it today—again, just to understand the magnitude of the exceptions and exemptions in the Tax Code, when you go and you say, Golly, I'm in the 15 percent bracket; I'm in the 25 percent bracket; I'm in the 10 percent bracket—when you talk about those things, the exceptions and exemptions total over $1 trillion in 2012 alone.

Now, where are those? Where are those exceptions and exemptions going, Mr. Speaker? This next chart quantifies those.

Number one, a list of exceptions and exemptions: exclusion of employer contributions for medical insurance premiums and medical care, $609 billion.

Hear that, Mr. Speaker. Half of all the money that's included in loopholes, exemptions, exceptions, exclusions, carve-outs in the United States Tax Code goes to employers to subsidize their purchases of health insurance for their employees.

Candidly, Mr. Speaker, I hear from employees day after day after day, and they say, ROB, how come I don't get those same tax breaks to purchase my own insurance? Why am I held captive—captive—by my employer? Since when did my employer get entrusted to make the best health decisions for me and my family?

I will tell you that this provision that originated in World War II, with wage controls here in Congress, has led to so many of the third-party payer problems, the health insurance inflation challenges, that we have in this country today.

$609 billion is what you, Mr. Speaker, and your family and every other American family has to pay more because we've chosen to subsidize the business

purchase of health insurance, which has the secondary and tertiary effects of trapping you in the job that you have because you can't get insurance at your next job; that has the effect of trapping you with the insurance policy that you have because your employer only offers one policy; that has the effect of your having a third-party payer so that it insulates you from the true cost of health care.

Trouble after trouble after trouble with the American health care system comes from the United States Tax Code, Mr. Speaker—and we can do better.

$357 billion is the deductibility of mortgage insurance on owner-occupied homes. It's the mortgage insurance deduction—again, a deduction that millions of American families take advantage of. It's a deduction that, arguably, has a tremendous effect on the real estate market and on our real estate agents and on our construction companies—on and on and on. There are things tied into the deductibility of mortgage insurance.

I remember once upon a time, Mr. Speaker, I was listening to an elected official talk. He had some folks in his office, and they said, We have to, have to, have to have the deductibility of mortgage insurance because the only reason we're able to sell real estate in this country is that folks are able to deduct their interest, and that makes a difference.

This elected official said, Well, how about if we double interest rates? Is that going to help us sell more homes?—because it'll certainly help folks deduct more interest. The answer was no.

What we need are low interest rates to sell homes. We have low interest rates in this country today, but it's one of those things that, whether Republicans or Democrats, folks have agreed that we want to subsidize interest payments for folks who own homes. There is no such subsidy program for folks who rent.

Is there a good reason for that? Maybe there is. Certainly, the argument has been made time and time again, but it's something that we have chosen to do in this country, Mr. Speaker.

I don't know that, even for those Americans who defend this deduction to their dying breaths, do they know that it comprises a full third of the value of every deduction, exemption, exclusion that exists in the United States Tax Code, because it does—half of the deductions and exclusions come in from the mortgage interest deduction, others from the medical insurance and premium deductions for employers.

Finally, of the biggest of our deductions and exemptions is the deduction for 401(k) plans, which is down here at the bottom, of $356 billion—again, deducting money that we're saving, right?—because the power to tax is the power to destroy, Mr. Speaker—you know that—time and time again as you advocate for lower taxes, because what we tax today is income and what income is is a measure of your productivity, and what we need in today's economy is more productivity, not less productivity. The power to tax is the power to destroy.

So rather than taxing savings—because we don't have enough retirement savings happening in this country, because we don't have enough thrifts happening in this country—we've given folks a tax break to encourage them to save.

Is that a laudable public goal, Mr. Speaker? I'm sure it is. I'm sure that it is.

We need more Americans to take saving for their retirement more seriously. The question is, What's the best way to get that done? Is it the United States Tax Code? But does America know that that's what's happening today, that today $356 billion of tax revenue is forgone in the name of encouraging retirement savings?

It's a debate that has to happen in Washington, D.C.—these are the big ones—because so often we argue about things as if it's the little ones that find the dollar. It's not the little ones that find the dollar; it's the little ones that find the headlines. You don't find headlines about the mortgage interest deduction or the employer health insurance deduction. You find headlines about the ''bridge to nowhere'' and how in the world that got in the Transportation bill. But understand that this is big business.

Now, I'm not here to pick on lobbyists, Mr. Speaker. I think lobbyists perform an important role in this town. I can't be an expert on every issue, and I can't hire staff. I've got Alex Poirot on my staff down here today. He knows a lot about a lot, but he can't know everything about everything. So, when I need more information, I will go to folks involved in the industry. We call those folks ''lobbyists.''

I'll tell you, the best lobbyists in the world are the ones who fly up from back home—the teachers in your community, the caretakers in your community, the physicians in your community. Those members of your community who come up here to talk about their issues are the best lobbyists in town, but there are firms up here that have lobbyists as well.

□ 1440

There is a line in ''The Distinguished Gentleman.'' Mr. Speaker, I'm going to date myself by going back to when Eddie Murphy's movies were funny, back in the day. ''The Distinguished Gentleman'' was a tale of a fellow who got elected to Congress by accident. And he was going along with the process, and he walked up to a powerful committee chairman. And the committee chairman said, How do you feel about sugar subsidies? Eddie Murphy, being Eddie Murphy and a new Congressman said, Well, Mr. Chairman, how should I feel about sugar subsidies? And the chairman said, It doesn't matter, because if you support sugar subsidies, we're going to get you money from the confectioners and the bakers. And if you oppose sugar subsidies, we're going to get your money from the cane growers and the beet growers.

There are folks on every side of the issue in this town. So whenever there's an issue that's a contentious issue, you can call in one side, you can call in the other, and you can hear both sides of the argument. Folks who are experts, folks who have been working on these issues for decade after decade after decade. Well, when the Federal tax bill for America's businesses is $10 billion, it doesn't take much of an investment in lobbying for special exemptions in the Tax Code to make that happen.

Now let me go back and look at corporate income taxes over time. I'm in the camp that tells you, corporations don't pay taxes, Mr. Speaker. Corporations do not pay taxes. Consumers pay taxes. I'm from Atlanta. If you add a tax on the Coca-Cola Company, what do you think is going to happen? They're going to raise the price of Coca-Cola. Right? That's what happens every single time that—we already have a competitive market. Coke and Pepsi are competing in a cutthroat beverage market out there today. They're already suppressing their prices as much as they can. There is only one taxpayer in America, and it is the American consumer. When we tax businesses, we just make the businesses the tax collector, and they raise their prices. I end up paying the tax when I buy the goods. They collect those taxes, and pass them on.

But according to our friends at Citizens for Tax Justice—and you are not going to hear me quoting Citizens for Tax Justice very often, Mr. Speaker, because we don't agree a lot. But they pay a lot of attention to how much money is being spent in this town to manipulate the Tax Code. They say $475 million is being spent to manipulate the Tax Code in this town. Now, folks, it's our fault. We created the Tax Code. I don't blame the IRS for the way the Tax Code works. Congress created the Tax Code. Congress tells the IRS what to do. So for businesses to spend $475 million, for individuals to pay folks to come and lobby for the United States Tax Code, that makes sense. Why do you rob banks? Because that's where the money is. Why do you lobby the Tax Code? Because that's where the money is—not in these appropriations bills that we're doing today, but in the Tax Code.

Trillions and trillions and trillions of dollars in revenue, Mr. Speaker. And with the stroke of a pen, a loophole, an exception, exemption hidden somewhere in what is now 76,000 pages of code, you can save money for your client. You can get a break that your competitor doesn't get. And who ends up paying that bill? Every other American family. And if we don't pay that

bill today, we end up borrowing that money, and our kids pay the bill, and our grandkids pay the bill for years and years and years to come.

This isn't rocket science, Mr. Speaker. This is Economics 101. I do it when I go to speak to high school classes. I say, you know, I've got a job in my congressional office. You're going to get to serve your neighbors. You're going to get to serve your country. It is going to be a wonderful thing. And I pay $10 an hour. Who wants to come? All the hands go up around the room. Then I say, But I'm going to have to put a tax on that because we have bills to pay in this country. So I am going to put a $9 an hour tax on that, but you will still be able to take home that last dollar. Who wants to come work 80 hours a week for me for $1 an hour? And all the hands go down, Mr. Speaker. That's economics 101. There is a sweet spot here. They called it the Laffer curve in the 1980s. There's a sweet spot where you can raise tax rates and continue to raise income for the government—tax receipts, and if you exceed that rate, you begin to shrink tax receipts for the government.

I remember a story, Mr. Speaker, this was over on the Senate side, a Senator from Washington State who ran the Finance Committee at the time. And the question was, What would happen if we raised taxes to 100 percent on all Americans who make over $250,000 a year? What would happen? What would happen if we raised taxes on all Americans making over $250,000 a year to 100 percent? Well, he asked that question to the tax scoring committee, and folks got excited, sent back a good message, and said, Oh, golly, if we did that, we'd raise this big pot of money to help pay Federal bills. Big pot of money.

Well, come on, Mr. Speaker, you tell me, what would happen if we raised taxes on you to 100 percent? Well, I tell you, you would quit coming to work. You have got a heart for service. But you also have bills to pay. Folks would adjust their behavior. No one would make over $250,000 a year anymore.

The power to tax is the power to destroy. When you tax at 100 percent, you destroy 100 percent of all that economic production. You know what's sad, as I look at this Economics 101 chart, Mr. Speaker? It's that it's America that has this disastrous, destructive, detrimental Tax Code. The former Soviet Bloc countries, Mr. Speaker, they have flat taxes. They have consumption taxes. They started with a blank slate after the fall of the Soviet Union, and they created tax codes that work. They rejected the communist system and said, What if we have a flat tax on everything that's easy to pay?

Mr. Speaker, I know we have to have taxes in this country, and I don't mind paying them. I don't mind paying them. I love the freedom that we have in this country, and I know freedom isn't free. What I don't like, Mr. Speaker, is having to pay someone to help me pay my taxes—I'm a smart guy—to have to pay someone to help me pay my taxes.

If we're going to collect taxes from folks, it ought to be easy, and the more complicated we make it, the less revenue we collect. And who has proven that point? The former Soviet Bloc countries. That's where we look for economic vibrance today, Mr. Speaker. That's where we look for Tax Code success today. Country after country after country threw out their old code, adopted a flat consumption tax, a flat income tax, made it easy to pay, easy to comply with, and raised the revenues to their national treasury. We could do that very same thing. There's a sweet spot, and we are not in it.

Mr. Speaker, we sometimes get swept up in partisanship here in the House. I know you avoid it. I try to avoid it. But sometimes it happens. But when it comes to the issue of reforming the Tax Code, it's not a partisan issue. I'll point to this quote from President Barack Obama in a speech he was making on international tax policy reform. He says, Our Tax Code is full of corporate loopholes that make it perfectly legal for companies to avoid paying their fair share. Now his take on it is a little different from mine.

You know, the U.S. Tax Code defines what folks have to do. I almost think it's your patriotic duty to pay as little tax as you legally can. Don't send your extra money up here. Whoever is encouraging you to do that, don't do it. Keep as much of your own money as you can because I promise you, you're going to spend it better than I will.

□ 1450

It's not from lack of trying. It's not from lack of trying. Keep your own money in your pocket; send as little as you legally can.

But, yes, the Tax Code has been warped over time to make it very difficult to tell what is someone's fair share. What is their fair share?

Now, the top 10 percent of all income earners in this country, Mr. Speaker, pay 60 percent of all of the income taxes. The top 10 percent pay 60 percent of all the income taxes. The top 50 percent pay 100 percent of all the income taxes. About half of America today pays no income taxes whatsoever. In fact, a growing amount of American families are actually receiving money from the Tax Code instead of paying money into the Tax Code. That's not what the Tax Code is for.

But on both sides of the aisle, we agree that this Tax Code isn't working. The President thinks it isn't working because it allows folks to pay nothing, and that's not fair. I'd tell you it's not working because it allows one company to pay one amount and its neighbor company to have to pay twice that amount, and that's not fair. Equity is what's fair. And I'll tell you, Tax Code for corporations, it shouldn't go from the 30s down to the 20s. It shouldn't go from the 30s down to the teens. It should go from the 30s down to zero, Mr. Speaker, to zero because businesses don't pay taxes. Their consumers pay taxes.

I pay taxes when I shop at Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart's not paying the tax. They're raising the price on the good, and I'm paying the tax and you're paying the tax and every American family that shops there is paying the tax.

So how do we get to something that defines our fair share? Well, Mr. Speaker, that brings me to the heart of the FairTax. I don't like the divisive games that are being played in America today, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why it is that what we see in the media and what we sometimes hear from the podiums is language designed to divide America. I can't think of a single strength of this country, I can't think of a single trait that makes this country great that is enhanced by dividing America. That's why we always talk about the American Dream, Mr. Speaker, something that unites us, something that brings all of our disparate views and hopes and dreams together into one understanding of what makes this country different from any other country on the planet.

Mr. Speaker, my idea of fair when I sit down with a blank sheet of paper to try to design a brand new Tax Code for this country, fair doesn't mean that we're going to try to ensure equal outcomes for every American. Fair means we're going to start with a level playing field for every American.

Have you ever been in a community, Mr. Speaker, and you see somebody driving a brand-new Porsche and you wonder if they're paying their fair share? Have you ever been walking past a clothing store, you and I might be on our way down to the Goodwill or Salvation Army or T.J.Maxx or to Marshall's and you see somebody walking into Brooks Brothers and you wonder if they're paying their fair share?

You know, I remember growing up, I had a good friend who lived next door. The family had everything—boats, lake houses, beach houses, brand-new cars, fancy clothes. And when it came time to apply for college aid, we both filled out our applications. I didn't get a penny in Federal financial aid because I got a note back that said: Dear Sir, Your family saved too much.

Your family saved too much.

My buddy next door—fancy cars, fancy houses, fancy clothes, he got back a note that said: Congratulations, you qualify for a subsidized college education.

You qualify for a subsidized college education.

Why? Because in all of these flush years that your family has had, you spent it all. So now in your time of need, you have nothing and you qualify for a bonus.

Mr. Speaker, that is not anything that makes this country great. What makes this country great is people being able to make their own choices about how they're going to live their life and the Federal Government doesn't bail them out.

Mr. Speaker, you and I weren't here when the bailouts came down the pipe, but I guarantee you that we would've both voted ''no.'' We would have both voted ''no'' for every penny of bailout money that came down the pipe because the American Government is not supposed to be about bailing out anybody. The America Government is supposed to be about protecting the freedom of the American people. And that includes, Mr. Speaker, freedom to fail. Freedom to fail.

You get to make the choices you want to make about your life, but you also have to bear the consequences. If you want to take great risks, if you have great success, you benefit from that. And if you have great failure, you pay the price for that. We cannot insulate people, Mr. Speaker, from the consequences of their actions. But over and over again, that's what the Tax Code does.

Oh, if you lose money, we want to protect you. If you make money, we want to punish you. I don't get that. I don't understand that. Fairness for me is a level playing field for opportunity, not a level playing field for outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, you know we talk every day in this Chamber about jobs; and by talk, we act every day to promote an environment in this Nation that grows jobs.

What do you think, Mr. Speaker, the American Tax Code does when a multinational corporation is trying to decide where it's going to put its next plant? What do you think it does? Because I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, with absolute certainty that America has the highest corporate tax rate of any nation on the planet. The number one highest.

So you're a business person, Mr. Speaker. Where do you want to locate? Do you want to locate in a country that has ended all of the loopholes, that has restored a fairness to the marketplace for a level playing field, that allows our free enterprise system to work? Or do you want to locate your business in the country that has the single highest corporate tax rate in the world? Those are easy decisions, Mr. Speaker, and companies are making them every day.

I talked to a CEO in my district about 6 months ago. He said, Rob, I'm going to be leaving. He said, The government has made it hard to pack up and leave. It's going to take me about 2 years, but I'm taking every job that's in this district and I'm moving them to Switzerland because it's just not worth doing business in America any more.

Mr. Speaker, we have the hardest working workforce on the planet. We have the best education and transportation infrastructure on the planet. We have the finest education system on the planet. Nobody, nobody gives you more bang for your buck than the American worker, and yet people are deciding to take those jobs overseas. Why? It's not the American workers' fault, Mr. Speaker. It's our fault as we have crafted a Tax Code that doesn't work, as we have crafted a regulatory structure that doesn't work. But the good news is—and it's good news, Mr. Speaker—that there's nothing wrong with America that this body can't fix. Because I'll tell you, Mr. Speaker, there's nothing wrong with America that this body didn't cause.

Government is not the solution to our problems, and many times government is the creator of our problems. I do not want this body, no matter how august, I do not want my 435 colleagues, no matter how well-studied and well-intended, to decide for me how my life should be led. That's never been what America was about. What America is about is making your own decisions for yourself, making your own decisions for your family, and knowing with absolute certainty, Mr. Speaker, absolute certainty, that by the sweat of your brow, by the power of your ideas, by the commitment that you make, you can make your tomorrow better than your today.

I'll tell you, that's the American Dream, Mr. Speaker. It's not about how much money you have in your pocket. It's not about what kind of house you live in or what kind of car you drive. It's about that you can decide today that you're going to take actions for yourself and for your family and you're going to make tomorrow better.

Hope, Mr. Speaker. Hope is a priceless commodity. A priceless commodity. And I fear we're not growing hope in this country, Mr. Speaker, like we used to. I fear we are extinguishing the candle of hope in this country. And not out of malice, Mr. Speaker. That's what makes it so insidious. It's not out of malice. It's out of folks who believe in their heart deep down inside that they're passing these policies because they want to make America better.

□ 1500

Mr. Speaker, America was better when Americans were running America. The whole idea of a Republic isn't that we get to be king of this land collectively. Our job is simple. It is to protect the freedom of individuals back home so that individuals back home can make the decisions that work best for them.

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I come from the great State of Georgia. We're a little conservative in our part of the world and proud of it. If anyone is looking for a good conservative part of the world to be a part of, I invite you to come down. We've got some good real estate prices and a good job market. Come on down and be a part of what we have, Mr. Speaker.

But I read a story about my friends in California. Now, I enjoy visiting California. I don't want to move there. But it was a story about the Teamsters unionizing marijuana growers in California because medicinal marijuana is a big business out there in California these days. And so they unionized the marijuana growers. So if you work hard, apply yourself and join the union, you can be a junior marijuana grower at $25 an hour I'm told. And if you really work hard and really apply yourself, you can exceed where you start and become a senior marijuana grower and get close to $35 an hour. That's what I'm hold.

Mr. Speaker, I think that's wonderful for those folks in California. We're not bringing unionized marijuana-growing to the great State of Georgia. I'm not trying to stop the folks in California from doing what they want to do, but it's not going to come to our great State of Georgia. And that's what makes this country great. We can choose for ourselves, as individuals, as families, as communities, and as States how it is that we want to live our life—but not with the United States Tax Code.

Mr. Speaker, the Tax Code manipulates every facet of your life—every facet of your life. If you're going to buy a green car, we're going to pay you money. If you buy a car that burns too much gasoline, we're going to charge you a fuel premium. If you receive your income from dividends, we're going to give you a tax break. If you receive your income from working hard on the line every day, you're going to pay full freight. If you've had a great year this year, even if you hadn't made another penny in the rest of your life, we're going to tax you like you're rich. If you make a little bit this year, even though you've made millions every other year for the rest of your life, we're going to tax you like you're poor.

Mr. Speaker, we manipulate behavior in line item after line item after line item in the United States Code; and, candidly, folks on both sides of the aisle defend it. They defend it as if we're really smart here. And I'll tell you, folks here work hard. I'm not down on Congress. Folks here in Congress work hard. But they don't know everything, nor can they, nor should they be burdened with that responsibility. But that's what happens in the Tax Code: let me pass this tax incentive, because if only we encourage this behavior, all of America will be happier. And it's easy to hide things in the Tax Code. Again, it's 75,000 pages.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to take a look at H.R. 25, again, the single most widely cosponsored piece of fundamental tax reform legislation in either the House or the Senate. And, in fact, it's the most widely cosponsored piece of tax reform legislation in both Chambers. It ends every loophole.

Mr. Speaker, you hear folks every day down here on the House floor: I want you to end the loopholes for rich people; I want you to end the loopholes for oil companies; I want you to end the loopholes for Solyndra and the solar companies; I want you to end loophole, loophole, loophole, loophole. Mr. Speaker, there's one bill in the House that does it all, and its H.R. 25. No loopholes, no exemptions. We all

pay the same. And it lets our free enterprise system work, Mr. Speaker.

We talk about creating jobs in this country, Mr. Speaker. We have to do that. But our Tax Code is destroying jobs. We have to create new jobs; but, Mr. Speaker, that's hard. Preserving the jobs we already have has to be a part of that. And yet we run jobs overseas each and every day in large part because of our Tax Code.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, the FairTax is revenue neutral. So many folks think about a conservative Republican like me liking every tax cut he can get his hands on. I do. I'm a big proponent of leaving more money in individuals' pockets. I will always believe the American family will spend their own money better than we will spend it on their behalf in Washington. Always. But, Mr. Speaker, there are bills to pay in Washington. We do need to support our troops, we do need to defend our homeland, and we do need to protect our border. And so the FairTax brings in every penny of revenue that we bring in today. It's revenue neutral.

In fact, given the bill that's in front of the Senate right now on payroll taxes, we're actually going to bring in more revenue with the FairTax than we bring in with the current system, but it's designed to be revenue neutral because I know that we must pay taxes. But we mustn't make it hard to do. That's a choice we've made in this body, and it's the wrong one.

Mr. Speaker, take a look at H.R. 25, the FairTax. You can find out all about it at www.fairtax.org, all the information, all the studies. We started with a blank sheet of paper, we came up with a plan that starts everyone on a level playing field. And so far, Mr. Speaker, we've attracted enough cosponsors on both sides of the Hill to make it the single most popular fundamental tax reform bill in Congress.

I thank you for giving me this time this afternoon to talk about it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2009. An act to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

CONGRESS REPRESENTS ALL OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Happy holiday to America. Let me reinforce that we live in a great country, and that is evidenced by the opportunity of Members to come to this democratic body and the other body to speak about the values of this Nation and the importance of our democracy and our responsibility to address the concerns of all Americans. It is good for us to have an opportunity for a dialogue and to be able to listen to each other.

I know that I'll be joined shortly by the whip of this Congress, Mr. HOYER. So let me just quickly say that I remember serving in this Congress when President Bush was the President, and I always made the point that once we are elected, even as we come from constituency, even as we come out of tough political battles, it really is the oath that we take that ensures that we represent all of America, whether we have the glory of coming from a State that is claiming progressiveness or one that is conservative. When we get on that train or airplane or drive that car and come to Washington, D.C., we represent all of America.

So let me quickly just say that you're looking at a stack of papers that represent the approach that my Republican friends took to fund the needs of the American people. Under the Democratic Caucus and the Democratic Congress of last Congress, we had the appropriations bills, almost 12 of them, come to the floor, and Members openly debated all of the issues around the different bills dealing with transportation, housing, homeland security and defense. They had an opportunity to be on the floor. The constituents could email or call or say what is that in this particular bill. But under this Republican leadership, this is what they brought us and gave us 1 hour to read these pages because of the emergency of funding the American people.

That's not a way to run a country. It's not Democratic or Republican. It's not conservative or liberal. It's just not the way.

And I would offer to say that we're committed and should have done this weeks ago, extending the payroll tax relief, providing for 160 million working Americans and extending the unemployment, helping 6 million Americans. You see, I don't believe that those Americans care whether we are conservative Republican, whether we twitter, whether we email or whether we speak on the floor of the House. They want us to abide by the oath that we take when we stand and affirm our relationship with the United States and our obligation and duty to the American people.

When our soldiers who are coming home now, yesterday being the last day of war in Iraq, the casing of the colors, not one soldier that I visited in Iraq or Afghanistan ever put up and said, I'm a Republican or I'm a Democratic. Every one of them was proud to be an American. And that's what we are obligated to do on this floor.

□ 1510

You know, it saddens me to report to you and the American people, my colleagues, that the banks of America have $64 trillion in their accounts, refusing to spend it, to yield, to loan it to small businesses or those who want to buy homes. Our businesses have over $1.12 trillion in cash on hand.

It saddens me to hear that businesses who are protected by our flag and our soldiers and can do business in a democratic setting, just because of wanting more money, they will lift up their business and take it to another country and remove the employees who invest in this country. It saddens me.

I ask the simple question: Where there is a benefit, is there not burden?

And I do want to correct any impression that we tax Americans 90 percent. Yes, we need tax reform, real tax reform. We need to help Americans keep money in their pockets. But I can tell you, out of $10, we don't take $9. We want people to be able to work and reap the benefit of their work.

But may I just share with you that America is an umbrella on a rainy day, that when there are hurricanes and tornados and earthquakes, you expect us to come running and restore your communities. You expect us to take care of the dams and bridges, the highways, to ensure that America's infrastructure is working, that the electric grid can withstand a cyberattack, a potential homeland attack, if you will.

After 9/11, you asked America why, and you wanted us to get busy and get to work and ensure the homeland is protected. And I sit on the Homeland Security Committee. Every day our responsibility is to read the fine lines in the classified information to make sure that we are in front of the terrorists, whether it's a lone wolf or whether it is a massive attack. We have been fortunate, because of our young men and women in the military, because of our intelligence community, that we have not had a major attack on our soil since 9/11. That's what the government is all about. You cannot throw the baby out with the bathwater.

And we have some other responsibilities as well. The responsibilities of ensuring our children are safe and that we don't allow and condone sexual abuse of our children or bullying of our children. Yes, you can make a national statement on that, though we want families to get help and children to get help, but the circus that is going on in Penn State is so unacceptable.

I've introduced legislation to stop the Federal funding of any entity that covers up or tolerates child sexual abuse. I have introduced legislation to make a stand against the bullying and ask communities and school districts to establish best practices to help our children and families.

And then it is important to note that we do need to have the harmony and the collegiate collaboration that really speaks of this grand place, this august institution of which we've had so many

opportunities. One of our Members was interviewed in one of our newspapers here on the Hill, and he spoke eloquently as a protector of this institution, one who had been here even as a page, and he mourned for the lack of collegiate interaction.

Everybody thinks it's a joke to call people names; I do not. For we all come in different shapes, sizes, and colors, and it is unfortunate that groups get condemned because of their race, because of their sex, or because of where they come from, their lifestyle, their background, who they represent, who they come on the floor and attempt to advocate for. I do not in any way disallow anyone who comes with a different perspective from one that I may be suggesting today, and that should not generate name-calling.

And the press loves it. They love to see us name-call against each other. They make that the story of the day. They don't talk about the yellow ribbons that Members wore, both Republican and Democrat, commemorating the return of our soldiers. And I personally thank them because I came to them and asked them to do so. I thank them—the Speaker, the leader, the Majority Leader, and of course the whip, leadership coming together to say thank you to our troops.

Members, why don't we, as we go through our holiday season, turn ourselves around. Let's not give fodder to the media, who simply likes to ridicule and make us look as if we're doing nothing. And whether or not I agree or disagree, I know Members are in their offices or in their districts and they are responding to the needs of our constituents.

And as I speak to our constituents back home, as we send this bill to the President and appropriations come that will help you in housing, help you in transportation and the environment, it is important for our local officials—and I look forward to working with my own City of Houston, let's be responsible in these dollars and make sure that the monies get to those who are in need. So that when constituents sit back home and they see the debating going on here and the ire going on here and maybe some of the disagreements, and then they wonder, Where is my help coming? We've sent it to the States, we've sent it to the cities, and it's important for you to hold them accountable as to the resources that are needed to improve your quality of life.

So I'm here today to announce that we're not going home, we're just pausing, because we have to come back and make sure that the payroll tax cuts are extended for working Americans, so that we can ensure that we don't lose 400,000 jobs and help 160 million Americans, many of them the families of soldiers that are returning home.

And then, of course, it is important for us to ensure that the unemployed—6 million of them—and some even beyond that, the 99ers who've come up against the wall of no unemployment insurance, are taken care of.

And can I just say to you, unemployment insurance is not a handout. I spoke with someone just the other day who had four boys that they had to take care of, was working and now on unemployment, trying to find work. But they worked. This is their insurance. This is the wisdom of America, to not let people be abandoned.

And so I would hope that we would find the collegiate ability to give the media back home and here more positive messages to take back and not utilize, if you will, the media waves in the First Amendment to ridicule an institution that so many of us and all of us hold dear, not for us being here present, not for any personal status, but we hold it dear and near because of the history of this place. So many decisions have been made.

The early Founding Fathers had a smaller setting just outside of these Chambers, but this is how we have come to be the longest lasting democracy, because we view this place as a place to work out our differences and not a place to raise our differences.

We've had some major crises in this country. I'd like to have been here and imagine what the Members were addressing in the 1929 collapse when, if you read your history books, people were jumping out of windows, primarily in places where they felt the financial impact. Congress had to come together. Decisions might not have been the best, but they made it through the 1930s. I know my grandparents have spoken about what that depression was really like. And then a President by the name of Franklin Delano Roosevelt dealt with World War II, but also dealt with the dismal conditions of this Nation and put America back to work to bring about the prosperity of the 1950s.

I have the greatest hope that we have that potential. And I know that President Obama believes in job creation and has done so—3 million jobs and more to come. And rather than focus on a company that would disregard the patriotic obligation to hire Americans and think that it's so easy to pick up—and it is. We are a democracy. We have no restraints on anyone planting their business anywhere, moving their business anywhere. But to think that we have lost the patriotism that would cause me to say, You know what? I'm going to suck it in, keep these hard-working Americans working—in whatever State it is—and I'm not going to fall victim to greed and leave, but I'm going to stay put and make sure that I am taking care of the American people, that's what I would hope to see in this country, all of us pulling ourselves together and pulling up our bootstraps, and making sure that we have the ability to work hard, and to ensure that as we work hard we can make this country a great place. That is the challenge that we have.

And I might say this one thing about bailouts and investments; you don't know how excited I am—and I'm not from Michigan—to be able to applaud again the automobile industry, because we were right in there recognizing that it wasn't just making cars in Detroit. It was all the car dealerships and all the guys and ladies that supported the Boy Scouts and boys and girls clubs and little leagues that were going to be impacted.

□ 1520

Oh, look at them now, many of them just rolling along, selling American cars again. That was the right thing to do.

And when we came after 9/11 and airlines came to us saying we just can't make it, and we had to extend a helping hand—I wouldn't even call it a bailout—but they needed us because of the horrific tragedy and attacks and murderous actions of 9/11. And thank goodness we did; and look, there are families being reunited on America's airlines today.

Sometimes the government has to do what is unpopular for the greater good. Yes, there are more things to do with the financial industry; there are questions to be answered about foreclosure that still continues. There is work to be done to help our families restore their wealth. There are questions to be asked about the wealth disparity, the numbers of impoverished, the children that are literally living in poverty, the numbers of families that are on supplemental food assistance, 46 million.

But for one moment, I have never thought that America was not a great country; I never doubted her. In spite of the accusations and the name-calling that comes about in the political process, I never doubt the greatness of America.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding, and I would like to join with my friend in stating that this great level of patriotism and dedication to the United States of America is something that obviously does transcend party. And while we obviously disagree on lots of issues, I appreciate the fact that she has pointed to this spirit of agreement and comity. I think it's very key on this particular day, as we have dealt in a bipartisan way with the threat of a government shutdown that's looming just hours away from us now, we have been able to successfully avert that.

But the reason that I have asked my friend to yield is that we met in the Rules Committee until early this morning, and I've been going for the last couple of days, and I just heard over the past several hours of the passing of a good friend of mine who was one of the greatest essayists and witticists of our time.

And when I heard the news of Christopher Hitchens' passing, I was struck with what a dedicated and patriotic individual he was. I suspect that he

would have disagreed with my friend on the issue of dealing with radical Islam, but it's one of the things that brought the two of us together. He and I, over the last decade-plus, have spent a great deal of time talking about that and other international policy issues.

But if one looks at the series that he wrote in Vanity Fair, as he was diagnosed with cancer, they are very, very powerful. And, again, Christopher Hitchens and I didn't agree on every issue, but I always enjoyed the exchanges and the time that I was able to spend with him and, of course, have been fascinated by his works. I think that the world is a better place for Christopher Hitchens having lived and, obviously, we're saddened by his passing.

I want to say to his wife and daughters that our thoughts—I hesitate to say prayers when it comes to Christopher—go to him, because he was a very committed atheist; but I will say that our thoughts and, since we have them, our prayers are with the members of the Hitchens family, and to say that his works, because he was such a great writer, will continue for years and years to come to fascinate and intrigue and create the kind of intellectual curiosity that is necessary.

I just would like to say that I am saddened by the passing of my friend, Christopher Hitchens, and certainly have had my life improved and bettered by his having lived.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from California. I think his presence on the floor indicates our bipartisanship and thank him for raising those comments about Christopher and our knowledge about him as well.

Let me also indicate my concern and sympathy to his family. That speaks to my point of coming together and being able to share and yield to a gentleman from the other party. As I do so, I would indicate that's how we should go forward as we come back to vote positively on the payroll tax extension next week and stay here until it is done and, of course, the unemployment insurance, but going forward in 2012 to answer some of the cries of many of those who have taken to our streets throughout America who have asked us about jobs, the Occupy Movement, that have been just Americans. I just call them Americans, who have taken up the constitutional privilege of petitioning their government.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make a commitment that our work will be focused on action and make the second part of the 112th Congress equal to what we did in the 111th with pay parity, with the GI Bill, with the affordable health care bill, and so many other items that were so valuable to this country, and when I say that, legislative initiatives.

Let me also say to the American public and our local communities, I know you think someone else is calling or emailing, but this is what democracy is all about. We want to hear from you on these issues of how we come together, not how we come together, but the importance of doing so and working on issues and whether or not you appreciate the concept of where there is benefit, there is burden, there is sacrifice, whether or not you think it's important that there are not homeless veterans or soldiers who are coming back who can't work, whether or not we want to encourage our corporations that have this massive cash on hand to realize what a wonderful, patriotic Nation that they live in, and to be able to work and ensure that we have the ability to do the job that is necessary to be done.

I know that Mr. HOYER was coming to the floor, so let me just say to Mr. HOYER, who will be coming to you in just awhile to, again, assure the working people of America that this Congress will have the payroll tax extended and the President will sign it as we note that he has said every day that he wants to sign it and will sign it.

Let me say to the unemployed, I know that the unemployment insurance allows you to pay your mortgage and to pay your rent and to pay your necessities, but let me say to you that we are looking to create jobs, more jobs in America. And I expect to be introducing legislation that will help the energy industry reduce the deficit, repair our coastal waters and our ecosystems, make sure that we are responding to the loss of wetlands and the deterioration by hurricanes that have come on that gulf region there to restore the healthy fishing waters but, as well, to develop our natural gas and the ability to utilize the present expiration that generates resources for the American people.

This is a season of giving, and I only want that America be known as a benevolent Nation, but strong and powerful in her values and, of course, respecting her military, but the military, based upon a civilian-led government that focuses on democracy, equality, and justice. And I say to my colleagues, let's come back here next week to finish our job; but 2012, let it be the no name-calling session. Let us focus on what we do for others, what we do for Americans; and let it not be as a progressive or a conservative, but let it be as an American. That's the call for this Nation: to come and stand as an American.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my privilege to share my thoughts with my colleagues, and I hope that as this legislation will be signed by the President, although it has had a very difficult journey, and I would have wanted a more expanded debate, we are glad that we are serving America. Let us be prepared to roll up our sleeves to do so in the coming early days of 2012.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1530

WORDS OF WISDOM AT CHRISTMASTIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I appreciate the comments of my colleague from Texas, my sister in faith. I know we get carried away sometimes in worrying about different bills. There's a lot to be concerned about. But looking at our Nation's history, from whence we've come gives us a better glimpse of where we should be going.

At this time, as Congress has for decades, many, many generations, we are about to have a Christmas recess. And so, though we're used to in here debating back and forth, fussing back and forth, because of the season and also with due deference to the things my friend from Texas said, it is important to take note of who we are and our history, just as our Founders did.

I've got a book here, William Federer, just a wonderful gentleman. He's put together so many great books. This one is called ''Prayers and Presidents: Inspiring Faith From Leaders of the Past.'' It's noteworthy.

I was 4 years in the Army, and I never saw an order like this, but right now we're debating whether or not chaplains should be forced to marry people when they know in their hearts it violates their Christian teaching, their Christian beliefs, and our Constitution was not supposed to do that. It's interesting to note that the order from the Commander in Chief of the Revolutionary military, May 2, 1778, to the troops at Valley Forge was as follows:

> The Commander in Chief directs that divine service be performed every Sunday at 11 o'clock in each brigade which has a chaplain. Those brigades which have none will attend the places of worship nearest to them. It is expected that officers of all ranks will, by their attendance, set an example for their men. While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to laud the more distinguished character of Christian.

That was the order of George Washington in 1778 to our troops.

It's also worth noting that when he did what no man has ever done in the history of the world before or since, that was lead a military in revolution, win the revolution, and then tender his resignation and go home, in essence saying, I've done what you ask, you gave me all power. I'm giving it all back.

At the end of that resignation was a prayer, and I'll read part of the prayer from George Washington. This was 1783, June 14. At the end of his resignation were these words:

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy Nation.

That was George Washington in resigning as no one had done before. In fact, King George, when he was told Washington was resigning, didn't believe him. He didn't believe that that would happen. He said nobody would do that. In fact he said, If Washington were to do that, he would be the greatest man alive. He was. He was indeed.

It is also noteworthy, because in figuring out where we're going from here, and especially in this Christmas season, we need to know where we came from. 1789, George Washington said this in writing:

May the same wonder-working Deity who, long since delivering the Hebrews from their Egyptian oppressors, planted them in the Promised Land—whose providential agency has lately been conspicuous in establishing these United States as an independent Nation—still continue to water them with the dews of heaven and to make the inhabitants of every denomination participate in the temporal and spiritual blessings of that people whose God is Jehovah.

George Washington.

There may be the gentleman from Maryland that follows me. If not, these may be the last Special Orders before the Christmas break. And I think with all of the debate that goes back and forth, this is critically important to note who said what while we were being founded.

Thomas Jefferson said these words in 1781, and it's inscribed on the Jefferson Memorial:

God who gave us life, gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a Nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God, that they are not to be violated but with His wrath. Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.

Think of those words, as I know that in the county right next to my home county there are people, a group, Freedom From Religion, that is doing all they can to have a nativity scene removed that is a part of the history of Athens, Texas.

Thomas Jefferson also said these words: ''I am a Christian in the only sense in which He wished anyone to be, sincerely attached to his doctrines in preference to all others.''

Jefferson said: ''I shall need, too, the favor of that Being in whose hands we are, who led our forefathers, as Israel of old, from their native land and planted them in a country flowing with all the necessities and comforts of life.''

I was on Fox News last week with my friend, Eric Bolling, had a gentleman from Wisconsin who was saying Christians are a hateful group, that it is a hate religion, not understanding our history, not understanding this observation at this time of year. Not so much that we designate surely December 25 was the day when Jesus was born, but that it has been traditionally a date where we remembered his birth.

James Madison had plenty to say. In part, in one of his national day of public humiliation and prayer proclamations, he said:

If the public homage of a people can ever be worthy of the favorable regard of the holy and omniscient Being to whom it is addressed, it must be guided only by their free choice, by the impulse of their hearts and the dictates of their consciences, and such a spectacle must be interesting to all Christian nations as proving that religion, that gift of heaven, for the good of man.

Abraham Lincoln, September 5, 1864, said in regard to this great book, talking about the Bible:

I have but to say, I believe the Bible is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.

□ 1540

So it's interesting that now, in a place where so many Christian groups came to avoid persecution, we're about to come full circle. Now we have people, groups like just in the recent days, who are on television, telling me, as a Christian, that I'm a member of a hate group?

He understands not what Washington understood, what Jefferson understood, what Madison understood. And how about the only President to have ever been elected to Congress and been elected President and to have been appointed to the Supreme Court? In fact, he was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He was William Howard Taft.

William Howard Taft, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, said these words in 1908:

No man can study the movement of modern civilization from an impartial standpoint and not realize that Christianity, and the spread of Christianity, are the only basis of hope of modern civilization in the growth of popular self-government.

Our only Member of Congress, who was also President, who was also Chief Justice, said this:

The spirit of Christianity is pure democracy; it is the equality of man before God—the equality of man before the law, which is, as I understand it, the most Godlike manifestation that man has been able to make. William Howard Taft.

Franklin D. Roosevelt said these words on December 24, 1933, because he believed the Christian religion not to be a hate religion, as so many are now saying, as so many are trying to persecute. It is also important to understand this was in a terrible time of a depression.

Franklin D. Roosevelt said this:

. . . this year marks a greater national understanding of the significance in our modern lives of the teachings of Him whose birth we celebrate. To more and more of us, the words 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself' have taken on a meaning that is showing itself and proving itself in our purposes and daily lives.

May the practice of that high ideal grow in us all in the year to come.

I give you and send you one and all, old and young, a Merry Christmas and a truly Happy New Year. And so, for now and for always, 'God bless us every one.'

The words of Franklin Roosevelt.

In 1941, just 2 weeks exactly after the horror of Pearl Harbor's sneak attack, Franklin Roosevelt said this:

Sincere and faithful men and women . . . are asking themselves this Christmas: How can we light our trees? How can we give our gifts? How can we meet and worship with love and with uplifted spirit and heart in a world at war, a world of fighting and suffering and death?

Franklin Roosevelt went on:

How can we pause, even for a day, even for Christmas Day, in our urgent labor of arming a decent humanity against the enemies which beset it? How can we put the world aside, as men and women put the world aside in peaceful years, to rejoice in the birth of Christ?

Franklin Roosevelt went on:

Looking into the days to come, I have set aside a day of prayer, and in that Proclamation, I have said: 'The year 1941 has brought upon our Nation a war of aggression by powers dominated by arrogant rulers whose selfish purpose is to destroy free institutions. They would thereby take from the freedom-loving peoples of the Earth the hard-won liberties gained over many centuries. The new year of 1942 calls for the courage . . . Our strength, as the strength of all men everywhere, is of greater avail as God upholds us.

Therefore, I . . . do hereby appoint the first day of the year 1942 as a day of prayer, of asking forgiveness for our shortcomings of the past, of consecration to the tasks of the present, of asking God's help in the days to come. We need His guidance that this people may be humble in spirit but strong in the conviction of the right; steadfast to endure sacrifice and brave to achieve a victory of liberty and peace.

Our strongest weapon in this war is that conviction of the dignity and brotherhood of man which Christmas Day signifies . . . Against enemies who preach the principles of hate and practice them, we set our faith in human love and in God's care for us and all men everywhere.'

A year later exactly, Franklin Roosevelt said:

To you who serve in uniform, I also send a message of cheer that you are in the thoughts of your families and friends at home and that Christmas prayers follow you wherever you may be. To all Americans, I say that loving our neighbor as we love ourselves is not enough—that we as a Nation and as individuals will please God best by showing regard for the laws of God. There is no better way of fostering good will toward man than by first fostering good will toward God.

Then Franklin Roosevelt quotes from John 14:15:

''If we love Him, we will keep His Commandments.'' In sending Christmas greetings to the Armed Forces and merchant sailors of the United Nations, we include therein our pride in their bravery on the fighting fronts and on all the seas.

It is significant that tomorrow, Christmas Day, our plants and factories will be stilled. That is not true of the other holidays we have long been accustomed to celebrate. On all other holidays, work goes on gladly—for the winning of the war. So Christmas becomes the only holiday in all the year. I like to think that this is so because Christmas is a holy day. May all it stands for live and grow throughout the years.

It might be worth hearing from John Kennedy, December 1962, which was approximately a year before he was assassinated. John Kennedy said these words at this season, at this time:

With the lighting of this tree, which is an old ceremony in Washington and one which has been among the most important responsibilities of a good many Presidents of the United States, we initiate, in a formal way, the Christmas season. We mark the festival of Christmas, which is the most sacred and hopeful day in our civilization. For nearly 2,000 years, the message of Christmas, the message of peace and good will towards all men has been the guiding star of our endeavors . . . I had a meeting . . . which included some of our representatives from far off countries in Africa and Asia. They were returning to their posts for the Christmas holidays. Talking with them . . . I was struck by the fact that in the far-off continents, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, as well as Christians, pause from their labors on the 25th day of December to celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace.

Kennedy went on and said:

There could be no more striking proof that Christmas is truly the universal holiday of all men. It is the day when all of us dedicate our thoughts to others; when all are reminded that mercy and compassion are the enduring virtues; when all show, by small deeds and large and by acts, that it is more blessed to give than to receive. It is the day when we remind ourselves that man can and must live in peace with his neighbors and that it is the peacemakers who are truly blessed. In this year of 1962, we greet each other at Christmas with some special sense of the blessings of peace.

This has been a year of peril, when the peace has been sorely threatened. But it has been a year when peril was faced and when reason ruled. As a result, we may talk at this Christmas just a little bit more confidently of peace on Earth, goodwill to men. As a result, the hopes of the American people are perhaps a little higher. We have much yet to do. We still need to ask God to bless everyone.

□ 1550

And then finally, I was asked last year to write a story, a personal story, about a previous Christmas season. I would like to share that. It can be found at Human Events, entitled, ''Answered Prayer,'' from December 25, 2010.

Mother had become so very impulsive. You never knew what she might do next. This brilliant woman in her younger years had put herself through Baylor University in less than three years while working full-time, was a member of an Honor Society, and had spent most of her professional life as an eighth-grade English teacher.

She had prided herself on being able to solve almost any puzzle, answer most any question, and now it was she who was puzzled by lots of things. She got disoriented, and was going crazy thinking she might be going crazy. In fact, a local doctor in our small town in east Texas told Dad if she got much worse, she might need to be put in a home or institution. That drove her even crazier. Amidst the other perplexing conditions, she thought she was not hearing out of one ear, but that was a minor thing so she did not pursue answers for a long time.

Eventually she decided to go the 60 miles to Longview, Texas, to have a hearing checkup with an ear, nose, and throat specialist named Dr. Norman, whose only other contact with our family was about 14 years earlier when he diagnosed a hearing problem for me when I was 8 years old. He ran tests and did x rays of Mother, but was baffled. He said she had lost most of her hearing in her right ear, and he expected to find a small tumor in her inner ear, but the x rays showed there was no tumor at the normal spot. She had a hearing loss, but he had no idea why. She went home feeling that at least there was something wrong with her that was not psychosomatic.

Nonetheless, her depression, anxiety, loss of balance, impetuosity all kept getting worse, and she knew it. As fall was heading toward Christmas, Mother was heading for disaster. That was what she feared most, as did my father, my older sister, Susan, my two younger brothers, David and Bill, along with me.

Several months after her office visit with Dr. Norman, my brilliant mother was overwhelmed in a way none of us could help. This smart woman who read all of us Bible stories from our earliest days, who loved to recite poetry from memory, jokes and stories, was now having trouble from time to time remembering some of those—and it was not just age taking its toll on this 50-year-old mother.

One night, my mother could not sleep, which was not unusual, but she got on her knees to pray. This was a regular habit for this staunch Christian, a Southern Baptist, in fact. But that night it was in complete desperation and hopelessness. She prayed in essence: 'Lord, You know I would not take my own life, but I cannot live another day like this. I cannot go on. You have to do something. Please help me!'

My youngest brother, Bill, was the only sibling still living at home. He said he awoke, got up, saw a light on, and went to the living room. He saw Mom and worriedly asked, 'Mother, are you all right?' She said, 'Yes, son. I'm fine. Go on back to bed.' He did. She prayed a while longer, eventually drifting down the hall to fall in bed beside our father.

The next morning, Mother, not having to teach that day, slept late until the phone rang. Since Dad was already at work, Mother answered. It was the ear doctor, Dr. Norman, who had seen her once many months before but with whom there had been no contact since. He said, 'Mrs. Gohmert, this is Dr. Norman over in Longview. I woke up in the middle of the night thinking about you, and just wanted to call and see if your problems had gotten any better.' Mother told him, no, she had actually thought she was worse. He said that is what he had awakened thinking, and he wanted to send her over to a neurologist friend of his at Baylor Hospital in Dallas and just let him run tests until he figured out what was wrong.

Mother and Dad did not have a lot of money then, but they readily agreed to do just that. Dr. Norman was not a friend of the family, had not seen Mother in many months, did not have common friends with our family, but he was providentially usable and awoke with Mother on his mind!

Almost a week of testing, and nothing showed until they tried a new machine—new at that time—called a CT Scan. It revealed a small, walnut-sized tumor just inside the skull above her left ear. Mother was elated when she told us the results. We were all heartsick, but not Mother. She was so excited because she knew it was a physical problem; she wasn't just going crazy. What was more, she knew, as we all did—God had answered her prayer. From there, she could handle whatever happened.

The doctor at Baylor, concerned about the sensitive area of the brain in which the tumor was located, referred her to a neurosurgeon friend at the Mayo Clinic. Again, she and Dad did what they had to, with surgery scheduled shortly after Christmas. When the neurosurgeon went in, he found the tumor was more grapefruit size, involved a great deal of the brain, and could not be removed entirely. We were told later it would grow back in maybe a year, maybe 20, no one would know. Mom felt that was OK, too.

And through it all, she found her amazing sense of humor again as well. In fact, her surgeon was quite concerned that he had traumatized nerves or parts of her brain that could have materially affected her abilities. He told the nurses it was imperative that he watch her come out from under the anesthesia so he would have a better idea of the damage that might have occurred. He was alerted and was standing at the foot of Mother's bed when she opened her eyes, which then met his eyes. He asked, 'Do you know who I am?' Mother looked at him for a moment and then said, 'If you don't know who you are, you're worse off than I am!' Mother still had her sense of humor.

It took 15 years for the tumor to grow back big enough to take her life, and the last few years were tough. Half of her face did sag a bit, causing many to think Mother might have had a stroke. But that too did not matter as much as the fact that Mother's prayer had been answered. She, and we all, had a God who listened to our prayers, and answered them.

Christmas was rather special that year. It was before her surgery, so none of us knew what lay ahead for Mother or our family from there. But everyone seemed a little closer, loved a little deeper, hugged a little longer, had fewer squabbles, and appreciated everything a little more.

Two thousand years after God gave us Jesus, He was and is still in the business of answering prayer, just as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Presidents throughout our history—Abraham Lincoln on up to the present day—have acknowledged.

Mr. Speaker, as so often occurred in the first 100 years of this country's history in this building, I will close with a verse of scripture, as so many in Congress used to do.

□ 1600

Psalms 116:1–2:

I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications; because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.

Merry Christmas. Happy holidays to others who are offended by Merry Christmas. As Franklin Roosevelt said: God Bless Us Every One. Merry Christmas.

I yield back the balance of my time.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I come to make a few remarks about the 2012 omnibus appropriations conference report

just passed and about one part of that report that has no place in any conference report or in any House appropriations bill. I refer, of course, to the part of that report called the D.C. appropriations bill.

First, for all of the contention in this Congress, as we look at the 2012 omnibus appropriations, there is certainly much for Democrats to be relieved about. There was a wholesale attack in the beginning of this Congress on everything from education to clean energy. But in the end, because Democrats know how to fight for what the American people tell them to fight for, health care reform was saved. Wall Street reform was saved. Clean energy was saved. Job training was saved. NPR, National Public Radio, was not defunded. Planned Parenthood, which offers reproductive services throughout our country, was not defunded. And Title X family planning was not defunded. The National Labor Relations Board can continue on with its rules concerning union elections. And these are only some of the many ingredients in this omnibus report that led Democrats to vote for it because it contained much for them to be proud of.

Yes, in the give and take of appropriations, the kind of give and take there should have been more of during this Congress, there were some things in this appropriations bill for the Nation that I do not support and that generally Democrats do not support. Still, this bill was far more bipartisan than any other bill that has come before the 112th Congress.

Then, of course, there was the D.C. appropriations. From anywhere in America, the words ''D.C. appropriations'' do not sound right on the House floor. This is the place where we deal with the Nation's business, not the business of any local jurisdiction. But, of course, there are anachronisms here. There are intrusions here, and they go to matters affecting the District of Columbia.

To be sure, there is much to be relieved about in the D.C. bill. This was not a total loss for the District. The bill funded our top three priorities—the extraordinary D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant program; the Department of Homeland Security headquarters, now going up in Ward 8, a part of our city where there is great unemployment, and where this construction is doing a good deal of good; and funding for HIV/AIDS treatment in the District of Columbia.

I want to thank my good friends, Mrs. EMERSON and Mr. SERRANO, particularly for the funding for HIV/AIDS education and treatment. This funding was included in the President's budget, but it didn't have to be in our appropriations bill. And, indeed, it was in neither the initial House nor Senate appropriations bill.

I asked these two appropriators if they could possibly see to it that this funding was included because the District has the highest HIV/AIDS rate in the United States, in part because of the old needle exchange rider. Of course, this funding doesn't have to do with the needle exchange rider; this has to do with making sure that there is money for education and treatment. And so I want to thank Mrs. EMERSON and Mr. SERRANO because together they saw to it that this funding was in the bill, and I certainly want to thank Mrs. EMERSON for the bipartisanship she has shown ever since she has been on the committee that handles the D.C. appropriations. Even on those occasions where she and I are in disagreement, she is always open to hearing from us.

I am equally glad that the D.C. TAG program was funded by her subcommittee. Thousands of our children are going to colleges throughout the United States with funding from the Federal Government to make up for the fact that the District of Columbia does not have a State university system. If this funding had been shut off, it would have been a catastrophe for those in college and for those preparing to go to college.

And of course I mentioned the Department of Homeland Security headquarters construction project. The headquarters is a priority for this administration, as it was for the last administration, and is also a priority for the District of Columbia because so many of the jobs will go to those in this region and, of course, in the District of Columbia.

At the same time, we are justifiably angry about the D.C. abortion rider that was placed on our appropriations for the second year in a row, despite an energetic campaign from many of our allies and District residents to eliminate this rider.

I see that my good friend, Mr. HOYER, has come to the floor. While there is a great deal more I want to say about this bill and how it affects the District of Columbia, it is with pleasure to yield to my good friend, the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentlelady for yielding. I want to join her in saying that there were some minuses in this bill, and the minuses in this bill historically have been, as it relates to the District of Columbia, that the Congress has treated the District of Columbia as its own possession as opposed to an independent political jurisdiction that has been granted home rule, and the Congress ought to honor that home rule.

As we urge democracies around the world or dictatorships around the world to honor the views of their people, the Congress of the United States ought to honor the wishes of the people of the District of Columbia. I always lament when we put in these individual provisions.

I also want to say to the gentlelady from the District of Columbia how outstanding a job she does representing this jurisdiction in which we have the Capital of our country, the only capital of a free world country whose citizens do not have a representative in their parliament who has the authority and privilege of voting.

□ 1610

It's a lamentable fact that Mrs. NORTON, who is speaking to us this afternoon, does not have that vote, and all of us ought to recognize that it's a blight on our democracy. But I congratulate her on representing the District of Columbia in such an extraordinarily positive fashion even without the vote. And it would be awesome what she could do, in addition to that, with the vote.

And I rise, as well, to make a couple of comments, Mr. Speaker, about the business that is pending before this Congress. We have passed an omnibus appropriation bill, this bill that is on the desk here, 1,207 pages, reported out last night, a conference report. I urged support of that bill. But it was not, of course, consistent with the pledges that were made to do appropriations bills discretely, that is, one after another. It's difficult to do that, unfortunately. It's the way we should do it, but we didn't do it this year, and we haven't done it in years past under Democratic and Republican leadership.

But I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that we have some critically unfinished business pending in the Congress of the United States. We passed a bill here through the House some days ago which provided for the extension of the payroll tax cut that we gave to 160 million Americans last year. Our economy is still not as robust as we want it to be, and the President of the United States has said let's continue that tax cut for middle-income Americans. We have not done that yet. And, unfortunately, the bill that we passed through the House had items in it that obviously the Senate did not agree with. The majority leader tried to put that bill on the floor for consideration by the Senate, and the minority leader objected to that consideration, so it has not moved.

In addition to the middle class tax cut, we must not leave Washington without providing for an extension of the unemployment insurance. This great Nation, this wealthy Nation, should not abandon those who cannot find work through no fault of their own. If we do not act, then a million Americans may go off unemployment insurance and not have money to feed themselves, to assist in feeding their families, pay their housing bills and continue to afford to look for work. In the month of February, another 2 million will find themselves similarly situated.

Lastly, we must pass an extension of the compensation of doctors who are serving Medicare patients. That is critical to do so that we can assure medical treatment for our seniors. There's not a Member of Congress who wants to see that happen, or at least none who say they want to see it happen.

So I want to join Ms. NORTON as we stand here today as we are leaving for the weekend, but I also want to call the House's attention to a concern that I have. The majority leader, ERIC CANTOR, announced to us the schedule this afternoon and said that we would not be meeting today, later in the day, after our business, which is now concluded, that we would not be meeting on Saturday or Sunday, and that we may come back on the 19th, which is Monday.

Now, one of the things I was concerned about is that he said on the floor that it is difficult to predict if or when we need to return. Now, he meant by that that he wasn't sure when the Senate was going to act. I understand his meaning. But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I hope the American people will demand that we return and that they will demand that we act before we adjourn sine die, before we conclude this first session of the Congress.

Yes, Christmas is coming, Hanukkah, Kwanza and other celebrations, but there will be no celebration for those people who cannot find work and who believe that the support system that this country has extended to them will be ripped out from under them.

So I am here on the floor to join my colleague in talking about the omnibus appropriation bill to say that I'm pleased that we passed it. It will keep our government operating. It has not yet passed, but hopefully in the next 48 hours the Senate will have acted—hopefully in the next 24—on the conference report, and we'll get it ready to send it to the President.

I am very hopeful that all 435 Members of this House and that all 100 Members of the United States Senate are committed to the proposition that we will not leave this town and that we will not abandon our responsibilities to assure the adoption of the three measures which I have referenced.

The middle class tax cut will affect 160 Americans. I frankly think we should pay for that with a slight surcharge, not a sacrifice, just an additional contribution by some of the best off in America, not because of class warfare but because they want, I'm sure, to help their fellow citizens who need help.

We are committed to the proposition that we will not leave here without making sure that that middle class tax cut continues, that unemployment insurance is available and that doctors will be compensated.

So I thank the gentlelady for yielding for this comment. And in closing, let me say that I wear a yellow ribbon. There's a great song called ''Tie a Yellow Ribbon 'Round the Ole Oak Tree.'' We wear that yellow ribbon for the troops that have been overseas defending freedom in harm's way. We wear that yellow ribbon to remind them of how pleased we are that so many of them are coming home.

The President has met his commitment to end our participation in the war in Iraq and bringing our troops home. We welcome them home. We honor them for their service. And we pledge to them our continuing care for their needs resulting from their service.

And I thank the gentlelady for yielding this time to call our attention to the important work that is yet to be done in this first session of this Congress.

Ms. NORTON. Well, I thank you, Mr. HOYER. It was a very special pleasure to yield to the man who is second in the Democratic leadership here in the House. And I think that it was particularly appropriate, as we close out this session, for our Democratic Whip, a Democratic leader, to come to the floor to remind us of unfinished business.

It was a great pleasure to be able, therefore, to give time to Mr. HOYER, who speaks for us all. And I thank him for speaking not only to the Nation's business, but for speaking to the business of the District of Columbia. He never neglects the City. He has been a great champion of the District and for freedom for the people of the Nation's Capital.

Mr. HOYER essentially spoke about the unfinished business of the 112th Congress. I was relieved at what the Democrats were able to accomplish in this conference report, when you consider that almost everything of great priority for us was under attack. So, yes, we are relieved.

But what Mr. HOYER has reminded us about this evening is that there is unfinished business that should not allow Congress to go home to celebrate its own personal Christmas with a clear conscience until it deals with this part of the Nation's business—the payroll tax that will go up unless we extend it and unemployment benefits for 6 million people. These would have been routine ingredients, the payroll tax, for example, that economists tell us are ingredients essential to keep the economy from collapsing, because the money from the tax cut is going to be instantly spent by those who receive it.

□ 1620

And if the payroll tax goes up instead of staying put, there will be a full 1 percent decrease in the already shallow growth of the economy.

Unemployment benefits do precisely the same way. For every four people looking for a job, there's only one job available today. Who would want to deny unemployment benefits?

And as for Medicare physician reimbursements, we already have too many physicians unwilling to take Medicare patients. The last thing we want to do is to leave that situation, which would leave many of our seniors with nobody to go to.

Mr. Speaker, four D.C. residents were arrested this morning in front of the Longworth building to protest congressional action to keep the District from spending its own local funds as it sees fit—in this case, for abortion services for low-income women. No one asked these residents to be arrested. There was a picket line. I went to Longworth, there on Independence Avenue, joined the picket line, left, and then was informed that four people had decided to engage in civil disobedience in order to send the Congress the message that we will never go away quietly so long as you treat the residents of the District of Columbia as second-class citizens.

These four joined 72 people who were arrested when Congress re-imposed this very rider in April. Our residents have been successful in this sense: While there is one rider, the abortion rider, there are no others. And yet there were attempts to put on more riders, more attachments—at odds with what the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have enacted—but those were not added. There were riders that would have kept the District from using needle exchange programs, indispensable to eliminating the spread of HIV/AIDS. There were promises of riders on the District's marriage equality law. And there was a promise of a rider to eliminate all of the District's gun safety laws. Because the District residents did not go silently the last time, we have been able to beat back those riders.

We are relieved that the Federal Government didn't shut down because the District government would have shut down on Friday had the Federal Government shut down, although the District of Columbia is no part of this fight. The District passed its local budget months ago. However, the Congress treats the District paternalistically and makes it bring its budget to people who know nothing about its budget and have contributed nothing to its budget in order for the Congress—people from other districts—to sign off on the local budget of a city not their own. So because the District of Columbia budget was locked within one of the appropriations that had not been passed—the District faced a possible shutdown.

I have had a bill here pending for many months to the effect that if the government shuts down, the District can continue to spend its own local funds. That bill has not passed. It is amazing to even contemplate the possibility that the local government would have been shut down over issues having nothing to do with the local government. Well, there is only one way to avoid that problem, and it is a way that we are making at least some progress on, and that is to give the city the right to pass its own budget and be done with it.

We are pleased that there is some interest in this issue, especially the bill Mr. ISSA of California has introduced to give the District budget autonomy, a bill that mirrors my own in many ways, with, of course, the deference his bill gives to the Congress. But it would go a long way toward avoiding shutdowns, toward allowing the District,

when it in fact passes its own budget, timely and balanced, to go forward, without coming to Congress, to have its budget done before school opens, to avoid having to pay a premium to Wall Street because the Congress forces the city to bring its budget to the Congress, thereby creating uncertainty for those who hold our bonds. So there is a way, and it is a way that we will never give up until we get that way.

May I ask how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 3 minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. So as the residents of the District of Columbia look at the national appropriations, they will see the national conference report and they will have much to be grateful for because the wholesale attack on everything from education to health care reform did not succeed. Yes, there were also some extraordinary and important things in the D.C. appropriations, even as the city is in anguish that the Congress would dictate to the city how it must spend its own local funds. The city is justifiably angry that there was one rider, one amendment at odds with our own preferences, forced upon us in the way of authoritarian governments. At the same time, other riders that would have been terribly destructive, we were able to fight off.

The D.C. funding had in fact a salutary effect and we are mindful of the needs of the Nation and of the city, especially the funding for the Homeland Security headquarters in ward 8, a ward with a high unemployment rate. DC TAG, which is the program that allows our children to go to State colleges around the country because we do not have a State university system. And we are especially appreciative of the funding for HIV/AIDS, to engage in education and treatment in a city that has a high AIDS rate.

The Appropriations Committee has tried to overcome the partisanship of the 112th Congress. It did so to a fair extent in the general conference report, and it certainly did so on our appropriations, the D.C. appropriations, notwithstanding the issue that we will continue to take on with our appropriations until our appropriation is ours alone, our appropriation, our money.

My thanks to those who, in civil protest, civil disobedience were arrested this morning because of the abortion rider on the D.C. appropriations. And my thanks as well to the hunger strikers, who for the first time in the 210-year history of the District of Columbia made a very special sacrifice to indicate how intolerable it is for the 600,000 residents of the Nation's capital to be treated as second-class citizens.

Happy holidays to all Members of the House. May we have a bipartisan year next year.

I yield back.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2012 AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY 2012 THROUGH FY 2021

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: To facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2012 and for the 10-year period fiscal year 2012 through fiscal year 2021. This status report is current through December 9, 2012.

The term 'current level' refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature.

The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the overall limits set in H. Con. Res. 34, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2012. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2012 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for action completed by each authorizing committee with the ''section 302(a)'' allocations made under H. Con. Res. 34 for fiscal year 2012 and fiscal years 2012 through 2021. ''Action'' refers to legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2012 with the ''section 302(b)'' suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is also needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal year 2013 of accounts identified for advance appropriations under section 402 of H. Con. Res. 34. This list is needed to enforce section 402 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that are: (i) not identified in the statement of managers or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Restuccia at (202) 226–7270.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN,
Chairman.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET; ADOPTED IN H. CON. RES. 34; REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2011

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal years—	
	2012 [1]	2012–2021
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	2,858,503	(2)
Outlays	2,947,662	(2)
Revenues	1,890,365	30,278,654
Current Level:		
Budget Authority	2,970,326	(2)
Outlays	3,024,942	(2)
Revenues	1,889,846	30,251,129
Current Level over (+)/under (−) Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority	+111,823	(2)
Outlays	+77,280	(2)
Revenues	−519	−27,525

[1] Notes for 2012: The appropriate level for FY2012 was established in H.Con. Res 34, which was subsequently deemed to be in force in the House of Representatives pursuant to H. Res. 287. The current level for FY2012 starts with the baseline estimates contained in An Analysis of the President's Budgetary Proposals for Fiscal Year 2012, published by the Congressional Budget Office, and makes adjustments to those levels for enacted legislation.

[2] Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2013 through 2021 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Budget authority for FY 2012 are above the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

OUTLAYS

Outlays for FY 2012 are above the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

REVENUE

Revenue for FY 2012 is below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

Revenue for the period FY 2012 through FY2021 is below the appropriate levels set by H. Con. Res. 34.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2011

[Fiscal Years, in nillions of dollars]

House Committee	2012		2012-2021	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:				
Allocation	−2,315	−2,228	−177,866	−176,005
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+2,315	+2,228	+177,866	+176,005
Armed Services:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Education and the Workforce:				
Allocation	−4,994	−2,522	−149,437	−133,808
Current Level	+8,690	+3,492	−8,775	−4,630
Difference	+13,684	+6,014	+140,662	+129,178
Energy and Comrnerce:				
Allocation	−698	−1,207	−1,365,771	1,366,350

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2011—Continued

[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2012		2012-2021	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+698	+1,207	+1,365,771	+1,366,350
Financial Services:				
Allocation	−5,986	−6,485	−66,359	−67,488
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+5,986	+6,485	+66,359	+67,488
Foreign Affairs:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:				
Allocation	−1,900	−1,900	−16,600	−14,100
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+1,900	+1,900	+16,600	+14,100
House Administration:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:				
Allocation	−387	−1	−48,087	−47,701
Current Level	−3	−3	−13	−13
Difference	+384	−2	+48,074	+47,688
Natural Resources:				
Allocation	−239	−190	−10,735	−10,472
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+239	+190	+10,735	+10,472
Oversight and Government Reform:				
Allocation	−8,102	−8,275	−153,145	−153,302
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	+8,102	+8,275	+153,145	+153,302
Science, Space and Technology:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Small Business:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:				
Allocation	−17,250	−122	−132,784	−4,396
Current Level	−185	0	−1,850	0
Difference	+17,65	+122	+130,934	4,396
Veterans' Affairs:				
Allocation	0	0	0	0
Current Level	−26	−26	−7	−7
Difference	−26	−26	−7	−7
Ways and Means:				
Allocation	−7,945	−8,020	−1,147,818	−1,148,128
Current Level	−81	−293	−50,366	−50,447
Difference	+7,864	+7,727	+1,097,452	+1,097,681

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012—COMPARISON OF CURRENT STATUS WITH APPROPRIATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUB ALLOCATIONS

	302(b) suballocations as of Dec. 9, 2011 (H. Rept. 112–104)		Current status reflecting action completed as of Dec. 9, 2011		Current status minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	17,250	21,452	20,137	23,292	+2,887	+1,840
Commerce, Justice, Science	50,237	62,446	52,944	63,759	+2,707	+1,313
Defense	648,709	654,698	648,694	654,685	−15	−13
Energy and Water Development	30,639	44,577	30,624	44,522	−15	−55
Financial Services and General Government	19,895	23,523	19,895	23,523	0	0
Homeland Security	40,850	45,122	40,850	45,122	0	0
Interior, Environment	27,473	30,766	27,465	30,439	−8	−327
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	139,218	154,253	24,658	124,205	−114,560	−30,048
Legislative Branch	4,314	4,397	3,320	3,565	−994	−832
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs	72,535	78,492	72,535	78,483	0	−9
State, Foreign Operations	39,569	46,060	0	28,254	−39,569	−17,806
Transportation, HUD	47,655	118,272	57,312	122,169	+9,657	+3,897
Subtotal (Section 302(b) Allocations)	1,138,344	1,284,058	998,434	1,242,018	−139,910	−42,040
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation	1,138,344	1,284,058	998,434	1,242,018	−139,910	−42,040
Memorandum:						
Emergencies [1]	—	—	—	918	—	−918
Global War on Terrorism [2]	126,544	64,100	118,942	59,939	−7,602	−4,161

[1] Pursuant to H.Con Res 34, emergencies are not reflected in 302(b) allocations or current level above.

[2] Section 301 of H.Con Res. 34, allows the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations to be adjusted by amounts designated for the Global War on Terrorism [GWOT]. The 302(b) allocations and current status above reflect any adjustments made to date for this purpose. Outlays displayed on the GWOT row, represent only new outlays resulting from new GWOT-related budget authority.

2013 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO H. CON. RES. 34 AS OF DEC. 9, 2011

[budget authority in millions of dollars]

Section 402 (c) (1) Limits	2,013
Appropriate Level	52,541
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Department of Veterans Affairs:	
Medical Services	n.a.
Medical Support and Compliance	n.a.
Medical Facilities	n.a.
Subtotal, enacted advances [1]	0

2013 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO H. CON. RES. 34 AS OF DEC. 9, 2011—Continued

[budget authority in millions of dollars]

Section 402(c) (2) Limits	2013
Appropriate Level	28,852
Accounts Identified for Advances:	
Employment and Training Administration	n.a.
Office of Job Corps	n.a.
Education for the Disadvantaged	n.a.
School Improvement Programs	n.a.
Special Education	n.a.
Career, Technical and Adult Education	n.a.
Payment to Postal Service	n.a.
Tenant-based Rental Assistance	4,000

2013 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO H. CON. RES. 34 AS OF DEC. 9, 2011—Continued

[budget authority in millions of dollars]

Project-based Rental Assistance	400
Subtotal, enacted advances [1]	4,400
Previously enacted advance appropriation [2]	2,013
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	445
Total, enacted advances [1]	4,845

[1] Line itmes may not add to total due to rounding.

[2] Funds were appropriated in Public Law 111–117.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, December 16, 2011.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2012 budget and is current through December 9, 2011. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of H. Con. Res. 34, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, as approved by the House of Representatives.

Since my last letter dated November 2, 2011, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, and revenues for fiscal year 2012:

An act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (Public Law 112–40);

United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112–41);

United States-Columbia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112–42);

United-States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112–43);

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55); and

An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding . . . and for other purposes (Public Law 112–56).

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. SUNSHINE
(For Douglas W. Elmendorf, Director).

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2011

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,891,411
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,842,372	1,771,503	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	581,418	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	−708,099	−708,099	n.a.
Total, Previously enacted	1,134,273	1,644,822	1,891,411
Enacted this session:			
Authorizing Legislation			
Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection & Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–9)	0	0	−490
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2011, Part II (P.L. 112–16)	−185	0	0
Budget Control Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–25)	8,690	3,492	0
Restoring GI Bill Fairness Act of 2011 (P.L. 112–26)	−26	−26	0
America Invents Act (P.L. 112–29)	−3	−3	−4
An act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (P.L. 112–40)	−28	−240	−996
United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 112–41)	53	53	−31
United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 112–42)	−68	−68	−137
United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (P.L. 112–43)	1	1	118
An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding . . . and for other purposes (P.L. 112–56)	−39	−39	−25
Total, authorizing legislation enacted this session	8,395	3,170	−1,565
Appropriations Acts			
The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112–55, Divisions A, B, and C) [1]	242,076	195,617	0
Continuing Resolution: The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112–55, Division D) [1]	957,561	554,056	0
Entitlements and mandatories: Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	628,021	627,277	0
Total Current Level [2]	2,970,326	3,024,942	1,889,846
Total Budget Resolution [3]	2,858,503	2,947,662	1,890,365
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	111,823	77,280	n.a.
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	519
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2012–2021:			
House Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	30,251,129
House Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	30,278,654
Current Level Over Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	27,525

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
Note: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.
[1] P.L. 112–55 contains four divisions: Division A (the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012); Division B (Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012); Division C (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012); and Division D (Further Continuing Appropriations, 2012), which provides funding through December 16, 2011, for programs in the remaining appropriation bills. The figures shown here for the continuing resolution are calculated on an annualized basis.
[2] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the budget resolution does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level excludes these items.
[3] Periodically, the House Committee on the Budget revises the totals in H. Con. Res. 34, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution:

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Budget Resolution	2,858,545	2,947,916	1,891,411
Revisions:			
For the United States-Colombia, Panama, Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Acts (section 404)	−14	−14	−50
For an act to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (section 305)	−28	−240	−996
Revised Budget Resolution	2,858,503	2,947,662	1,890,365

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1612. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary; 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.

S. 2009. An act to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs; in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned; in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 19, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2011 pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JENNIFER STEWART, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 4 AND NOV. 12, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Jennifer Stewart	11/5	11/7	Oman		366.00		(3)				366.00
	11/7	11/9	Afghanistan		28.00		(3)				28.00
	11/9	11/10	Egypt		302.00		(3)				302.00
	11/10	11/12	United Kingdom		734.00		(3)				734.00
Committee total											1,430.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, Speaker of the House, Dec. 6, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ROMANIA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 7 AND OCT. 10, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Michael Turner	10/7	10/10	Romania		730.60		(3)				730.60
Hon. Jo Ann Emerson	10/7	10/10	Romania		776.68		(3)				776.68
Hon. Carolyn McCarthy	10/7	10/10	Romania		726.68		(3)				726.68
Hon. Jeff Miller	10/7	10/10	Romania		695.60		(3)				695.60
Hon. Mike Ross	10/7	10/10	Romania		739.61		(3)				739.61
Hon. David Scott	10/7	10/10	Romania		870.60		(3)				870.60
David Fite	10/7	10/10	Romania		813.60		(3)				813.60
Greg McCarthy	10/7	10/10	Romania		819.85		(3)				819.85
Riley Moore	10/7	10/10	Romania		772.10		(3)				772.10
Tim Morrison	10/7	10/10	Romania		749.50		(3)				749.50
Janice Robinson	10/7	10/10	Romania		870.60		(3)				870.60
Committee total					8,565.42						8,565.42

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Chairman, Dec. 7, 2011.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO PANAMA, PERU, COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR, AND GUATEMALA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN NOV. 5 AND NOV. 12, 2011

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. David Dreier	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Hon. Sam Farr	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Hon. Susan Davis	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Hon. Dennis Cardoza	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Barry Jackson	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Brad Smith	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Rachael Leman	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
John Lis	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Asher Hildebrand	11/5	11/6	Panama		240.00		(3)				240.00
Hon. David Dreier	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		754.64				1,369.64
Hon. Sam Farr	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		754.64				1,369.64
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		754.64				1,369.64
Hon. Susan Davis	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		754.64				1,369.64
Hon. Dennis Cardoza	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		955.24				1,570.24
Barry Jackson	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		754.64				1,369.64
Brad Smith	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		754.64				1,369.64
Rachael Leman	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		754.64				1,369.64
John Lis	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		955.24				1,570.24
Asher Hildebrand	11/6	11/8	Peru		615.00		754.64				1,369.64
Hon. David Dreier	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Hon. Sam Farr	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Hon. Susan Davis	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Hon. Dennis Cardoza	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Hon. Gregory Meeks	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		1,742.00				2,450.00
Barry Jackson	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Brad Smith	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Rachael Leman	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
John Lis	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Asher Hildebrand	11/8	11/10	Colombia		708.00		(3)				708.00
Hon. David Dreier	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		264.74				453.74
Hon. Sam Farr	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		264.74				453.74
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		264.74				453.74
Hon. Susan Davis	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		728.74				917.74
Hon. Dennis Cardoza	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		325.74				514.74
Barry Jackson	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		264.74				453.74
Brad Smith	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		264.74				453.74
Rachael Leman	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		264.74				453.74
John Lis	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		264.74				453.74
Asher Hildebrand	11/10	11/11	El Salvador		189.00		264.74				453.74
Hon. David Dreier	11/11	11/12	Guatemala		182.00		(3)				182.00
Hon. Sam Farr	11/11	11/12	Guatemala		182.00		(3)				182.00
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry	11/11	11/12	Guatemala		182.00		414.74				596.74
Barry Jackson	11/11	11/12	Guatemala		182.00		(3)				182.00
Brad Smith	11/11	11/12	Guatemala		182.00		(3)				182.00
Rachael Leman	11/11	11/12	Guatemala		182.00		(3)				182.00
John Lis	11/11	11/12	Guatemala		182.00		(3)				182.00
Asher Hildebrand	11/11	11/12	Guatemala		182.00		(3)				182.00
Committee total											32,960.74

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

[3] Military air transportation.

HON. DAVID DREIER, Chairman, Dec. 9, 2011.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4317. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting proposed amendments to title 12, chapter VI of the Code of Federal Regulations; to the Committee on Agriculture.

4318. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4319. A letter from the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report to Congress for the reporting period April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4320. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4321. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the semi-annual report of the Attorney General concerning enforcement actions taken by the Department under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, Public Law 104–65, as amended by Public Law 110–81, codified at 2 U.S.C. Sec. 1605(b)(1) for the semi-annual period beginning on July 1, 2010, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. section 1605(b)(1); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4322. A letter from the Assistnat Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the semi-annual report of the Attorney General concerning enforcement actions taken by the Department under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, Public Law 104–65, as amended by Public Law 110–81, codified at 2 U.S.C. Sec. 1605(b)(1) for the semi-annual period beginning on January 1, 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4323. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a letter reporting the FY 2011 expenditures from the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund for projects, activities, and facilities that support the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs, pursuant to Public Law 102–86, section 403(d)(6)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

4324. A letter from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report on the Retirement Benefits for Former Employees of Air America, pursuant to Public Law 111–84, section 1057(b)(1) 123 Stat. 2464; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

4325. A letter from the Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Privacy Office fourth quarterly report for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

4326. A letter from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties for the Third Quarter of 2011; jointly to the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary.

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. HALL: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 2484. A bill to reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to include a comprehensive and integrated strategy to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, to provide for the development and implementation of a comprehensive research plan and action strategy to reduce harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 112–333, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII,

H.R. 1981. the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1981 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursunt to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 2484. Referral to the Committee on Natural Resources extended for a period ending not later than February 9, 2012.

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. BARTON of Texas (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. SIMPSON):

H.R. 3696. A bill to prohibit, as an unfair and deceptive act or practice, the promotion, marketing, and advertising of any post-season NCAA Division I football game as a national championship game unless such game is the culmination of a fair and equitable playoff system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 3697. A bill to honor the Nation's fallen miners by requiring improved mine safety practices and compliance in order to prevent future mine accidents; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Mr. HARPER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. WALSH of Illinois, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. CARTER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. ROHRABACHER):

H.R. 3698. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to designate Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY):

H.R. 3699. A bill to ensure the continued publication and integrity of peer-reviewed research works by the private sector; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCCAUL:

H.R. 3700. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Louis Zamperini, U.S. Olympian and World War II prisoner of war, for his service to the country, sacrifice during the war, and his inspiration to others through his courage as a survivor; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 3701. A bill to amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide grants to support job creation initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. RUSH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H.R. 3702. A bill to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INSLEE:

H.R. 3703. A bill to establish a program to provide student fellowships in fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, with preference given to the study of technological development encompassing the fields of energy, environment, and economy; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MORAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MICHAUD, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 3704. A bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of non-ambulatory livestock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H.R. 3705. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of comprehensive cancer care planning under the Medicare Program and to improve the care furnished to individuals diagnosed with cancer by establishing grants programs for provider education, and related research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H.R. 3706. A bill to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. COOPER):

H.R. 3707. A bill to prohibit the consideration in the House of Representatives of any legislation containing an earmark; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 3708. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from issuing a final rule that prevents the agricultural employment of minors to detassel; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GIBSON (for himself, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Ms. FOXX, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. PENCE, Mr. REED, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. STIVERS):

H.R. 3709. A bill to amend the War Powers Resolution to limit the use of funds for introduction of the Armed Forces into hostilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas:

H.R. 3710. A bill to direct the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to initiate immediate action to create jobs in America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 3711. A bill to require the President to call a White House Conference on Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 3712. A bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the troops who defended Bataan during World War II; 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. HOLDEN (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 3713. A bill to direct the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to receive and determine the validity and amount of claims for loss of wages and other property of those plaintiffs in the case Bruce D. Abbott et al. v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 3714. A bill to provide for grants from the Secretary of Education to State and local educational agencies for EnergySmart schools and Energy Star programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 3715. A bill to encourage online workforce training; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUELSKAMP (for himself and Mrs. ELLMERS):

H.R. 3716. A bill to provide that Federal funds may not be used for National Heritage Areas and similar areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 3717. A bill to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. KEATING:

H.R. 3718. A bill to prioritize certain returning workers for purposes of the numerical limitation on H-2B temporary workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. TERRY, and Ms. JENKINS):

H.R. 3719. A bill to provide that funds made available to the Corps of Engineers for certain Missouri River fish and wildlife purposes be used for the reconstruction of flood control structures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H.R. 3720. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that wages paid to unauthorized aliens may not be deducted from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce, 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. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. YODER, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 3721. A bill to authorize veterans' treatment courts and encourage services for veterans through drug courts under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PEARCE (for himself, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. MULVANEY):

H.R. 3722. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to implement a drug testing program for applicants for and recipients of assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHILLING (for himself, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. WALSH of Illinois):

H.R. 3723. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with health care providers to improve access to health care for veterans who have difficulty receiving treatment at a health care facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 3724. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize physicians, pursuant to an agreement with the Attorney General, to transport controlled substances from a practice setting to another practice setting or to a disaster area; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself and Mr. BURTON of Indiana):

H.R. 3725. A bill to authorize the President to vest certain property of the Government of Libya seized or blocked by the United States and to authorize the use of that property to defray the full costs of Operation Odyssey Dawn and United States participation in NATO Operation Unified Protector, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mr. HIGGINS):

H.R. 3726. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve efficiency and guarantee accountability in the Urban Area Security Initiative grant program; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 94. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 95. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. LATHAM (for himself and Mr. BOREN):

H. Con. Res. 95. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Labor should recognize the unique circumstances of farm family youth workers when issuing regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act relating to hired farm workers under the age of 16; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BARTON of Texas:

H.R. 3696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. CAPITO:
H.R. 3697.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 & 18 of Section 8, Article I, of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. McCAUL:
H.R. 3698.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. ISSA:
H.R. 3699.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 8:
To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries
By Mr. McCAUL:
H.R. 3700.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:
H.R. 3701.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H.R. 3702.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1—The Legislative Branch
Section 8—Powers of Congress
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;
To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;
To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
To constitute Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;
To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offenses against the Law of Nations;
To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
To provide and maintain a Navy;
To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. INSLEE:
H.R. 3703.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8 which states that Congress shall have the power ''to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.'' and that Congress shall have the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''
By Mr. ACKERMAN:
H.R. 3704.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mrs. CAPPS:
H.R. 3705.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.
By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:
H.R. 3706.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3 of the US Constitution which provides: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of particular State.
By Mr. FLAKE:
H.R. 3707.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 5, Clause 2, which includes ''each House may determine the rules of its proceedings.''
By Mr. FORTENBERRY:
H.R. 3708.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. GIBSON:
H.R. 3709.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, clauses 11, 12, 13, 14, and 18.
By Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas:
H.R. 3710.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill in enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:
H.R. 3711.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mr. HEINRICH:
H.R. 3712.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. HOLDEN:
H.R. 3713.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. HOLT:
H.R. 3714.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. HOLT:
H.R. 3715.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. HUELSKAMP:
H.R. 3716.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. ISRAEL:
H.R. 3717.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Sec. 8, Clause 3.
By Mr. KEATING:
H.R. 3718.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 3719.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.
By Mr. KING of Iowa:
H.R. 3720.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and under Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. MEEHAN:
H.R. 3721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. PEARCE:

H.R. 3722.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SCHILLING:

H.R. 3723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16 of the United States Constitution, the bill is authorized by Congress' power over the care of the Armed Forces.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 3724.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 3725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 3726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 94.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.J. Res. 95.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: ''No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law. . . .'' In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: ''The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States. . . .'' Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 104: Mr. WEST.

H.R. 139: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 141: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 178: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 266: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 267: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 303: Mr. SCHILLING.

H.R. 370: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 371: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 376: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H.R. 422: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 466: Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 487: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 576: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 657: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 676: Mr. BACA.

H.R. 718: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. LUJÁN.

H.R. 721: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 733: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 813: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 835: Mr. TIPTON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. TURNER of New York.

H.R. 860: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. YODER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. QUAYLE, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. MOORE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 894: Mr. PETERS and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 933: Mr. OLVER and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 938: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 975: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 995: Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 1005: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 1116: Mr. BACA.

H.R. 1148: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 1175: Mr. BOREN and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H.R. 1206: Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 1221: Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 1236: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1265: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1288: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 1294: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1295: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1339: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TONKO, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. QUIGLEY Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. KIND, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. SHULER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. DICKS, Mr. BONNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. JONES, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COLE, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WATT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BACA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1340: Ms. HOCHUL.

H.R. 1370: Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.

H.R. 1418: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 1501: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1513: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. HAYWORTH, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Ms. Linda T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1519: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. HAHN, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. KISSELL.

H.R. 1537: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. BACA.

H.R. 1546: Mr. GUTHRIE and Ms. HANABUSA.

H.R. 1558: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 1621: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1639: Mr. SCHILLING.

H.R. 1648: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1666: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 1681: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 1736: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 1738: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1895: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 1897: Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 1964: Mr. GOWDY, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. KELLY.

H.R. 1971: Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 1981: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. R. 2016: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H. R. 2028: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H. R. 2052: Mr. CRITZ.

H. R. 2069: Mr. GRIMM.

H. R. 2094: Mr. WITTMAN.

H. R. 2131: Mr. KIND, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. COSTA.

H. R. 2139: Mr. RENACCI, Mr. YODER, and Mr. REED.

H. R. 2194: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. R. 2239: Mr. HINCHEY.

H. R. 2252: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H. R. 2288: Mr. CRITZ and Mr. TURNER of New York.

H. R. 2341: Mr. LUJÁN.

H. R. 2353: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H. R. 2359: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. R. 2376: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

H. R. 2429: Mr. BERG.

H. R. 2453: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H. R. 2464: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.

H. R. 2492: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. UPTON, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SCHOCK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2563: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 2569: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 2580: Mr. MARINO.

H.R. 2677: Ms. HAHN.

H.R. 2678: Mr. FILNER and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 2689: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 2735: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2810: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 2885: Mr. BOREN and Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 2900: Mr. MCINTYRE.

H.R. 2936: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 2948: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2959: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 2962: Mr. KIND and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 2966: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 2972: Ms. HOCHUL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 2977: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 2997: Mr. YODER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 3053: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 3057: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 3059: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 3061: Mr. GRIMM and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.

H.R. 3066: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 3087: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 3144: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 3159: Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 3187: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 3193: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.

H.R. 3200: Mr. BASS of New Hampshire.
H.R. 3206: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 3208: Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 3209: Mr. BENISHEK and Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 3216: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 3230: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 3258: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.
H.R. 3266: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 3271: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 3286: Mr. HONDA, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3288: Mr. HARRIS and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3324: Mr. DEFAZIO and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 3337: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. HECK.
H.R. 3365: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 3378: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 3393: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.
H.R. 3425: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 3441: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3461: Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BOREN, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. FINCHER, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. HAYWORTH, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 3488: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3506: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3510: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 3521: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 3523: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. CAMP.
H.R. 3529: Ms. HOCHUL.
H.R. 3553: Mr. COHEN and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3562: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3564: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3568: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 3573: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3575: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3577: Mrs. BLACK and Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 3582: Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 3583: Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. CANSECO, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 3586: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 3593: Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. TURNER of New York, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 3594: Mr. JONES, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3599: Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 3606: Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 3608: Ms. FOXX.
H.R. 3609: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 3615: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. POSEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3620: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 3626: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3627: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 3634: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 3635: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 3638: Ms. CHU, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.
H.R. 3639: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 3643: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3652: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ROSS of Florida, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 3653: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3658: Mr. SCHOCK and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3665: Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 3676: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JORDAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 3680: Mr. INSLEE.
H.J. Res. 80: Mr. OLVER.
H.J. Res. 86: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.J. Res. 90: Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. FUDGE.
H. Con. Res. 85: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, and Mr. WELCH.
H. Res. 58: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CRITZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. HAHN.
H. Res. 298: Mr. WOLF and Mr. STARK.
H. Res. 446: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. LIPINSKI. H. Res. 460: Mr. MORAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. MEEKS.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY: MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 94, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 rule XX.

OFFERED BY: MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

H.J. Res. 95, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 rule XXI.

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. 3589: Mr. HONDA.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157 WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011 No. 194

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the world and all that is in it belong to You. You lay its foundations in the ocean depths by the power of Your voice. Through Your redemptive work You brought peace on Earth and goodwill to humankind.

Lord, we need Your peace today on Capitol Hill. Release Your peace so that our lawmakers will find purity of motives, integrity of actions, and unity of purpose. Teach our Senators Your ways. Make yourself known to them today.

Lord, we place our reliance squarely on Your reliability as we pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER 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. INOUYE).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 16, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER 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. Following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the next 30 minutes.

We expect to consider the omnibus spending bill within the next 24 hours or 36 hours. We also continue to work on an agreement to consider the payroll tax compromise. The Senate will be notified when votes are scheduled.

As a reminder to all Senators, cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3630, the House Republican payroll tax bill. Unless an agreement is reached, that vote will occur tomorrow morning.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3094

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 3094 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3094) to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce morning business, please.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I hope we are drawing to a close. We are not certain; there are still some unresolved issues. But the Omnibus appropriations bill is moving forward, and it will fund our government for the remainder of this fiscal year. It has been a long and arduous process.

We started by passing three appropriations bills in the Senate, then when we tried to call the next three we ran

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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into opposition. So the Appropriations Committee, on which I serve, had to sit down and try to craft nine separate spending bills and put them together into one. It was a long and involved and difficult process with the Financial Services Subcommittee which I chair.

Included in that committee jurisdiction are the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. These are the two government agencies responsible for watching Wall Street and the major financial institutions markets across America. We are doing our best to not only restore America's confidence in some of these institutions that have been shaken by the recession but also to make certain it never happens again. There is resistance, primarily from the banking community and some financial institutions that don't want regulation even after the embarrassing failures of the last recession and the need for a Federal Government bailout.

We need to make certain that at the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission there are adequate funds for them to do the job. I will tell my colleagues honestly that the underfunding of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is a serious mistake—serious. MFA Global has been the subject of repeated hearings on Capitol Hill as to what went wrong that led to the eighth largest bankruptcy in the history of the United States. Innocent people across America and the world have lost money. Some of them have lost their savings because of wrongdoing by someone—we still don't know who. But the agency responsible for monitoring this activity, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, is facing a modest—almost immodest—increase in appropriations this year when they desperately need more.

This is an agency which had a budget of about $200 million in the last year. The administration had asked for $300 million for this year. We will be lucky to come up with anything in the range of $215 million. That is a 7- or 8-percent increase in an agency which desperately needs more not just for personnel—and they need the best professionals—but also for computer technology to keep up with the volume of trades taking place and to monitor activity so as to avoid embarrassment and exploitation.

This notion by many on the other side of the aisle that we can starve these agencies and somehow end up with a stronger economy is completely upside down. The strength of the American economy, whether we are talking about Wall Street or the Chicago Mercantile Exchange or the Chicago Board of Options Exchange, is in the fact that we are guided by the rule of law. We encourage and put into law standards of transparency, and we have oversight that is adequate to the job. This year's appropriations bill falls short of that mark.

I am also troubled by other provisions in this bill again this year considered by my subcommittee. Too many Members of Congress, especially in the House of Representatives, clearly have missed their real calling in life. What they wanted to be was not a Member of Congress but a mayor. So in their frustration they decided they will be a Congressman from their district back home and a surrogate mayor for the District of Columbia.

Over 800,000 American citizens and taxpayers live in this great city. They have nominally had home rule for decades. Yet time and again, year after year, they are subjected to those would-be mayors from all around America who impose standards on this city that they would never suggest in their own hometowns. It becomes a social experiment, primarily for the rightwing.

One of the programs each year that becomes a source of controversy is the needle exchange program. This program of exchanging needles and syringes is the bridge to those who are addicted to bring them out of their addiction into a healthy situation. Why would we do this in the District of Columbia? Because the incidence of HIV/AIDS infection in this city is the highest in the United States of America. That is the reality of life on the streets of Washington—a reality which those who have opposed this program refuse to acknowledge.

The medical professionals step forward and say: Do this. We can help make this a cleaner, healthier, safer city if you do it. Time and time again, some folks stand in the House and say: Oh, we are just going to get rid of this and show that we are opposed to intravenous drug use.

Well, I am opposed to it too, but I know that in addition to strong laws we need thoughtful, commonsense solutions such as the needle exchange program that is supported by medical organizations. The fact that this is not taking place in the way it should is an embarrassment, and I am sorry this will be included in one part of this appropriations bill.

Before we leave, we need to do two things in addition to funding our government. We need to make certain the payroll tax cut which benefits 160 million Americans continues after December 31. This is a lifeline to many struggling families, and it is a way to insert into our economy the spending power of 160 million families buying goods and services that plays out into even more economic activity—more jobs and profitability. That is a must. The President insists on it. He has crossed America making that case. We cannot leave town without doing it. We are working on the final details today, and we should close that as quickly as possible to make certain there is no gap in this coverage of this payroll tax cut.

Secondly, the maintaining of unemployment insurance benefits is absolutely essential for millions of Americans who are out of work.

The amount of money they receive in UI benefits will allow them to keep their families together not just during this holiday season but for the months to come, so that while they are searching for a job they are able to make basic payments so they do not lose their homes—at least have a roof over their heads—and provide for the basic necessities of life for their struggling families.

I cannot believe this has become a political football. I can still recall a time—not that long ago—when Republican and Democratic Presidents would renew unemployment benefits without question, without demand that it be paid for, because they knew it was essential. It was as caring and needy as disaster aid is, and now it has become a political football.

We need to extend these unemployment benefits before we leave town. We have to get that done. The President has insisted on it, and he is right. We know now, with our high unemployment rate coming down slowly, that we still need to provide this assistance to families. Were we to cut off these unemployment benefits, in my home State of Illinois, 148,000 people would lose their benefits—148,000 people. What a happy holiday they would have, knowing that on January 1, the benefits would no longer continue.

Let's get this job done. Let's go home at least with the clear mind that we have met our obligation to this economy and to the unemployed people across America, that we have funded our government, and that we will return next year and, I hope, find a more congenial and bipartisan environment to work in.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TESTER). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first of all, I thank the Presiding Officer for taking a few moments so I can make my statement. I also thank my friend, the Senator from Illinois, for his comments.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL WORKERS

JOHN MERLINO

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was heartened to hear the comments the majority leader made, that we are close to an agreement to make sure we do not put the American people or the great Federal workers through another one of these eleventh-hour fire drills, where we get to the brink of the precipice of shutting down our Federal Government.

It is in that spirit that I rise because, as many know, over the last year and a half or so I have come regularly to the floor of the Senate to continue a tradition that was started by Senator Kaufman from Delaware, where we recognize the contributions of great Federal employees.

Today, I am pleased to honor another exceptional—exceptional—Federal worker, Mr. John Merlino.

Mr. Merlino is the Senate assistant legislative clerk, working on the legislative team of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. Merlino began his Senate career in 1994 as a Senate doorkeeper. He then joined the Secretary's legislative staff and has performed many of its functions, including the constitutional task—the constitutional task—of maintaining the Senate Journal.

Another of Mr. Merlino's main responsibilities is to call the roll during votes and quorum calls. More important, he is also one of those special workers on the dais who have been known at times to actually keep new Members, as they preside over the Senate, awake during long stretches in the chair.

He is always ready with a good sports quip and is known as a person who goes above and beyond the call of duty. As a matter of fact, I know it was his birthday yesterday and I have been planning this speech for some time and I wanted to make sure it coincided with that important date for him.

The Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson, noted that in addition to his hard work and attention to detail—this is a quote—''It is his great sense of humor that helps many of us keep smiling, especially during the Senate's late [night] legislative sessions.''

A small cog in the greater legislative process, Mr. Merlino is a member of an often unrecognized but dedicated team that keeps the Senate running smoothly and one that is charged with ensuring continuity of operations no matter what the situation.

In fact, Mr. Merlino recently entered the history books. During a pro forma session held at the Postal Square Building immediately following the earthquake in August, Mr. Merlino, unknowingly, became one of only two people, along with Senator COONS, to have spoken during the only official session of the Senate convened outside the Capitol Building since 1814. The last time the Senate met outside the Capitol Building for such a session was when the British troops burned the Capitol during the War of 1812. So again, Mr. Merlino took his role in the history books of this great institution.

I hope my colleagues—and I know the Presiding Officer, again, by expelling me from the chair this morning to allow me to make this statement—will join me in honoring Mr. Merlino, a fellow Virginian, for the excellent work he and the legislative team do each and every day and for their commitment to public service.

It is in that sense of Mr. Merlino's commitment to public service that I know the Presiding Officer joins me in this and that we get our work done today, so we can give this team—and the literally couple other million Federal workers across the country—the sense that we are not going to shut down the government, that they are going to be able to go into the holiday season with the recognition that the government will continue operating, but, more important, that so many of us recognize the great work they do to keep this country moving forward.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and again thank my good friend, Mr. Merlino, for his good work.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk (Mr. Merlino) proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Could I ask my friend to yield for a colloquy between the Republican leader and myself?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I will yield and ask unanimous consent that I reclaim the floor when the leader is done.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

GOOD PROGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator MCCONNELL and I have just finished a meeting. We are making good progress on being able to handle the issues that everyone knows are outstanding. We are not there yet, but we are very close.

There will be votes tomorrow. There could be votes this afternoon also. I would also say, because this is a question that people will ask, the House is going to pass their bill around 3 o'clock—that is the omnibus, around 3 o'clock. Time is not always exact. There is a ruling from this White House and its predecessors that if one House passes a spending bill, as we are doing here, and there is a presumption that it will pass in the other body, the time is extended for 24 hours. So everyone does not have the worry about the government closing tonight.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me echo the remarks of the majority leader. As he has indicated, the administration takes a view that if the final appropriations bills pass one House this afternoon—we could have that vote today or it could be tomorrow—but the administration, I am told by the majority leader, takes the view that it has passed one House, there would not be a government shutdown. So I think everybody should be reassured that that is not going to happen. The conference report has been signed and we are moving toward completing the basic work of government through next September 30 very shortly.

On the second issue, the majority leader and I are making significant progress in reaching an agreement on a package that will have bipartisan support, I hope. I think we are going to get to that place. And I share his view that good progress is being made.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

CHAPTER 12 BANKRUPTCIES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to discuss a case that was argued a few weeks ago before the Supreme Court, Hall v. the United States. This case involves a specific provision that I authored which is contained in the 2005 bankruptcy reform law. Throughout the litigation in this case, my statements supporting the provision—in other words, the statements that were said here on the floor of the Senate and in committee report were discussed in these cases at length.

I want to take a few minutes and walk through the history and intent of this provision so people hear it straight from this author's mouth, meaning from this Senator.

At its core, the case Hall v. the United States is about statutory interpretation. The statute at issue is 11 U.S.C. (a)(2)(A), which was a farm bankruptcy provision added to the Bankruptcy Code in 2005.

Before I get into the discussion about the case, I wish to explain what this particular provision does and why it needed to be added to the Bankruptcy Code. Congress enacted Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code in 1986, which was subsequently made permanent in 2005. Chapter 12 allows family farmers to use a bankruptcy process to reorganize their finances and operations. It is a proven success as a leverage tool for farmers and their lenders. It helps a farmer and the banker sit down and work out alternatives for debt repayment. Not long after it became law in 1986, we began to hear about what worked and what did not work for farmers who were reorganizing in bankruptcy.

One problem we learned arose when a debtor farmer needed to sell assets in order to generate cash for reorganization. A farmer may need to sell portions of the farm to raise cash to fund a plan and pay off his creditors. However, in this situation, we are usually dealing with land that has been in the family's hands for a long time. This means the cost basis is probably very low. So once a farmer filed bankruptcy and then tried to sell a portion or all of the land, he would be hit with a substantial capital gains tax. This creates problems, because as originally drafted, Chapter 12 required full payment of all priority claims under Section 507 of the Bankruptcy Code. The only way to avoid this requirement was if the holder of the claim agreed that its claim could be treated differently.

Thus, when a farmer sold his land which resulted in large capital gains, the IRS would have a priority claim against the bankruptcy estate. I wish to take a moment to explain the concept of bankrupt estates, which may be

a bit confusing. When an individual or corporation files for bankruptcy, an estate is created. The estate consists of property that is liquidated for the purpose of paying creditors. So in the case of farmers filing a bankruptcy petition under Chapter 12, the farm assets are the property of the estate.

According to section 541(a)(6) of the Bankruptcy Code, the proceeds of the sales of those assets are also property of the estate. So the situation farmers faced was that the IRS held a large priority claim against the bankruptcy estate.

Let me take a minute to talk about claims against the estate to understand how we got to where we are today. In this situation, we are dealing with a claim that is based on taxes owed. The Bankruptcy Code says that taxes incurred by the estate are administrative expenses. An administrative expense essentially receives top priority when determining who gets paid what. Thus, the effect this had was that the IRS with its priority claim could object to any reorganization plan that did not provide for full payment of its tax claim. The IRS essentially held veto authority over a family farmer's plan confirmation. In some instances then, a farmer who sought to sell a portion of his farm to reorganize, pay creditors, and become profitable again was prohibited completely from doing so.

After learning of this problem, I started working on a way to fix it. Simply put, I wanted to make sure that family farmers in a Chapter 12 case could, in fact, sell portions of their farm to effectively reorganize without the capital gains taxes jeopardizing the reorganization. The very purpose of Chapter 12 and bankruptcy in general is to allow for a fresh start. Unfortunately, this was not happening because of the IRS priority.

In 1999, I introduced the Safeguarding America's Farms Entering the Year 2000 Act. This bill, among other things, sought to fix the capital gains tax issue. When I introduced the bill, I said it would ''help farmers to reorganize by keeping tax collectors at bay.'' I also explained:

> Under current law, farmers often face a crushing tax liability if they need to sell livestock or land in order to reorganize their business affairs . . . High taxes have caused farmers to lose their farms. Under the Bankruptcy Code, the IRS must be paid in full for any tax liabilities generated during a bankruptcy reorganization. If the farmer can't pay the IRS in full, then he can't keep his farm. This is not sound policy. Why should the IRS be allowed to veto a farmer's reorganization plan?

But let me go back to a portion of what I quoted, these words, ''then he can't keep his farm.'' Simply put, if you are a farmer in a farming operation, and you can continue to farm, and reorganization is keeping you from farming, well, obviously you do not have a business of farming and you cannot farm. Family farms are very important to the economic viability of rural America.

The language I proposed ultimately was enacted in the 2005 bankruptcy reform law. Since the Bankruptcy Code, the courts, and the IRS treated the tax liability as an administrative expense, the new provision created a very narrow exception to that administrative expense. Basically, only in Chapter 12 cases, if a farmer sold farmland that resulted in a capital gains liability, then the IRS's claim would not receive priority status. That is the benefit of the legislation I got passed to reorganization of a family farm. But it is what is in dispute in these particular cases I am referring to. Instead the government would have an unsecured claim, which means they may get paid something but not necessarily the entire amount. Also, the IRS would no longer be able to veto a plan's confirmation, thus the farmer debtor would be allowed to reorganize.

From a bankruptcy point of view, this approach makes complete sense. As I have discussed already, filing a petition creates a bankruptcy estate. The bankruptcy estate then sells the lands post petition, and that results in capital gains that are owed to the IRS. Those taxes incurred by the estate post petition are administrative expenses which receive priority status.

My language, enacted into law in 2005, stripped the priority claims owed to the government in this very specific instance and made them generally unsecured claims. However, since the passage of this legislation, the IRS has made an about-face. The government now argues, despite the way it treated this situation for all of these years, that the tax liability created is the responsibility of the individual and not the bankruptcy estate. Yet the entire reason we created this new provision was because of the way the IRS treated the tax liability.

The IRS's new position has been argued in Federal courts and has received mixed results, so now there is a dispute whether my provision accomplishes what it was designed to do. In 2009 the Eighth Circuit case Knudsen v. IRS held the provision applies to post-petition sales of farm assets, which is what we are discussing here. Specifically, the Eighth Circuit rejected the IRS's position that the Internal Revenue Code does not recognize a separate taxable entity being created when a debtor files a Chapter 12 petition.

Put another way, the IRS is claiming the individual debtor is responsible for tax liability that arises out of a bankruptcy estate action. The Eighth Circuit disagreed and said there is now an exception preventing the IRS from having a priority claim for capital gains.

But in the Ninth Circuit, the court there held that there was no exception for post-petition capital gains. In Hall v. the United States, now before the Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit said the Halls were responsible for the capital gains tax from selling part of their farm during bankruptcy. This holding means that my provision did not create a narrow exception even though that is what I intended.

Unfortunately, the IRS, under the Obama administration, is taking a position today that is antifarmer and the exact opposite of what it said 6 years ago. This about-face on the part of the IRS came only after we made the change in the law, and it became clear that in very narrow circumstances the IRS would lose its priority position. I respect the IRS's interest in pursuing tax dollars, but it exhibited a heck of a lot of chutzpah in taking this position. Our policy reasons for this new exception were very simple. The farmers didn't have enough money to pay everyone. We decided it would be better to let them sell some assets, which would generate cash and help them to reorganize, keep farming, and pay their creditors.

In making this decision, we realized someone would have to make a sacrifice. We decided to give farmers a break from government taxes in a very narrow set of circumstances. Now, though, the government is trying to figure out a way to jump back ahead of other creditors and get more money. These creditors the IRS is trying to break in front of are small businesses, suppliers, and small local banks that extend credit and supplies to farmers. This is not what we expected would happen when we passed the 2005 bankruptcy law.

This is an important issue and an important case that the Supreme Court will decide in the coming months. The Supreme Court will decide whether this provision accomplishes my goal, which I have stated. I look forward to seeing how the case is resolved. Rest assured, I will work to ensure that this policy of protecting family farmers is followed as that was our clear intent in having this law enacted. Chapter 12 has proven successful as a leverage tool for farmers and their lenders. It helps the farmer and banker to sit down and work out alternatives for debt repayment. Should the Court rule that the Internal Revenue Code is inconsistent with the Bankruptcy Code and rule against my intent as the author, I will obviously have to work to remedy that inconsistency because what we did in 2005 is the right thing. I hope the Supreme Court realizes the history and intent behind the legislation and follows the congressional intent.

I yield the floor and 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. BOOZMAN. 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.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, as Arkansans and all Americans do last

minute errands in preparation for Christmas, one stop on the list almost always includes the grocery store.

Like many other families our Christmas traditions include baking cookies. On Christmas Eve we get together with extended family for lunch. Many holiday memories are centered around the time spent sitting at the table with family and friends.

The unfortunate reality for more and more people, is that those memories are becoming more distant as more Americans than ever are having difficulty putting food on the table. In fact, recent studies show one in six Americans are food deprived.

Despite Arkansas's reputation as a leader in agriculture production, Arkansans are struggling to provide nutritious, healthy meals for their families.

What is most concerning is that nearly 25 percent of Arkansas kids go to bed hungry. That gives Arkansas the unfortunate distinction of having the worst rate of childhood hunger in the country.

While I believe Congress should be working identifying a range of legislative improvements or reforms that can be made in Federal policy to help fight hunger, Washington can't help solve this problem alone.

This requires community involvement. Fortunately, we are blessed to have help at the local level from a wide variety of organizations in Arkansas, and nationwide, that make it their mission to fight hunger.

As a co-chair of the Senate Hunger Caucus, Senators DURBIN, LUGAR, CASEY, MORAN, BROWN of Ohio, and myself put politics aside to raise awareness and recognize the great work underway in our states addressing food insecurity.

We call this effort the Hour for Hunger. Our initiative encourages all Members of Congress to dedicate one hour during this holiday season to highlight the commitments of national, state and local organizations to fight hunger.

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to visit the Samaritan Community Center in Rogers, Arkansas. For more than 20 years, this organization has lent a helping hand to the hungry through soup kitchens, food pantries, ''Snackpacks for Kids'' and a variety of other initiatives.

This help is needed now more than ever. The economy is forcing more people to rely on the services of Samaritan Community Center. In just three years, there has been more than a 50 percent increase in clients.

This is the story with similar organizations throughout Arkansas. In a segment that aired last month, CNN focused on the extent of the hunger problem in Arkansas's second largest city, Fort Smith. Ken Kupchick, marketing director for the River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith, told CNN some heart-wrenching stories encountered while helping those in need.

Ken spoke of a mother who used to volunteer at a food pantry and is now in need of the organization's services due to mounting medical bills for her children. He recounted a story of an elderly lady who went from financial security to sorting through the dumpster garbage at the local grocery store after her husband passed away and her monthly income disappeared.

Unfortunately, similar stories can be heard throughout our State. Community-based efforts like those in Fort Smith are making a difference to address hunger and malnourishment.

We are seeing it across the state of Arkansas. Last week, the NBC affiliate KARK in Little Rock spent the week urging viewers to donate to the Arkansas Food Bank. The Greater Good Week of Giving donation drive will undoubtedly provide many blessings to many families this holiday season.

It's painfully clear that our current economic environment is intensifying our hunger issues in Arkansas and across the country. The fact is, we don't have to look far to see how hunger hurts.

I believe hunger is a solvable problem but it requires us all working together. Please consider what you can do to help neighbors in need, not just during this holiday season, but all year long.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we are, as a nation, facing difficult financial times, and I for one believe it is true that the middle class in America is suffering economically to a degree that is unusual. It needs to be thought about, it needs to be addressed.

I have a number of ideas about what we should do, and they don't include raising taxes and spreading the money around. I don't believe that is the right direction for the country to go. That is essentially the view of President Obama. As he says he is for the middle class, he taxes people at even higher levels and would do those kinds of government programs that he believes will work.

At a most fundamental level, I am convinced the greatest thing we can do to strengthen America—strengthen us financially, strengthen job creation for the middle class—would be to do the things that allow growth in the private sector. There are a lot of things we can do that will not cost this Treasury a dime.

Indeed, one of the greatest threats to the American economy is the debt that hangs over us like a cloud. It is inhibiting growth and investment and prosperity. We have to get this Nation on a sustainable path, not the unsustainable path we are on. I have been disappointed, frankly, at the leadership of the President. He has not understood this. He believes that the way to do it is through governmental borrowing, taxing, and spending. That is not the way to get out of this fix.

One of the most dramatic things that are coming up before us today is the Keystone Pipeline. This is precisely the kind of project this Congress could take action on to ensure that it occurs because it will create lots of jobs, create wealth, make us more secure as a nation, and help bring down the cost of energy. Low-cost energy is the best possible way to create even more jobs in America. We compete in a global marketplace, and the extent to which our industries can have cheaper energy, they can hire more people, make more widgets, and pay more taxes to the U.S. Government and to States, cities, and counties.

The construction of the Keystone Pipeline would run from Alberta, Canada, to Texas refineries along the gulf coast. It adds a number of miles of pipeline, although it will also use existing pipelines that are in place now. We have thousands of miles of pipelines around the United States. Building a pipeline is not unusual. We build them over and over again. Many pipelines run through our State, and they provide the low-cost energy that helps us to be competitive and create jobs.

This construction project alone would add 20,000 American workers, high-paid American workers, jobs not funded by additional debt that we borrow to try to artificially create jobs. They are real construction jobs. Experts tell us it would likely lead to the creation of more than 100,000 jobs overall. This is a significant number.

In addition, as I said, it would make us more energy secure and make us more able to contain the growth in the price of fuel because it would provide a large, competitive source of fuel for America. When fully operational, the pipeline will transport 700,000 barrels a day. That is almost half of the amount of oil the United States currently imports from the entire Middle East. Mr. President, 700,000 barrels a day is almost exactly the amount of oil we import from Venezuela, and that is not a friendly country to us. Hugo Chavez and his team there are a dangerous threat to the hemisphere. Much of their wealth comes from the oil they sell to the United States. I am not saying that we cannot buy on the world market and that we should not buy from Venezuela, but why in the world would we deny ourselves the right to purchase 700,000 barrels a day from our friend, our fine trading partner, Canada, our neighbor?

There is a strategic political interest of significance here too. How will the Canadians feel if we reject this pipeline when great effort, time, and years of investment and study have gone into it?

This plan to build a pipeline is supported by a bipartisan coalition, Democrats and Republicans, including many Democratic Governors, such as Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, along with a number of Democratic Senators

and Congressmen. It is not a partisan issue. Seven Governors of States that will house the pipeline have come out to voice their support. Each State through which the pipeline will pass is supportive of the pipeline. Those encouraging the pipeline also include labor unions, such as the Teamsters, that together represent about 25 million workers. Remember, this is a jobs program that will create high-paying jobs, and many will be for union workers. Yet the President has blocked the pipeline construction for some time, deferring a decision now until after the next election. Many argue that it is not hard to conclude that this is a political decision and an attempt to avoid alienating the liberal anti-energy environmentalists or those who favor the pipeline, such as his union supporters.

I don't know the politics of it. All I know is that I cannot find a single sound reason not to proceed. I know it would be tremendously economically beneficial to America. We must address the true, structural, long-term problems that are hammering our economy and middle-class workers in America, robbing them of opportunity.

We had before the environmental committee a couple of days ago a witness from Alabama—Van Richey, the CEO at ACIPCO. This is a 100-year-old company where the CEO/owner a number of years ago turned it over to the employees. Mr. Richey testified their number of employees has gone from 4,600 to 2,900, and that the pipe industry in America is down 30 percent—the entire pipe industry. Think about that. These are real jobs. These are people who built their lives around good-paying work at ACIPCO, and over a thousand of them are now not working. I don't know what they are doing. Hopefully, they found something, but it is unlikely to be the kind of solid manufacturing job they had. We must pursue reforms that make our economy stronger and more productive, restoring confidence and allowing for sustained economic job growth.

Consider a few of the biggest challenges we face. One of them is the health care law. Promises were made. The President insisted it would reduce health care costs, but health insurance premiums have increased $2,200 per family since 2008. The Congressional Budget Office warned us this health care bill was not going to bring down costs, and, in fact, the bill has brought costs up. That is money out of the pockets of American families that they do not have now to spend in the marketplace because it has to be spent on their health insurance. We need to get the government out of dominating and regulating areas of the economy for which they have no experience or ability to operate in an effective way.

Instead of allowing the production of American energy—energy from this country—the President has blocked commonsense energy production while sending stimulus dollars to favored green corporations that are not producing and are going bankrupt in serious numbers. A recent study found that almost 190,000 new jobs could be created next year if energy production in the Gulf of Mexico, where I live, returned to pre-moratorium levels. Think about that. If we went back to the pre-moratorium levels on production, it would add 190,000 jobs and bring in more American wealth. Instead of having to buy our oil from Canada or Venezuela, it would be our own, keeping our wealth at home and creating jobs at home.

The moratorium was imposed after the oil spill. We had expert testimony in the environment committee there is a new device that has been prepared and is now ready to go that could be put over a blown-out well, such as the one we had, so that in a matter of days it would stop the leak. They eventually did that, using a cap. Instead of 90 or 100 days, within a few days you could cut off a leak like that. It should have been there to begin with, in my opinion. It was a very significant failure of management not to have such a safety device. But it is now available.

I also believe the permitorium—the inability to get permits—has cost us a lot of jobs. Now that the complete ban is over, you can get permits, but they have been slowed down dramatically, and huge rigs, capable of drilling in the deep gulf, have been moved to other places in the world and are not producing. It would have cost United States taxpayers virtually nothing to put an intensive effort into reviewing the dangers in the gulf, doing it quickly, and putting this industry back on track before so many of those production rigs moved abroad.

Also burdensome, intrusive regulations have undermined job creation and hurt small businesses. The average number of rules costing the economy over $100 million pending during 2001 to 2006 was about 72. Under this administration, the average number is 130. In fact, over 180,000 jobs will be lost each year from 2012 to 2020 as a result of four EPA rules that impact the regulatory structure of the electric industry. These are dramatic events.

It would cost the Treasury of the United States not a dime to not follow through on these dramatic rules, one of which is the boiler MACT rule. I have never heard so much concern from my constituents over that rule. Hopefully, it will be part of the legislation that moves the payroll tax holiday. That legislation would also change the boiler MACT rule. That would be a tremendous relief for the American economy.

The point is, these rules cost the economy, cost jobs, drive up our cost of production, and make it more difficult to be competitive in the world marketplace. We don't need that. Every single rule that is effective needs to be maintained; every single rule that is unnecessary and drives up cost should be eliminated. Yet we are still adding rule after rule, and it is costing jobs.

President Obama has continued to ignore China's abusive currency devaluation process which undermines the rule of law and is decimating American manufacturing. I was pleased to work with my Democratic colleagues in the Senate to pass legislation that would require the government to respond to legitimate complaints of businesses that can prove they have been damaged by the deliberate manipulation of China's currency. You can't have a good trading relationship with a country that is cheating you; that is not playing by the rules. Are we going to sit by year after year and allow factory after factory to be closed because we are unwilling to confront this on some sort of religious, economic, free-trade theory because they sell us cheaper products? If they cause our businesses to lay off thousands of workers or to close down, should we thank them because we get a cheaper product? But how long will it be cheaper?

I don't go for that. I think we need real leadership here. It wouldn't cost the Treasury a dime if we stood up and protected our workers on the world competitive stage; if we backed them up and ensured our businesses have fair trade. We would create jobs without adding to the debt. We would create jobs that pay more taxes and reduce the debt. This trade manipulation and unfairness does enormous damage to the middle class.

The number of U.S. manufacturing sites fell from 397,000 in 2001 to 344,000 in June of 2010. That is a real manufacturing decline. It is not inevitable. In fact, I am convinced we have a chance to have a renaissance in manufacturing in America. If we keep our energy costs down, if we don't have unnecessary regulations, and we create a tax policy that is good, I think we might surprise ourselves on how well we can bounce back. Because the cost of manufacturing in other countries is going up dramatically—and we now have, with our technology, our infrastructure, and our high machinery utilization—we can be competitive in areas we haven't been competitive in before.

Manufacturing employment peaked at 19 million in 1979, with 11.7 million in February of 2011. I don't think this country can be healthy and strong economically, I don't think it can have an effective presence strategically and militarily around the world if we don't have a manufacturing base. I don't see how it can happen. What are people going to do?

They say we will go into the service industry. Well, how many people can make a computer? As a matter of fact, most of these technological advancements, such as our super TVs and computers, are made abroad. It is a competitive world, but we can be more competitive. We can take back some of that manufacturing, I am convinced.

I also believe at a time of high unemployment we need to be sure the immigration laws of this country are enforced. The very idea we should relax

our laws and shouldn't insist they be enforced at a time when we have almost 9 percent unemployment makes no sense to me. We need to get American workers working, not imported workers taking jobs from Americans. It is that simple.

We have to protect our legitimate national interest. If you want to have open borders, I am willing to discuss that and say we should have totally open borders. But if you don't—and no nation in the world does, to my knowledge—then you must create an immigration system that serves your national interest and creates jobs for American citizens wherever possible.

America's $15 trillion debt is destroying jobs and confidence in the economy. The debt itself is the largest we have ever seen. The annual deficit is the largest we have ever seen. It dwarfs any deficits we have ever had before, and it is continuing year after year.

President Bush, in his last year in office, had the biggest deficit he ever had—$450 billion. It was one of the largest deficits in the history of the Republic. President Obama's first year in office saw a $1.4 trillion deficit. It has been $1.3 trillion or more for the last 3 years.

This year, CBO was predicting the deficit would come in at a tad under $1 trillion—$970 billion. But if we pass this tax holiday, we will add $200 billion to the debt just like that. So next year, we will be at $1.1-plus trillion, if the Congressional Budget Office's projections are true.

This is a serious matter. The debt is a threat to us. We have to quit running up the debt. We have to quit borrowing so we can spend. That is all this tax holiday is—the government borrowing the money so people don't pay into their pension plan—Social Security. I am uneasy about that. It weakens the moral component of Social Security and it clearly adds to our debt. Social Security is on an unsustainable course. This bill would do nothing to fix the unsustainable course of Social Security. It says we don't put in the money we have been putting in every year for the last 60 years, I suppose. How can that do anything but weaken Social Security? And it absolutely increases our debt and will show up on the score by the Congressional Budget Office.

I am the ranking Republican on the Budget Committee. It is so painful; I would love to be able to support—and I won't say I won't support—this tax holiday. But it is not sound policy in the long run for America. We can't keep chasing after and borrowing money to spend, because the debt is so large. We now have a debt equal to 100 percent of GDP, our gross debt. We have never had anything like this before.

So it is time, indeed, for a middle-class agenda, an agenda that helps and strengthens this country. We don't need more dishonest spending, politicians promising favor, promising to give people something the government doesn't have to give, spending money we don't have, to try to buy votes with it. We don't need any more of that. The net beneficiary of all this seems to have been the political class, not the middle class.

So what do we need to do? A good, sound program means creating jobs through the private sector, putting a stop to crony capitalism and favoritism, producing more American energy, and making our government leaner and more productive. That is good for the economy: creating a long-term debt reduction plan so that every investor and businessperson and American citizen will say, well, we are on a path now that is sustainable, not on a path that is unsustainable—as every economist has told us; adopting a globally competitive Tax Code, a Tax Code that enhances investment in America, enhances expansion in job creation, not one that inhibits growth and job creation.

We need to confront illegal immigration at the border and at the workplace and serve the national interests. We need to uphold the rules of law in trade and quit acquiescing to those who cheat and manipulate trade rules to their advantage. I don't believe we can sustain that over a long period of time. I do believe that has hammered jobs and manufacturing in America.

We need to eliminate unwise and damaging regulations. Any burden placed on individual Americans or businesses in America that does not pay for itself in benefits should never be imposed. We have too much in that category. Finally, delivering to the good people of this country the honest and responsible government and budget they deserve.

The sad fact is, we have now gone 961 days without a budget. I think that shows the irresponsibility of this Congress. I was disappointed when the Democratic leader in the Senate said it would be foolish to even attempt to bring up a budget this year, and he was not going to do it for the second year. This is really, really dangerous; a country that is suffering the greatest debt and deficits we have ever had, to not have a budget is utterly and totally unacceptable.

I can't imagine a party wanting to be the leader of the Senate that will not even bring to the floor a budget, as required by statute, required by law. The House passed one. They passed a historic budget, a budget that would have altered the debt course of America, put us on a sound path. The Republican leadership in the House summoned their courage and produced a budget that would reduce spending, alter the taxes in America in a way that would create more growth, and brought it forward.

So Senator REID thought he was clever. He knew Democrats wouldn't vote for it because it would actually cut spending, and he brought it up so it could be voted down. But over 40 people voted for it.

I brought up at the same time President Obama's budget—the most irresponsible budget ever submitted, one that would increase taxes but increase spending more and increase debt more than if we didn't have that budget. So I brought it up and said: Well, let's vote on the President's budget. Zero votes, 97 to 0, against that budget.

We need to be sure the people who run this country understand that the American people are not happy with us. How can they be happy? We are borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend. We are on an unsustainable debt course, and we don't even have a budget and refuse to bring up one. It is just unthinkable.

We will end up in the last of this session heading into Christmas with some conglomerated-together, massive omnibus bill, a last-minute tax holiday bill, and somehow we will muddle forward and continue spending for the government so it will not close down. But all of this should have been done months ago. There is no reason it has to be held to the last minute except it gives the leader more power to manipulate, and it gives Members of Congress less opportunity to know what is in it. It gives the American people less opportunity to know what is in it.

So I am not happy. I don't think the American people are. I think they are rightfully disappointed with us. Somehow we have to get this country on the right track. It will require tightening our belts. We cannot continue to borrow and spend at this rate.

A lot of people are going to be disappointed that things they hoped to receive they will no longer be able to receive. But the country will not sink into the ocean. It will not. This country is strong. All we have to do is do what they are doing in New Jersey and doing in Alabama, beginning to do in some of the other States that have been deeply in debt, do what Senator WARNER did as Governor of Virginia: manage the economy and balance the budget. I appreciate his leadership in the Senate to try to produce something worthwhile for the Nation.

So we can do better, and we have to do better, and the American people are entitled to it.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I know we are all anxious to reach a conclusion on significant legislation that is pending. It determines many things important to Americans and it creates the opportunity for Members of the Senate and the House to spend a little

time at home during the holiday season. I am reminded how blessed I am this holiday season to return home to a rural State, where family values and community traditions run deep. There is no tradition more important to us than how we pass on, from one generation to the next, the workings on a family farm.

I am worried these rural traditions are under attack by Washington, DC. In September, our Department of Labor proposed new rules that would ban youth under the age of 16 from participating in what are many common farm-related tasks such as rounding up cattle on horseback, operating a tractor or cleaning out stalls with a shovel and wheelbarrow. I am sure there are many 15- and 16-year-olds who would be happy not to do that work, but it is important work, and it is a way fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, grandparents, work side by side with family members.

One of the things I care a lot about is agriculture. That matters to us in places such as Kansas because that is the economy of our communities. But I also know it is important for other reasons as well, not just dollars and cents. It is important because it is how, historically, in this country, we passed on our values from one generation to the next. Working side by side with moms and dads and grandparents is the way we pass on character and values and integrity from one generation to the next. It is something that throughout the history of our country has been important across our Nation when every place was a rural part of our Nation.

To most young people growing up on that family farm, jobs are routine, it is a part of their lives. These Department of Labor regulations are going to intrude significantly in that ability. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, about 98 percent of our country's 2 million farms are family owned. By working alongside those parents and grandparents, important skills and values are learned. The problem we face now is that agriculture is a way of life and the Department of Labor wants to change that.

Until recently, farms jointly owned and operated by multiple family members had discretion over the responsibilities they gave their children on the farm. But this new rule would do away with that freedom. The Department of Labor is proposing to tell farmers and ranchers: We know what is best for your children and what they should and should not be doing.

The Department of Labor is also trying to do away with successful farm safety and training certification programs. In our part of the country and around the Nation, 4–H and FFA county extension offices are very important. They play a critical role in training and certifying young people to safely carry on farm activities. That happens today. But the Department has ignored research that shows such programs improve safety habits of young people and instead criticizes these training programs for being too locally driven and lacking Federal direction.

One would assume, before making such a drastic change to farm labor rules, the Department would identify reliable evidence and data that show the need for changes, but it is quite the opposite. In fact, the Department of Labor admits it lacks data to justify many of its suggested changes. Furthermore, according to the National Farm Medicine Center, youth-related injuries from farm accidents have declined by nearly 60 percent from 1998 to 2009.

If you ask any farmer or rancher about the importance of safety, they would tell you safety is at the top of their list. It is their children. It is their neighbor's children. They care greatly. But they would also tell you it is critical for the rural way of life to be able to train and encourage the next generation to safely and successfully begin careers in agriculture. If today's young people are not given the chance to learn at a young age what it takes to operate a farm, we put at risk the future of agriculture in our Nation.

If these changes go into effect, not only will the shrinking rural workforce be further reduced and our Nation's youth be deprived of valuable career training opportunities but, most important, a way of life begins to disappear. Our country cannot afford to lose the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

I shared my concerns with the Secretary of Labor several weeks ago, in which we asked for a delay, a longer comment period. The comment period was running through fall harvest across most of the country. The Department of Labor granted a 30-day extension, but that expired December 1, about 2 weeks ago. Parents and communities should be allowed to look after the best interests of their families and citizens. Now that comment period has run. I hope the Department of Labor will take into account the serious concerns by farmers and ranchers, their families, and agribusiness across the country. But just a delay and longer comment period is insufficient. In fact, I am circulating a letter among my colleagues in the Senate that I am asking them to sign, requesting the Department of Labor not proceed to implement these rules. I ask my colleagues to take a look at that letter and please join me.

Local experts should be the ones conducting safety training programs to educate our Nation's young people. The future of agriculture depends on stopping this vast overreach of Executive authority, protecting individual rights.

We know rural America's values are not always the values held in Washington, DC. In the weeks ahead, I will continue to work with my colleagues to make certain this destructive rule does not move forward so we can protect and preserve our values for the next generation of American farmers and ranchers, values our country so desperately needs.

TRIBUTE TO AARON POPELKA

Mr. MORAN. One of the beneficiaries of growing up on a family farm in Kansas is somebody I would also like to mention briefly this morning. As Members of Congress, we surround ourselves with bright minds and fellow natives of our home States. I have had the privilege of working alongside a young man, Aaron Popelka, as a member of my staff for 6 years. In those years, Aaron has proven himself to be a thoughtful voice in a chaotic Capitol Hill culture. With a bright policy mind, Aaron has advised me on agriculture and energy and trade policy while also serving as my chief council.

A native of Munden, KS, Aaron brought with him a commonsense approach to the way he conducted his duties on behalf of our State. Aaron will continue his duties on behalf of Kansans but in a different fashion. Aaron has accepted a position back home in Kansas and will leave my staff at end of the year. The lure of returning home to Kansas is powerful. Over the years, I have lost valued members of my staff, much like the rest of you. However, I appreciate the fact that while their departure from Washington DC is not pleasing to me, more often than not they return home to Kansas and the result is a benefit to our home State.

I am thankful for having had Aaron as a member of my staff. I am thankful for the faithful service he has provided to my fellow citizens in our home State. But I am most thankful for his friendship and I look forward to our paths crossing again back home.

Aaron, best of luck to you and God bless you and your family.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. 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.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes as in morning business

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HINDERING JOB CREATION

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, the holiday season is coming upon us, a period of celebration and joy. But as we prepare to spend time with our friends and our families in the coming weeks, it is important to remember during this holiday season there are many families out there across this country who are hurting.

As I visit with Hoosiers, I hear concern in the voices of parents trying to

make their mortgage payment, the manufacturer trying to find work, and a business owner trying to make payroll. Too many Hoosier families have a parent unemployed or underemployed, some working two or three jobs just to scrape by. For nearly 3 years we have been hearing the President talk about how this Nation needs good-paying jobs for people. The President has spoken on this on numerous occasions. In his inaugural address in 2009, he said:

There is work to be done. The state of our economy calls for action, bold and swift. And we will act, not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth.

More than a year later in June 2010, the President said: ''Our top priority is to recover and rebuild from a recession that has touched the lives of nearly every American.'' Two months ago, the President said: ''Everywhere I go, they tell me they want action on jobs.''

Despite the rhetoric, what we have and what we are dealing with is a series of regulations and policies coming out of the White House that are denying Americans the opportunity to have jobs and preventing job creators from hiring. This is a result of regulations that are hampering businesses as well as policies here that we have or have not enacted that would encourage job growth and economic opportunities.

For nearly 34 consecutive months unemployment has been hovering around the 9-percent level although we all know the real unemployment number is much higher than that. There are people who have given up looking and they're no longer counted. There are people who are working at pay levels and talent levels far below their abilities. And so the underemployment number, combined with the unemployment number, is very significant and much higher than the official number reflects.

For months I have been on this floor talking about a whole number of initiatives I thought was necessary to spur our economy and get us moving forward again. Comprehensive tax reform is something Senator WYDEN and I have engaged in on a bipartisan basis and we've been talking about it all year, yet here we are at the end of the session and we are not going to be able to accomplish that this year. We'll give it a run next year, and hopefully we can make some progress on that. There is almost a unanimous consensus that comprehensive tax reform needs to take place. Yet we have now spent a year talking about it but not doing it. We also know that issues such as entitlement reform and reducing the out-of-control spending here are necessary to put us on more solid footing, and despite the valiant efforts and hard work of many in this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats, we've been unable to accomplish and succeed. Much of this difficulty, frankly, has been because the White House refusing to demonstrate leadership. The President has not stepped up and engaged in fulfilling the very things he said are the most important things we need to do.

Let me cite two examples. The first one is still under discussion and, hopefully, will be part of what we are able to accomplish before we finish here either late this weekend or into next week, and that is the Keystone XL Pipeline. By delaying a decision for a year, the President essentially is saying we are denying 20,000 or more individuals from gaining work. The president is blocking jobs and preventing Americans from building this much-needed pipeline which is so important for the future of this country. We talk about our dependence on Middle East oil and the blood and treasure we have had to spend to keep those sea lanes open and that oil flowing to the United States, and yet the President denies us the opportunity to mine our own domestic energy sources and to use sources that come from Canada or off our shores.

The Keystone XL Pipeline is a project that if constructed will bring a minimum of about 750 million barrels of oil to this country for refining purposes. It will provide an estimated 20,000 new jobs directly and support hundreds of thousands of jobs in coming years indirectly. My State alone, Indiana, has indicated that at least 100 Indiana companies would benefit from the pipeline. This project has bipartisan support as well.

Twenty-two House Democrats wrote a letter to President Obama and said that it is in our national interests to have a Presidential permit issued for Keystone as soon as possible. That's supported by Republicans, but the President has said that if we send him a yearend bill that includes this, he plans to veto it. It makes no sense what-so-ever. It is irrational—to say that the No. 1 priority for this country is to get people back to work and to provide jobs, and here we have a ready-made job creator that is being postponed to pacify some extreme environmentalists who don't want one drop of oil or one piece of coal mined in this country or used in this country to provide energy resources. They think all we need to do is switch to electric—which, by the way, is only produced through burning coal and oil—to provide electricity to plug in our cars and make them work or they want wind and solar. Well, if we look outside the window here in Washington and across most of the country the last few days you are going to see a lot of clouds and very little sun. And you are not going to see much wind. We cannot run factories, we cannot run businesses, we can't even light this Senate based solely on this alternative energy as it currently exists, and it is costing the taxpayer a lot of money.

The Keystone XL Pipeline also has the support of labor groups and unions. These are the entities that will be providing jobs for the project.

Mark Ayers of the AFL–CIO wrote:

For America's skilled craft construction professionals, any discussion of the Keystone XL project begins and ends with one word: Jobs . . . Throughout America's heartland, the Keystone Pipeline represents the prospect for 20,000 immediate jobs, and as many as 500,000 indirect jobs via a strong economic multiplier effect . . . without one single dollar of government assistance.

That is right. This is totally paid for by the private sector. We can provide 20,000 jobs immediately without taxpayer dollars. That is why this is supported by Republicans, supported by Democrats, supported by Unions, supported by right-to-work States, supported across the board by those who feel we need more energy independence. Yet, after assuring us that his top priority is creating jobs, the President says, no. Instead, he chooses to yield to some extreme voices on the environmental left who basically say, no more oil, no more pipelines, no more coal, fossil fuels are out. It is wind, solar, batteries, or nothing—despite how many jobs it costs.

So I am asking the President of the United States to reconsider his decision especially at a time when people are struggling in this country. The commonsense solution to one of our problems is right here before us. Yet we hear from the President, no, he is going to postpone the decision for a year to get past the 2012 election. This is political decision is denying a lot of people work at a time when it is desperately needed. At the same time the President is asking the Congress to extend unemployment benefits, primarily because of his own failed economic policies, the White House is blocking this incredible job creating opportunity.

Another immediate action the administration can take would be to accept a modest provision to provide a reasonable delay on two costly Environmental Protection Agency regulations that will deal another devastating blow to our already fragile economy. In the next few days, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to finalize a rule that could threaten over 20 percent of the coal-fired powerplant generation in the Midwest and in the Southeast. We've now learned it also has a dramatic adverse effect on powerplants in the States of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. So a major part of our country will be affected by this rule. Known as Utility MACT, this regulation will force most of our country's 1,100 coal-fired plants to retrofit their facilities or close their doors. The Partnership for Affordable Clean Energy reported that closures of U.S. coal-fired powerplants will accelerate sharply during the next 10 years because of this utility rule.

The EPA's expected announcement on the utility rule comes just after they issued another major rule that will cost additional American jobs because starting on January 1 the EPA will begin requiring utilities to reduce powerplant emissions that may cause air quality complications in neighboring States. That regulation, called the Cross State Air Pollution Rule, is

also one of the most expensive policies ever imposed on coal-fired plants. Under this rule, the EPA will require plants to install costly control technologies in exchange for minimal environmental gains.

The combined economic impact of the two regulations I have just mentioned is alarming. The Indiana Energy Association estimates that the cost of these rules will be between $6.5 billion and $7.3 billion just in my home State of Indiana. And when we add the entire eastern half of the country, from Mississippi River on to the Atlantic Ocean, that number goes up exponentially.

The National Economic Research Associates estimates employment losses of 1.4 million across the country as a result of the current EPA rules and deadlines. By 2016, NERA reports that American ratepayers will see an average increase of up to 23.5 percent—and in some places rates will be even higher.

Now, I want to say this: Cleaning our air is a worthy goal. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent under the Clean Air Act, which I supported in the 1980s and early 1990s because, as Americans, we all want to clean our air. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent by our utilities on clean air, consumers have been paying for it through our electricity bills to clean the air. The progress we have made has been astounding.

Provisions that were offered in a bill Senator JOE MANCHIN—a Democrat from West Virginia—and I offered together on a bipartisan basis do not turn back or unwind the progress we have made. They simply extend the compliance date for a 3-year period of time and coordinate that compliance date so that utilities can accomplish both of these goals laid out by the EPA in a reasonable time frame. This rule will take effect on January 1 of 2012. So we're asking for a little more time.

Earlier this year I voted to eliminate these rules. That vote, led by Senator RAND PAUL, was defeated. So we move now to the next stage which is to give utilities more time to meet EPA deadlines.

I urge the President to consider the Manchin-Coats legislation called the Fair Compliance Act, which is bipartisan legislation to delay the implementation of these harmful EPA rules. Otherwise, our utilities will not have the time needed to adequately prepare. The EPA will be shutting them down. Without extra compliance time, there are predictions of blackouts or rolling blackouts and substantial increases in utility rates at a time when the economy is struggling and our manufacturers need every competitive advantage they can get in order to compete around the world and get people back to work.

Having said that, let me just say one more thing. It is disappointing from my perspective in the lack of progress in addressing our dire fiscal situation. We've tried just about everything and every process and every procedure people can think up, and each one of those has achieved either minimal results or failed completely. So after evaluating and looking at the extraordinary effort, energy and time put into the process this year, there have been very few results. It has become clear to me and reaffirmed something I believed from day one when I first got into politics—that unless we put in place a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution that will require Members to come down to this well and, before the President of the Senate, put their left hand on the Bible and their right hand in the air and swear to uphold a Constitution that incorporates a balanced budget requirement, we are never going to get there.

There is always a reason why something statutorily—all the efforts of the Gang of 6, the committee of 12; the rush to prevent crises by raising the debt limit; the cliff hangers: are we going to pass this or not, and are we going to extend the debt limit or not extend it—all the provisions through the appropriations process to cut spending and reduce government involvement and so forth have essentially failed.

What we need to do is what most States in this country do, what every business has to do, what every family has to do; that is, commit to balancing our budget, not spending more than we take in, and having a sworn, constitutional agreement that this is what we will do before we adjourn during every session. My State of Indiana has to do this, and many States across the country have to do this. They do because it produces transparency and honesty and Members going before their constituents and saying: That program is a great idea, but we can't afford it. Unless you're willing to support Congress raising your taxes or cuts in other places, we can't put that new program in place.

I think my time is running out. I ask unanimous consent for 2 more minutes, and I will wrap it up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Thank you, Mr. President. I thank my colleagues.

If we don't have this ultimate enforcement mechanism, I fear we will just continue to do what we have been doing for years and years and years; that is, falling far short of where we need to go. I think where most of us know we need to make the tough decisions, to be honest with our constituents, to go forward and basically say this is what our sworn obligation is, and we are going to have to fulfill this obligation. Nothing else has succeeded in forcing this body to come together and in a bipartisan way—or even on a partisan basis—do what is necessary to get our fiscal house in order.

During this holiday season, the people who are without work and struggling to pay their mortgages or struggling to save money so their kids can go to school, struggling to pay bills, wondering what the future is going to hold, those working two or three jobs, they are all out there saying we have to get this together, we have to get this country moving again. We cannot do that if we are plunging into debt or the policies coming out of this administration are denying our citizens the right to work in jobs that are available, such as the Keystone Pipeline. I can't even pay the utility cost now they say and if you are going to raise my rates 20 to 30 percent because of these regulations it is not going to be the kind of joyful, happy celebration at Christmas we would all wish for all our families across America.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. 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. CASEY. Mr. President, I have a number of consents I will offer.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INSULAR AREAS ACT OF 2011

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 2009, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2009) to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague from Alaska, and the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, LISA MURKOWSKI, in urging passage of the Insular Areas Act of 2011. This legislation would enact three time-sensitive provisions needed to improve the operation of certain Federal programs in the U.S. territory of American Samoa and in the freely associated states of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

First, section 2 of the bill would amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 to direct the Secretary of Energy, as a part of

the Department's Marshall Islands radiation monitoring program, to also periodically monitor the containment structure on Runit Island where nuclear cleanup wastes are buried. This new monitoring would include a visual inspection of the containment structure and a radiochemical analysis of groundwater surrounding and in the structure. This section of the bill further requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress with the results of the monitoring. Finally, the section requires that the Secretary of the Interior shall make available to DOE, from existing technical assistance funds, the funding needed to conduct the chemical analysis of groundwater.

This section was requested by the Government of the Marshall Islands because of continuing concerns about radiation contamination among the people living and fishing near Runit Island. Officials from the Department of Energy regularly visit the islands near Runit as a part of DOE's ongoing Marshall Islands monitoring activities, and it is reasonable to direct that those officials periodically monitor the Runit Island containment structure to assure the community that the surrounding waters are not being contaminated and do not pose a health risk to persons living and fishing nearby.

Second, section 3 of the bill would amend current law which authorizes U.S. judges to serve temporarily, on a reimbursable basis, on the courts of the freely associated states. These island nations were formerly administered by the United States under a U.N. trusteeship, and the practice of providing temporary judges on a reimbursable and time-available basis to assist local courts has existed for several decades. This section was requested by the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which has few judges of its own and seeks to have additional U.S. judges available to assist, particularly when multijudge panels are needed to hear appeals. This authority is used by the Ninth Circuit Court only a few days per year when such temporary assignments do not interfere with the caseload of the assigned judges. The section would expand the pool of eligible judges from circuit and district judges, to include magistrate and territorial judges. On March 31, 2011, I received a letter from the Judicial Conference of the United States stating its support for this provision.

Finally, section 4 of this bill would amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to delay the 50-cent increase in the minimum wage of American Samoa that is scheduled for September 30, 2011, until September 30, 2015. It would also delay future periodic minimum wage increases and the periodic GAO report on the impact of prior wage increases from a 2-year to a 3-year, cycle.

American Samoa is a small, remote, unincorporated and unorganized U.S. territory—the only U.S. territory in the Southern Hemisphere. Its economy more closely resembles that of the nearby island-nation of Samoa than it does the U.S. economy. It has a large subsistence sector, as indicated by a 30 percent unemployment rate, and an average per capita income of about $7,000 year—less than a quarter of the poorest State. The wage economy is concentrated in the government sector and fish processing. In recent years, however, trade globalization and rising costs have contributed to a severe economic downturn. GAO recently reported—GAO–11–427—that one of two tuna canneries closed in 2009 and the other cannery significantly reduced operations. Employment in this key sector fell by 55 percent from 2009 to 2010. The U.S. minimum wage was extended to American Samoa in 2007, with annual increases of 50 cents starting in 2008. But, because of the severe downturn, Congress delayed the 2010 wage increase until 2012. The Government of American Samoa is requesting this further delay because of the unique and continuing challenges it faces along with other South Pacific island economies.

Mr. President, there are no authorizations in the bill, and any additional costs associated with its enactment would be funded from existing sources. These are time-sensitive provisions of interest to these remote U.S.-affiliated island communities, and I urge the support of my colleagues in passing this bill.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2009) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2009

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 ''Insular Areas Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. CONTINUED MONITORING ON RUNIT ISLAND.

Section 103(f)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) CONTINUED MONITORING ON RUNIT ISLAND.—

''(i) CACTUS CRATER CONTAINMENT AND GROUNDWATER MONITORING.—Effective beginning January 1, 2012, the Secretary of Energy shall, as a part of the Marshall Islands program conducted under subparagraph (A), periodically (but not less frequently than every 4 years) conduct—

''(I) a visual study of the concrete exterior of the Cactus Crater containment structure on Runit Island; and

''(II) a radiochemical analysis of the groundwater surrounding and in the Cactus Crater containment structure on Runit Island.

''(ii) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, a report that contains—

''(I) a description of—

''(aa) the results of each visual survey conducted under clause (i)(I); and

''(bb) the results of the radiochemical analysis conducted under clause (i)(II); and

''(II) a determination on whether the surveys and analyses indicate any significant change in the health risks to the people of Enewetak from the contaminants within the Cactus Crater containment structure.

''(iii) FUNDING FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING.—The Secretary of the Interior shall make available to the Department of Energy, Marshall Islands Program, from funds available for the Technical Assistance Program of the Office of Insular Affairs, the amounts necessary to conduct the radiochemical analysis of groundwater under clause(i)(II).''.

SEC. 3. CLARIFYING THE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF JUDGES TO COURTS OF THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

Section 297(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''circuit or district judge'' and inserting ''circuit, district, magistrate, or territorial judge of a court''.

SEC. 4. DELAY OF SCHEDULED MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

(a) DELAYED INCREASE PENDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Section 8103(b)(2)(C) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note; Public Law 110–28) is amended—

(1) by striking ''each year thereafter until'' and inserting ''on September 30 of every third year thereafter until''; and

(2) by striking ''except that'' and all that follows through ''September 30'' and inserting ''except that there shall be no such increase in 2012, 2013, and 2014 pending the triennial report required under section 8104(a)''.

(b) TRIENNIAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Section 8104(a) of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note; Public Law 110–28) is amended by striking ''April 1, 2013, and every 2 years'' and inserting ''April 1, 2014, and every 3 years''.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, Senator HUTCHISON be recognized for floor remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PAYROLL TAX CUT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the payroll tax cut we have been debating and considering these many weeks and which we seem to be making some progress on today. I know we will hear more about that later today. I wish to make a couple points—first about the issue itself and then a few points about what is happening in Pennsylvania. I wish to highlight some of the constituent mail we have received about this issue and about the state of the economy and people's lives.

But first and foremost, by way of review, we have had a number of weeks now of debate about the payroll tax and putting in place an agreement where both parties can come together to make sure we put in place the payroll tax cut we agreed to last year.

Many who have been watching this debate know what that means. Instead of having an individual worker or employee pay 6.2 percent as a payroll tax, we reduced that last year to 4.2 percent. I think it is vital, at a minimum, we do that, we extend it.

I had two pieces of legislation—two different versions—to reduce that even more, to cut it in half and also to do the same for businesses. I think that is a good idea, but for whatever reason we have not reached agreement on that. But we seem to have made progress in the last couple days—even in the last couple hours—coming together on an agreement on the payroll tax. We do not have an agreement yet. But we are all working very hard because we all know both the benefits of it and the consequences of not extending the payroll tax cut.

The benefits are plainly evident. If we put in place this payroll tax cut, we can jump-start, kick-start job creation and move the economy forward. I say that in light of some recent numbers we have in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's unemployment rate has hovered around 8 percent for a long time. The number of people unemployed in our State, the 8 percent, does not sound as high as in some places, but that meant over half a million people were out of work. It was not too long ago—just a few months ago—when we had roughly 525,000 people out of work. That number reduced to about 513,000. Fortunately, just yesterday, we got news that the number has fallen below 500,000 for the first time in a long time. We are at 499,000—not much below half a million, but that is good news for Pennsylvania. What that meant is, our unemployment rate went from 8.1 percent down to 7.9 percent. So we are below 8 percent.

As many people know, the national rate went below 9 percent to 8.6 percent. So we are seeing the unemployment rate nationally and in a number of States, including Pennsylvania, going in the right direction, meaning it is going down. The unemployment rate is going down. The number of people out of work, fortunately, is shrinking a little bit.

We have a long way to go to completely dig out of this economic ditch our economy has been in for a long time. One of the best ways to continue that progress is to pass a cut in the payroll tax again, as we did last year. It was the right thing to do last year. It is the right thing to do this year, to continue the progress. We want to make sure we are doing everything possible so our month-to-month job creation number is much higher than it has been.

We have been averaging in the roughly 150,000 range of private sector job growth. That is not enough. We need that above 200,000, and we need it even above 250,000. If we take this step—it is not the only step—there is no magic wand to any policy we pass. Cutting the payroll tax will not solve all our economic challenges. But it is one of the most constructive, one of the most effective steps we can take.

If we do not do it, here is the consequence, at least as it relates to Pennsylvania—a big State that has a lot of the economic challenges many States have. Mark Zandi, a respected economist, did some analysis just on Pennsylvania. If we do not extend the payroll tax cut, which, as we know, has the potential to benefit 160 million American workers—in my home State of Pennsylvania last year that meant more than 6.5 million workers had a cut in their payroll tax, a tremendous benefit for a State such as Pennsylvania. We grew in the last year about 50,000 jobs. That is the good news. The bad news could be, if we do not pass a payroll tax cut, for Pennsylvania—for the country, which, obviously, would have an impact in Pennsylvania—the job loss number, according to Mark Zandi, would be just shy of 20,000 jobs lost in the State of Pennsylvania in 2012.

So it is vitally important for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I think that applies for the Nation as a whole. It is one of the steps, and, frankly, one of the few steps Congress can take that will have a direct impact not just on the economy overall but to directly put dollars in people's pockets—take-home pay. That is what this whole issue is about for employees—what is going to be their take-home pay in 2012. If we pass the tax cut, it will be about $1,000. If we do not pass a tax cut, it will be zero in terms of an extra benefit.

Working Americans who have been struggling through this economy and suffering should have the right to expect we take the action they are telling us to take to cut the payroll tax.

Let me cite two examples of what people are asking us to do, from two constituents, and then I will conclude my remarks.

Here is a letter from a woman in Pennsylvania, central Pennsylvania. I will not give her name. We do not have the authority to do that. But I wish to read some of her words. Here is what she says about how she perceives Washington and what is happening here. I will just read about two sentences from her letter:

> Please make sure something is done in Washington before the end of the year. I feel that no one should be able to have a break—

Talking about us in Congress—

> before taking action on the tax breaks that will expire at the end of this year. If you all cannot do this then you should all leave office and let someone in there who can work together and get things done. Stay and do your job. Period!!

She has two exclamation points after the word ''period.'' What she is telling us is what so many Americans are telling us: that we have work to do here, to come together, to agree not just on a budget for the next year but especially on something as fundamental as this payroll tax cut. So she said it very well, and she encapsulated a lot of what people are feeling.

I am going to read an excerpt from a second letter, one from a woman from the eastern side of our State, in the so-called Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. I will not read the whole letter. It is about her family and some of the economic challenges they have had. I wish to read just two excerpts. She says:

> Now I find myself questioning whether or not anyone has an answer and if they do, will it be too late.
>
> You see, over the last 2 years, all four members of my family, myself included, have lost our jobs.

This is a woman from one family in one part of Pennsylvania talking about how many members of her family have lost their jobs. She expects us to get our job done—to come together and to work together to pass a cut in the payroll tax.

Later in the letter she says this—and I will conclude with this quotation:

> We need to put people back to work. Only then can the economy get turned around. I don't care who comes up with the plan, but the parties need to work together if this country is going to survive. My family is only one example. I know of SO many others who are struggling and in an even worse position than we are.

She is talking about other people being in a worse circumstance, and she has all four members, including herself, of her family who have lost their jobs in the course of the last year or so. So if she can demonstrate—this woman from the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania—if she can demonstrate that kind of empathy and compassion and understanding of what others are going through, when she herself and her family have suffered so substantially in this economy, the least we can do in the Senate, in Washington—the very least we can do—is come together and work together to get this job done.

The leading indicator of that, I would argue, is making sure we put in place a cut in the payroll tax so at a minimum—as people are still doing holiday shopping and still wanting to have a bright and happy holiday and want to have some measure of peace of mind, some measure of security about next year—at least know we came together and made sure this payroll tax cut was in place.

It is vital for the people of Pennsylvania, and I think it is essential for economic growth across the country. We need to come together and get this done.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, we seem to be heading to an agreement

today. At this point, the House appears to be ready to vote on the conference report on the appropriations bills for the rest of the fiscal year, which would be until the end of September of next year. I think this is good. We came to an agreement in August called the Budget Control Act. It was a 10-year commitment to lower spending, lower our deficits. It required a cap in each of the next 10 years that would be a down payment on our debt, would lower the deficit and lower the debt.

The Omnibus appropriations bill, obviously, because it has so many different agencies in it, rather than each separate agency bill going forward as we have done normally in the past in the Senate—because it has so many, there are people who are going to disagree with parts of it. There is no getting around that. The military construction, of which I am on the subcommittee and have chaired it in the past, is part of this bill. So are many of the other bills that are very important for the functioning of our government.

However, the appropriations bill sticks with the agreement we all made. In August, there was a lot of negotiation on how we deal with the debt. To be honest, I did not think it was enough. Many of us did not think it was enough. But we have not been able to come to terms between the two Houses of Congress and with the President on how we can do more and get the votes to do it and get the President to sign the bill.

So I am not saying we are going to agree with everything in this Omnibus appropriations bill. But every one of these bills did go through the committee, and they have been vetted. They did keep the agreement. We have lowered the spending across the board. We set the final fiscal year 2012 funding at $1.043 trillion. This is $7 billion less than last year's level, and it is almost $100 billion less than the President's request.

Now, it is not enough for many people in this body, but we all voted in the majority; 74 separate Members voted in favor of the Budget Control Act, and the appropriations bills all have met those caps. That is something I do not hear said very often in this body, that we have met the caps.

I was vice chairman, the ranking member, of one of the very important appropriations committees that funded NASA, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice. We met these caps. It was hard. Each one of the subcommittees of the Appropriations Committees on the Senate side met the caps, even though we had to cut and balance and set priorities and not fund some of the important areas that we would like to have funded. But that is what choosing and prioritizing are about. That is why we made the agreement, and we stuck to it. So when all of these appropriations bills are complete, we will have cut discretionary spending for 2 years in a row for the first time in modern history, frankly, really cut.

So now we are working toward cutting the deficits over a 10-year period as we agreed we would do. In the next few days, I hope we are going to take fiscal year 2012 off the books and immediately focus our attention on long-term deficit reduction and, hopefully, comprehensive tax reform because the real issue is how we are going to get the debt down more.

We are talking about a $15 trillion debt. If we cut the debt $1 trillion, it is a down payment. But I think we need to do more in a responsible way. But we cannot do it all in discretionary spending. If we are going to do what the taxpayers elected us to do, then we are going to have to deal with entitlements. We are going to have to deal with Social Security reform and Medicare reform.

Everyone knows, common sense tells us, Social Security has changed since the time it was passed and today when people are living longer and retiring later. But we have not accommodated those changes. We have not set the actuarial tables that would sustain Social Security for the next 75 years. We could do it by just very gradually, 3 months a year only, increasing the age of retirement; put a cap on it at 68 or 69. We could bring Social Security into balance.

We would also have to make adjustments in the cost of living increases. But we would not have to raise taxes, and we would not have to cut the core benefits in any reduction. So we can do this and make significant deficit reductions so the $15 trillion starts coming down. That is our debt.

We have to deal with Social Security reform. I have introduced legislation, the Defend and Save Social Security Act, with Senator KYL as my cosponsor that has done exactly that. Other Senators have introduced legislation. Senator PAUL introduced legislation that would gradually bring down the Social Security deficit, which would also bring down the debt of our country. This is responsible. I am going to push next year to try to get this Social Security reform.

But in the next 2 days we are going to deal with discretionary spending because that is all we have on the table to deal with, and we are going to keep the agreements we made in the Budget Control Act, which 74 Members of the Senate supported. The appropriators have kept their word. Every single bill has had a cap on spending. Where we have the capability to deal with discretionary spending—and that is all we have, we cannot deal with entitlements until we have entitlement reform. But in discretionary spending, the appropriators have kept their word. That is what we will be voting on, to keep the word that 74 Senators agreed was the right approach.

We are going to vote on a bill that will be passed by the House today and, hopefully, be passed by the Senate tonight or tomorrow as our leader has said we will. I hope we can pass that bill.

We also have to deal with the long term. We are not going to be able to do it in the next 2 days, but surely when we come back next year we can pick up tax reform. We can put our Tax Code in a better structure so our corporations will bring their businesses that are now overseas back to America. Those are going to be jobs in America. That is how we want to create revenue in this country, not by taxing the people who would hire people but by having an equitable Tax Code that will make corporations do their business here so people will have jobs, and they will increase their revenue and the economy of our country.

That is the way we need to deal with the long term. We need to deal with entitlement reform and Tax Code reform. We do not have a revenue problem in this country. We do not have a problem with people paying too little in taxes. We have a spending problem that has given us a $15 trillion debt.

So I hope as all of those families in America are settling in for the holidays that we would be doing the work in Washington that would assure a long-term future for these families, which means we are going to have to cut spending from the government, that we are not going to increase taxes on the working people of our country, and that we would have regulatory reform that would allow our small businesses to grow without the heavy hand of government putting a blanket on their ability to grow.

When there is a blanket on the ability to grow, they are not going to hire more people. That is the problem we have in this country right now. So we are making, in the next 2 days, I hope—I hope my colleagues will support the agreement we made in August to start the down payment on the spending in this country, lowering it, lowering it from what the President sent over, a budget from which we have cut almost $100 billion.

Even in the face of this crisis in this country on spending, the President sent us a budget that was almost $100 billion more than we are going to pass in the House and Senate because we made an agreement in August to cut spending. The House is also going to send disaster relief, which I will certainly support, and they are going to send a bill that would pay for it with a 1.83-percent across-the-board cut in discretionary base spending, excluding the Department of Defense, military construction, and veterans affairs. I think that is a responsible approach.

I think with the budget that we are putting forward with the appropriations, with a 1.83-percent across-the-board cut to fund disaster relief that we know is going to happen and be necessary in the next 9 months of next year, that we should pay for that. We should have disaster relief in our budgets in the future, and we should try to accommodate it right now.

We are not going to withhold it for people who are in need. We do not

know if it is going to be wildfires or droughts or hurricanes or tornados. We are not going to deny that help. But it should be budgeted just like everything we do. We should have some sense that we have prepared for it. Preparing for disasters should be part of our budget. There is not a business in this country that does not prepare for disasters. The government should do it too.

I hope we will be on a trajectory to lower the spending, keeping our agreement of August with the Omnibus appropriations bill that is going to be passed by the House this afternoon and will come to the Senate. I hope we will be able to act by tomorrow on that piece of legislation that keeps the agreements we made.

It is a down payment. It is not what all of us wanted, but I think we ought to put in disaster relief. I think we ought to pay for that with another 1.83-percent cut across the board. I think that would be the responsible approach, and then we can start next year on the long term. That would be regulatory reform, Social Security reform—to make it solvent for 75 years, at least—and Medicare reform. Those are the things that will give us a long-term, hopefully, solvent government that will be the model for the world because, is there any question that we need a model in the world right now for fiscal discipline and responsible governing? I hope America can provide it.

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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to make some observations about the Keystone Pipeline. President Obama has said his first priority is jobs. Here is an opportunity for the President to show it, a pipeline provision that, according to some estimates, would create thousands of jobs right away. In fact, those are all the estimates I have seen, that this is a project that is ready to go.

Here is an opportunity for the President to say he is not going to let a few radical environmentalists stand in the way of a project that will create thousands of jobs and make America more secure at the same time. The labor unions support the pipeline, the Chamber of Commerce supports the pipeline, out-of-work Americans support it, and a growing number of Democrats are expressing their support as well.

Here are a few of the comments we heard from Democrats just this very week. Senator KENT CONRAD of North Dakota said:

> I personally think the pipeline is absolutely in the national interest. It'll help us reduce our dependence on foreign energy, at least foreign sources that are hostile to our interests.

Senator CONRAD further said:

> I, for one, on this side hope that this could be part of a final package and I hope that this is something we could work through in the coming hours.

Senator MCCASKILL:

> If States rights are being protected and if this is going to be something maybe, that we can try to jump start the approval process, make it go more quickly.

Representative CLYBURN, one of the leaders of the Democratic conference in the House:

> I'm very much for the pipeline. There is no question about that.

Congress should do something, not just assist people who are struggling in a down economy or out of work, but help incentivize job creation for them at the same time. In other words, let's not just pass a bill that helps people on the benefits side; let's also include something that actually helps the private sector create the jobs Americans need for the long term. This is the balanced approach Americans want, one that extends help but also offers hope.

This is just the kind of thing we should be doing around here. Both parties like it, the labor unions like it, why in the world wouldn't we want to put it in the package?

The only reason the White House has given for opposing the pipeline provision is they would rather vote on it alone, which makes absolutely no sense. You are either for the provision or you are not. So I suggest here is a rare opportunity to do something truly positive together on a bipartisan basis at the end of the year. Let's finish this year on a truly cooperative, bipartisan note. Let's strengthen our Nation's energy security, decrease the energy we import from overseas, create American jobs right now, and let's do it all on a bipartisan basis.

As I said, there is bipartisan support for this project. We need to get it done, and we need to get it done now. The House of Representatives has been quite clear that they are not going to support a package that does not include the pipeline. Frankly, I would not be able to support a package that doesn't include the pipeline. I think this is something we could all be proud of at the end of the year, demonstrating to the American people that we can work together not only to help those who are struggling, through a continuation of the payroll tax holiday and an unemployment benefits package, but also create jobs at the same time in the private sector without a penny of the Federal Government's money by moving this pipeline along.

After all, it has undergone years of environmental studies. It is ready to go. The company is ready to hire the people just as soon as we give them the signoff.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized to speak in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFRONTING THE ISSUES

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I thank those who have listened to our e-mails back in Florida that we just sent out alerting them I will be speaking on the Senate floor, maybe the last time I will speak this year.

I want to take a few minutes to update everyone on what this first year in the Senate has been like. First of all, it has been a tremendous privilege and honor. There is not a day goes by that I do not come to this building early in the morning, when I can get to the gym—I probably should do that more than I do—and see this building lit up in the darkness. It takes my breath away that I actually get to work here in this building on behalf of the people of the State of Florida.

I recognize what an honor and privilege it is to have this position, not just in this unique institution—which is different, perhaps, than any legislative body in all of history—but this Republic that stands out in the history of mankind. As Americans, we should always take a moment to recognize that in America, on this floor, we debate and sometimes solve issues other countries fight wars with each other about. That is a real blessing and a real opportunity to be an example for the world. I am grateful and feel blessed to be a part of it, and I thank the people of Florida for the opportunity to do it.

I want to share two observations as this year comes to an end—and, hopefully, today or tomorrow, sometime this week, we will wrap up our work in this body for 2011—observations I have after my first year. I think I am 3 weeks from having been sworn in for the first time. There are a couple of things that concern me.

First is a real lack of urgency. There are some major issues that confront America. These have to be confronted. We need look no further than Europe to see what our future holds, unfortunately, if some of the issues that now confront us are not confronted. That is not hyperbole, it is not partisanship, it is reality—it is math. This country borrows more money than it needs to or should. This is a country that is now spending more money than it takes in at an alarming pace, and there is no plan in place to prevent that.

That is not a partisan observation; that is not a Republican concern or a Democratic concern; that is the concern of every person who is grounded in

reality, that we cannot continue doing what we are doing now.

There are specific programs that are in trouble that we should be very concerned about. Medicare is one example. I have a very special place in my heart for Medicare. No. 1, there are a lot of people in Florida who are on Medicare; and, No. 2, in my own life, both in my father's illness last year before he passed away and this year when my mother suffered some setbacks in her health, I have seen firsthand how important Medicare is.

There are two things that worry me about Medicare. The first is that it will not be there when my generation and future generations retire. The other is just as important: that somehow, if we fail to act in a timely manner, people like my mother, who are currently on Medicare, may at some point in their lifetime see their benefits change dramatically or see the program and quality of access decline.

We need to do everything we can to save Medicare. We know for a fact, and no one can dispute, if we leave Medicare the way it is right now, that program is going to be in a lot of trouble. I hope there is a sense of urgency about that. Also, the fact that our economy is now smaller than our debt—$15 trillion is a lot of money we owe, that our children and our grandchildren will owe. That is a lot of money. That is a big deal. The national security threats we face are significant and have to be confronted.

The sense that somehow the major issues can wait until another election or another moment concern me because these issues have a tendency to sneak up on us and a problem becomes a crisis. It is a lot harder to solve a crisis than it is to solve a problem, so I hope we have a sense of urgency with regard to these issues in the coming year.

There is another issue I would like to talk about, which is a troubling emergence in the last year in politics. It is this rhetoric that, in my opinion, seeks to divide Americans against each other, basically pits Americans against each other.

The way the rhetoric basically goes is, there is a reason there are Americans who are struggling, hurting; a reason that people have lost their jobs; that people are working twice as hard and are making half as much; that people have lost their homes, and people have graduated from college but cannot find a job. And there is a theme by some, including, frankly, many in our political leadership and from time to time even the White House, saying to people the reason they are doing worse is because there is a handful of people out there doing too well. The reason they have lost their jobs is because someone else is being too greedy. The reason they are losing their homes is because someone else owns too many homes. The reason they are making less money is because someone else is making too much money.

I am troubled by that rhetoric that pits people against each other because the second part of that argument is give the government more power; give us, government, more power so we can step in and right this wrong, so we can take away from the people who have too much and give to the people who do not have enough.

Let me tell you why I am troubled by that. The first reason I am troubled by that is because it is absolutely not the kind of country we have been for 220-some-odd years. It is not in our nature. Americans have never been a people to drive through a nice neighborhood and say: Oh, I hate the people who live in these nice houses. Americans are people who drive through a nice neighborhood and say: Congratulations on your nice house. Guess what. We will be joining you soon.

We have never been people who go around and confront people or look at people who have been financially successful and say: We hate you. We envy you because of how well you are doing. Americans have celebrated their success, and they say: Guess what. We are going to be successful soon as well.

I remember growing up, I always tell people I am a child of privilege because I have the privilege and the honor of being born in the greatest country in human history and of having a mother and a father who were married, loved each other and lived in our home. These are two of the most important benefits anyone could have. But my parents were working-class folks. My dad was a bartender for most of his life. My mom was a maid and cashier and stock clerk at K-Mart. We were not people of financial means in terms of significant financial wealth.

I tell them I always had what I needed. I didn't always have what I wanted, but I always had what I needed. My parents always provided that. I don't remember them telling us or teaching us the only way we could be more successful was if other people were less successful. They never inculcated in us the belief that somehow in order for us to climb the ladder, other people had to come down from the ladder.

On the contrary, they would hold up these examples of success to inspire in us the hope that someday we could be there as well—financially, in our careers, what have you. We are people who have always celebrated other people's success so long as we always had the opportunity to meet that success ourselves. That is the American nature. That is the American character. That is what makes us different from the rest of the world.

I am afraid we could lose that or are on the verge of losing that. I am concerned that there are those in America's political leadership who are advocating that we abandon that in favor of something else. I think it is wrong because it does not work. That thought process that somehow other people have to be worse off in order for us to be better off does not work. People get on boats, people jump fences to get away from that kind of thought process. People flee countries that do that because it does not work. It never has.

It will not work here. The proof is in the numbers. Let's put aside partisan political rhetoric for a moment and look at the numbers. In January of 2009, when the President was sworn in, he inherited a very bad economy. He inherited a bad economy. He inherited an economy, for example, that had 12 million people out of a job, an economy where gas was $1.85 a gallon, where the debt was at $10.6 trillion, where we were 39 million Americans living in poverty in January of 2009. He inherited a bad economy.

But for the first years of his Presidency, at least one of the first 2 years, he had 60 votes in the Senate which I quickly learned is the way everything seems to happen around here, by 60 votes. He had a majority in the House. He could have anything he wanted, and he said: This is what I want. This is what the President said: He wanted a stimulus package, and he got it. He wanted his health care package, and he got it. He wanted financial services reform, and he got it. So what happened? Let's look at the numbers.

He became President, bad economy, got everything he wanted. What has happened since? Now there are 13.3 million people unemployed, gas is now at $3.27 a gallon on average, the debt is now up to $15 trillion, and people in poverty—39 million when he took office, 46 million people now.

Put aside the partisan rhetoric for a moment—just the numbers. He became President, got everything he wanted, and everything got worse. Those are the facts.

Is that because he is a bad person? Of course not. It is ridiculous. It is because his view of government and politics is wrong and those who share it are wrong. They are not un-American, they are not bad people, but the proof is it doesn't work. It has not worked anywhere else in the world to approach it this way, and it is not going to work here. I hope in this new year we will reverse course on these things and instead embrace and take up that which does work in America.

What makes America become more prosperous? It is not that complicated. It is not Fortune 500 companies or big corporations. Every country in the world has rich people. Every country in the world has billionaires and millionaires. What makes us different is that here a worker can become an owner, an employee can become an employer. It happens all the time. You cannot walk two blocks anywhere in this country and not bump into somebody who didn't start a business out of the spare bedroom of their home, who didn't take their credit card or their lifesavings and risked it all behind a great idea and today 20 people work for them. That is 20 families being fed, 20 families sending kids to college because somebody had the audacity to take

their lifesavings and pursue their dream. So they opened a business out of the spare bedroom of their home; they opened a business out of a corner in their garage; and nowadays you can start a business with a laptop and an empty table at a Starbucks, and it works. We have to get back to that.

What stands in the way of that are three things, above everything else. The first is a Tax Code that is crazy. It is not complicated, it is not burdensome, it is crazy. It is the craziest thing you have ever seen in your life. First of all, it is full of loopholes and exemptions built in. That doesn't hurt the big guys. It doesn't hurt billionaires and millionaires and big corporations. These guys can handle this stuff. They may not like it, but they can hire lawyers, accountants, and lobbyists. They can figure this stuff out. You know who a complicated Tax Code kills? The guy or gal trying to start a business out of the spare bedroom of their home. We have to simplify our Tax Code. It has to be reformed. If there is stuff in it that is the result of good lobbying as opposed to good policy, take it out. I hope we will work on that. Everybody here says they are for tax reform, so do it. Let's have urgency. Let's have some urgency behind that.

The second is regulations. Look, we need to have regulations. Here is a glass of water. I don't want this to have poison in it. I want our air to be clean. Government has a role to play in those things. Let me tell you what happens when regulations go too far, when they seem to exist only for the purpose of justifying the existence of a regulator. You don't hurt the guys who have made it; you don't hurt the big corporations or the billionaires. These guys can hire lawyers to deal with that stuff, and they can hire lobbyists to change all that stuff. It kills the people trying to start a business out of the spare bedroom of their home. So we have to simplify the regulatory system we have in this country as well.

Finally, this debt. The debt is a problem. There is no plan in place to do anything about it. People are afraid, concerned, worried—and rightfully so—about investing money in an economy that doesn't have a plan to pay its bills. I hope we reverse course on all of these issues. If we do, it will lead to prosperity.

Let me tell you what prosperity will lead to. It will lead to more jobs, more jobs will lead to more taxpayers, more taxpayers will lead to more revenue, and more revenue means we will have money to pay down our debt and do what government should do, such as our national defense, invest in infrastructure and in our people, and provide a safety net to help those who cannot help themselves.

To do that, it all starts with embracing the fundamental principle of America's prosperity. We have never been a nation of haves and have-nots. We are a nation of haves and soon-to-haves, of people who have made it and people who will make it. That is who we need to remain if we desire to provide our children with what we had, an American century, which is what the 21st century can be, should be, and will be. If in 2012 this body and our leadership reverse course from the direction we are headed, it will place us on a path that is true to our heritage as a people and embrace for our children and grandchildren a future they deserve, a prosperous and growing America where all things are possible, where anyone from anywhere can accomplish anything, where the son of a bartender and a maid can be a U.S. Senator, and where anyone watching, no matter where you start out in life, can accomplish and be anything you want to accomplish if you are willing to work hard, play by the rules and have the ability to do it.

With that, I want to wish all of my colleagues and the people of Florida and the people of the United States a merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, and a happy New Year. May God always bless our country and may 2012 bring us the safety and prosperity for our Nation and for the world.

I thank the Chair.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTERS IN 2011

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I will take the opportunity while the floor is relatively quiet to come and explain one of the votes we are going to be asked to cast tomorrow. In fact, it is very timely that I am here on the Senate floor at 2 o'clock in the afternoon because the House, I understand, just passed H. Con. Res. 94, and I am going to ask the Senate to reject that resolution when it comes here tomorrow for our vote. I am asking Democrats and Republicans to join with me in voting no on that resolution. I would like to take a few minutes to explain why. I think pictures are worth a thousand words, so let me just use four to save time.

This is about disasters in 2011. This whole issue is about how we should budget for disasters. It is an important debate that has been one of the many debates Congress has had over this last year, and we are wrapping up that debate in the next 48 hours. So this is a part of that debate.

I think pictures speak louder than words. This is a picture of Joplin, MO, a town that was virtually wrecked by a massive and monster tornado and tornadoes.

This is a picture of the Mississippi River flooding in Cairo, IL. This year, the Mississippi River was at one of its highest levels in some places in over a century. We received our own share of that flooding in Louisiana, which sits at the base of this great Mississippi River basin. So our people, as well as people along the entire Mississippi River Valley, experienced unprecedented flooding.

The lonely and distraught couple sitting in what looks like the middle of an ocean is actually in Nags Head, NC. This is what happened to their beach home as water virtually surrounded them and destroyed that community. Again, this happened this year with Hurricane Irene.

Down here on the far right is a picture of the fires that raged and devastated parts of Texas, which experienced one of the worst droughts in the recorded history of Texas.

What is sad about this debate is I could show picture after picture after picture of communities in our country devastated by tornadoes, fires, hurricanes—disasters that strike without warning and whose impact is virtually impossible to measure until months afterward because of the extraordinary damage. In fact, the Weather Service just this month did a recalculation of 2011 and declared it to be one of the worst disaster years since records have been kept, saying they have now concluded, as enough evidence has come in, that we had over 12 disasters in 1 year—in this year of 2011—over $1 billion each.

So this year was a real outlier, but sadly—and the Presiding Officer has heard it in his State, and we have heard it in my State of Louisiana, and we have heard it around the world—these pictures may not be an aberration. These pictures may show what is to come. And while 2011 was a very bad year, people are starting to think that as a result of the changes in temperature and climate change—and whatever people think the reasons are for that, no one should disagree with the consequences of changing temperature, which are violent weather episodes. The question is, What are we going to do about it and what is the right way to move forward? Let me show my colleagues what the wrong way is before I explain the right way.

This picture depicts the wrong way to respond. This has been suggested by some of my Republican colleagues. They suggest that when the water rises on your home or when the tornado rips you out of your bed and the roof falls on you and your family or when the river water rises and you look out of your second-floor window over your 100- or 200-acre farm and you can't see anything and your cows are swimming and your horses are swimming as well, that what you should do is climb on your roof, call Washington, call the hotline, and identify the offset in the

Federal budget to provide the cost of your rescue. It is laughable. It is supposed to be funny. It is a funny cartoon. But when we think about it, it is really not funny to tell the American people that in order to be rescued, you need to call the budget office of the Federal Government, identify an offset, and then we will send a rescue unit to respond to your emergency. It is not funny. The American people aren't laughing.

So I am going to ask my colleagues to vote no on H. Con. Res. 94 tomorrow because that is exactly what H. Con. Res. 94 does. I should get a big pen and write, ''If you think that grandma here with a cat and the phone is what you want your constituents to look like, then you just go right on and vote for H. Con. Res. 94.''

But I am not going to vote for that concurrent resolution because our leaders wisely—both Republican and Democratic leaders, wisely—in August, in anticipation of this issue, already provided for disaster funding in the Budget Control Act. They already provided for it. We don't have to tell our constituents that before we can send money to help them in Joplin or in Nags Head, NC, or Cairo, IL, or San Antonio or Dallas, TX, they have to identify an offset, because we wisely said within the Budget Control Act, within our efforts to close the budget gap, that we are providing for disaster funding, and that is what we have done. But some Members of the House will continue to want to adhere to trying to identify an offset before disasters can be responded to. They say things such as, we should pay for disasters in the year we respond to them.

I am going to present a chart in just a minute, but first I want to try to explain the second reason this is a faulty way forward.

In 2005, which wasn't that many years ago, the Federal Government allocated $45 billion—actually, I think this number is about $68 billion, and I will show the chart in a minute—in 1 year, and that year was the year of Katrina and Rita, which were the No. 1 and No. 3 most violent and disastrous and costly hurricanes in the history of our country. They happened in the same year to the same State—or to the same area, which was Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. We got the brunt of two of the worst storms that literally flooded a metropolitan area or flooded an area greater than the size of Great Britain. And that amount was $68 billion.

If we followed the poor logic of some on the Republican side that we had to pay for this disaster in that year in the budget, I think we would have probably had to eliminate half of the discretionary budget of the United States of America. I am going to get that exact number. But it is ludicrous to think we would be able to find $68 billion in the budget in that one year. In fact, the whole homeland security budget—it wouldn't be half—the whole homeland security budget is $42 billion. So let me repeat: Instead of half, we would have had to completely eliminate the entire homeland security budget of the United States of America, plus another couple of smaller budgets, to meet the $68 billion requirement. It doesn't make any sense, and it is not right. It is not the right way to budget. It violates the Budget Control Act, and it is so hypocritical that some on the other side are requiring this for domestic expenses when they don't require the same thing for foreign expenses or international expenses.

I would like to put up the next chart. To pour salt on the wound—and I don't quite understand the politics. I don't understand the math. I don't understand the budgetary consequences, and I don't understand the politics. They are wrong on all three counts because this is what those who voted for H. Con. Res. 94 have to go home and explain to their constituents. They are going to have to go home and say: When I was in Congress, I allocated $823 billion for the war in Iraq and required no pay-for. Then I went back to Congress and spent $557 billion in Afghanistan and didn't say a word about that. Then I went back and added a Medicare drug benefit for $180 billion, and we didn't pay for that. Then I went back and sent checks to everyone when George Bush was the President, and those checks cost $124 billion, and we didn't require any offset or budget implication for that. But when Americans had their homes destroyed, their farms flooded, their businesses ruined by disasters, I can't send a dime unless we take it out of health, transportation, or education.

So they said no to this little $8.1 billion—after spending a grand total of $1.68 trillion on all these items. So I do not understand the math. I do not understand their position as to the budget. I most certainly do not understand the politics, and I do not agree with it because I think the American people should come first. Their needs from disasters should come first. We cannot possibly, because of the erratic nature of disasters themselves—we might think we are powerful in the Senate, but we are not more powerful than God, and we are not more powerful than nature; and I am not saying that God causes these storms, but nature has a way—we are not that powerful and we do not know and cannot predict when these will happen. All we can do is respond.

We have responded appropriately in the Senate version of this bill. Our bill will provide funding for FEMA, for the Corps of Engineers, within the budgetary control structure. It will allow us to pay for this over time in future negotiations, which is the wise way to do it. But it will not force us to use disasters that occur in this country as an excuse to continue to ring out costs from health, transportation, and education.

As my colleagues know, I feel very strongly about this issue, and I am proud to say I think many Democrats and, hopefully, some Republicans feel strongly that their constituents at home should come first, that the budget should provide for an immediate response when people are victims of floods or tornadoes or hurricanes or other disasters.

I think most people in the Senate understand 2011 was a tough year. It was a historic year. But the sad thing is, I think we also understand it could repeat itself. Using these disasters, when it was not the case for the war in Iraq, was not the case for the war in Afghanistan, was not the case for Medicare, was not the case for the rebate checks—but when it comes to disasters we cannot seem to find $8.1 billion within the budget control structure. I do not, as I said, understand it.

We have seen this cartoon I have in the Chamber before. I will not go into it. But I think it says beautifully why this is the wrong approach. Again, these pictures speak a thousand words. This other chart shows what a disaster looks like. I wish I had something to show what it feels like to lose everything, and then, when you have lost everything, trying to provide confidence to your own family, to your own children, and to your neighbors, to then listen to the debate in Congress that says: We write a blank check to Iraq, a blank check to Afghanistan, a blank check here, and yet, when it comes to funding for disasters, we have to have this argument.

I am going to ask my colleagues to vote no on H. Con. Res. 94 tomorrow. In voting no, we will reject to the find-the-offset-now requirement. We will honor the agreement made between Republican and Democratic leaders back in August to include this in the Budget Control Act. We will send a powerful signal to our constituents that they come first; that disaster victims should come first in the budget, not last; that we understand how difficult it is for them to rebuild their communities, and the Federal Government wants to be and will be a reliable partner they can depend on in their time of need.

With this ill-advised resolution, we return to an issue that consumed this Chamber for weeks this past fall.

That issue is how we pay for disaster funding—money used by communities destroyed by disasters that are struggling to clean up, rebuild, and move on with their lives after a tragic act of Mother Nature.

We have seen many such events over the past few years—from historic floods in the Midwest, to deadly tornadoes in the South, to the wreckage inflicted on a huge swath of the country earlier this year by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Back in September, Republicans in the House stood in the way of this critical recovery money, arguing that no funds should be sent to disaster victims until Congress had figured out how to pay for it through other cuts.

That is bad enough on its face. But what made it even more ridiculous is

that this Congress had already agreed on a method for funding disasters. That agreement came over the summer when we passed the Budget Control Act—a measure that received significant support from Democrats and Republicans in both Chambers of Congress.

That act included two contingency funds—funds that could be spent above and beyond the established cap on Federal spending. One of those funds was for overseas contingencies like the wars and rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan that allows for $126 billion in spending above the cap. The other was for disaster relief and included an $11.3 billion cap adjustment for additional spending beyond the regular level.

We made this agreement because we recognized that there is a real cost associated with disaster recovery—a cost that can't always be anticipated because natural disasters, by their very nature, are highly unpredictable.

The stand-alone disaster funding bill we consider today, when combined with the minibus passed last month, will account for $10.4 billion of that $11.3 billion disaster funding cap—an amount completely within the requirements laid out in the bipartisan Budget Control Act.

But now, House Republicans are once again trying to go back on that agreement by requiring that agreed-upon funding be offset with additional across-the-board cuts to discretionary spending.

There are two reasons this is wrongheaded.

Reason No. 1: The House Republicans are creating a double standard regarding offsets—one for defense spending and another for domestic disaster relief.

That is because, in this proposal, they only require an additional offset for domestic disaster spending. They have sent over no such language for the additional funding provided in the bill we just voted on for overseas contingencies.

Let's get to the heart of what that means. It means that House Republicans are saying: No, we don't have to pay for wars in places like Afghanistan or Iraq. But we do have to offset spending for domestic disaster recovery.

Why is that? Why is it that the House Republicans say we are able to rebuild Iraq or Afghanistan without a single word of protest, but we won't rebuild Vermont or New Jersey or Missouri or Louisiana in a similar way?

The omnibus bill has $126 billion in it for the costs of the wars. If we followed the same pay-for standard that the House Republicans are insisting on for disaster relief on the costs of the war, we would have to impose a 24-percent across-the-board cut on the Defense budget or a 12-percent cut on the entire discretionary budget.

This double standard makes no sense. I remind my colleagues that when Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the gulf coast, it required appropriations of more than $62 billion in fiscal year 2005 alone. If we applied the House Republican requirement to pay for a disaster of a similar size, we would have to cut domestic spending by 12 percent.

During the 112th Congress, we have not cut defense. We have not increased taxes on individuals who make more than $1 million a year. But the House Republicans want to keep going back to this one small part of the budget to find savings.

So, let's be clear. Here is what the Republicans do not require payment for: Iraq war, $823 billion; Afghanistan war, $557 billion; Medicare drug benefit, $180 billion; and Bush rebate checks, $124 billion.

Now, you ask, what do they require payment for? Community disaster relief, $8.1 billion.

Reason No. 2 of why the House Republicans' plan should be firmly rejected: The House Republicans' plan wouldn't require true across-the-board cuts to pay for disaster spending. It would only require cuts to domestic discretionary spending—a portion of the government that makes up only 14 percent of total expenditures.

In April, we cut domestic discretionary spending for fiscal year 2011 by 7 percent. And the omnibus legislation before the Senate, consistent with the Budget Control Act, cuts it by an additional 1 percent.

This proposal—the one we are currently considering—would pile on to that by cutting another 1.8 percent to domestic programs.

I think we need to be clear about exactly what this would mean. There are consequences to these cuts—real consequences that the American people would feel immediately.

Among them, it means that Title I education funding would be cut by $265 million. That means that almost 1,000 schools serving more than 350,000 disadvantaged students could lose funding, and about 3,700 teachers and aides could lose their jobs.

It means that special education funding would be cut by $199 million. That could lead to the loss of 2,600 education staff serving special needs students.

It means a $146 million cut to Head Start funding, which would eliminate 11,000 low-income students and their families from this critical program.

It would mean a reduction of 400 Border Patrol agents—nearly half the number that we hired and trained since Congress enacted the border security supplemental 16 months ago.

It would mean that 161,000 fewer women, infants, and children would receive food assistance under the WIC program.

It would hurt our efforts to combat terrorism and crime, with more than 5,500 Department of Justice positions becoming vacant through a hiring freeze and furloughs.

It would mean a cut to the IRS enforcement mission, resulting in lost revenues of approximately $4 billion annually. That would increase the deficit by at least six times the magnitude of the proposed reduction.

It would mean a $15 million cut to the senior nutrition program, which means 2 million fewer meals to needy seniors.

The House Republicans would like you to think that these cuts are nothing more than reducing bureaucracy. I beg to differ. These cuts have consequences in the everyday lives of Americans across our Nation.

Here is the bottom line: Instead of being really serious about closing the budget gap and putting new revenues on the table or saying across-the-board cuts for everything, House Republicans continue to use everything, even disasters that strike home, as an excuse to cut health, education, and transportation.

Well, I stand here today and say to them: Enough is enough.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this resolution. This Congress made an agreement months ago on how to fund unanticipated disasters. We should stick with that agreement.

There are times and there are places for politics. Aid for disaster victims is not one of them. Victims of natural disasters should not be victimized twice—first by Mother Nature and then by politics in Washington.

There may be another expression of a different side of this argument. I have not heard a good one yet. But I look forward—if any of my colleagues want to come down and take the opposite side of this argument, I am around. I am not going anywhere. I will be here today. I will be here tomorrow. I will be happy to debate them on the floor on this subject. But as the chair of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I have to take a strong stand on this issue because our budget is the one that basically gets called on to fund these disasters.

Again, if I have to follow the requirement to fund them in the year the money is spent—1 year—I am going to have to come to this floor and tell everyone: We are not going to have a homeland security bill this year because we just had a category 5 strike Miami, and the bill—as they said last night on the Weather Channel—will exceed $40 billion. So I am going to have to give up our whole bill, and we will have no security for the United States to pay for the disaster in 1 year.

This is the chart I wanted to show. This is how erratic funding can be, as shown on this chart. This shows funding from 2003 to 2012. In 2003, we spent basically a little over $1.7 billion. Then it jumped up to a little over $6 billion. Then, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma—which was in Florida—moved us all the way up to $45 billion in 2005, and then we fell back again to about $7.8 billion. We can see the erratic nature of these storms. It is impossible for us to even get a good average. So the only thing we can do is put a baseline in our bill, and then if disaster strikes, to respond and put it in the Budget Control Act over our 302(b) allocations.

If we do not do it that way, we are going to end up having to scramble

every year to quickly calculate what the disasters were last year and jam it against some budget. It is either going to be education that gets gutted or health that gets gutted or agriculture that gets gutted or homeland security. I do not want to have to be the one to call the thousands of Border Patrol agents whom I have helped to fund in my budget or have to call Senator JOHN MCCAIN or Senator KYL and say: I am sorry. We have to lay off all the Border Patrol agents along the border in Arizona for a year or two because we had a big storm in Miami, and I have to send the money to Miami.

Whoever heard of such a thing. That is what the Republicans in the House have sent to us. It should be rejected on its face. There is a better way to move forward, and the way is in the Budget Control Act that our leaders wisely have already agreed to.

So we will have this vote tomorrow. Again, I think I have raised three excellent points about why the House approach is wrong and why our approach is correct. If someone wants to come and debate it, I will be happy to maybe try to explain it a little bit more.

I can understand some on the other side who say: We have to find a way to pay for it, even if we have already negotiated, et cetera, but when the other side refuses to put even a new penny on the table to help with some of these things, it makes it even harder to achieve what we are trying to achieve.

I thank the Presiding Officer. I hope my colleagues will hear these arguments and let me know if there is anything further we can explain on it. But I think the picture says a thousand words.

I will close with this again: No American should have to sit on their roof, while the water rises, and identify an offset to finance their own rescue. We are a stronger nation than that. We are a bigger nation than that. We most certainly can provide the funding for FEMA, for the Corps of Engineers, and other funding in the way our Budget Control Act stipulates in this budget.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LIHEAP FUNDING

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am here to urge that my colleagues in Congress and the Obama administration provide the funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP. As you know, in Connecticut, LIHEAP provides immediate critical heating assistance for families and seniors in need during these freezing cold winter months.

Last year, more than 45,000 New Hampshire households received LIHEAP funds. That is more than 106,000 individuals. But unfortunately this year, many of those families have been on waiting lists. Funding for the program has been in limbo at a time when temperatures are dropping.

The Department of Health and Human Services here in Washington has released $1.7 billion, but so much more is needed. Making matters worse, the Energy Information Administration projects a 10-percent increase in the price of heating oil this winter. That is the highest average winter price ever predicted.

In New Hampshire, more than half our homes rely on home heating oil. It is one of the highest percentages in the country, and the number of families who need assistance is growing every day. State offices are being forced to change eligibility levels for funding as they grapple with uncertainty over future funds.

There are two things that can be done in order to immediately address this situation before it escalates into an even more serious crisis. First, Congress needs to pass an Omnibus appropriations bill as soon as possible. I am very pleased to see the positive progress on this issue; that there has been an agreement announced on an Omnibus appropriations measure.

Hopefully, we are on track to pass that bill either today or tomorrow. The omnibus includes nearly $3.5 billion in funding for LIHEAP. But we need to get that money out the door. Once Congress has spoken, is that the administration needs to release additional LIHEAP funds as quickly as possible.

The $1.7 billion that has already been released is not enough. But the knowledge that additional LIHEAP funds are pending in the omnibus bill we are about to pass should give President Obama the assurance he needs to release more money. I hope once the budget is passed the administration will release these additional funds as soon as possible, because at this holiday season, what better gift could we provide to those families in need than to make sure they have the funds to keep their houses warm this season.

I know it is difficult to argue for more funding these days because of our deficit. Its challenges are clear. In fact, in the Senate, we have already voted, and I was one of those votes, for more than $1 trillion in cuts to Federal spending this year.

I have continued to call for a comprehensive, balanced, bipartisan plan that looks at both revenue flows and spending. I have been part of the working group, a bipartisan working group, that now has over 40 Senators calling for a $4 trillion deficit reduction proposal over the next 10 years. But when we cut our budget, we need to look at wasteful spending, at duplicative programs, and at subsidies to industries that no longer need our help.

LIHEAP energy assistance for low-income families does not fall under any of those categories. It is not a frivolous program. It is a program that ensures that vulnerable citizens in New Hampshire and across this country are not forgotten and left in the cold this winter.

I have been hearing from people across New Hampshire about the difficulties they are going to face if this funding is not available and available soon. I wish to just share one of those stories. It is the story of Kim Brandolini of Nashua. In 2010, Kim suffered a series of strokes that left her disabled and unable to work. LIHEAP funds covered nearly all her monthly fuel costs last year.

But this year, because of the cuts, she is on the waiting list. She does not know how she is going to pay to heat her home. She already owes the oil company $600, and last year she had to pay $6,000 to replace a broken boiler. Kim is only 44 years old. She is raising a son all by herself. Previously, she served for 14 years in the Army Reserve. Kim does not deserve to be in this situation.

In Nashua, which is one of the warmest parts of New Hampshire, the average nightly low is below freezing for nearly half the year.

If we don't find a way to fund LIHEAP now, Kim and thousands like her will have no way to keep their families safe and warm. We need to act, and we need to act quickly. Already, the delay in funding LIHEAP has prevented States such as New Hampshire from taking advantage of more affordable bulk purchases of home heating oil. The bottom line is, now that we have a budget agreement, we need to release additional funds so that thousands of New Hampshire families stay warm and don't have to make impossible choices between their basic needs this winter. We can't leave families such as Kim Brandolini's out in the cold this winter. I hope we can get this budget passed as soon as possible and that the Obama administration will release additional LIHEAP funds before Christmas and the end of the year.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would like to address the Senate on the subject of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which has been reported to be part of the proposed package that would contain the extension of the payroll tax holiday and the expiring unemployment insurance benefits.

There have been some who have raised questions about the pipeline and some who have said they object to it being included in the package, but I would like to hopefully shed a little light—maybe not so much heat—on the subject, coming from a State such as mine, which is an energy-producing state. We are very familiar with the oil and gas pipelines and the safety measures that need to be undertaken to keep them safe and to keep them from contaminating the environment. This is not some sort of alien technology or something the industry does not have the expertise to deal with in a safe and secure and appropriate manner.

The legislation that is being proposed in the payroll tax holiday would require the Secretary of State to issue a Presidential permit within 60 days of enactment—and this does not take the President out of the equation—unless the President publicly determines this project is not in the national interest. So if for some reason—really beyond my comprehension—President Obama were to determine that building this pipeline was not in the public's interest, he could, under the terms of this legislation, essentially veto it. But once the permit is approved, TransCanada would be able to start construction on parts of the project outside of Nebraska.

Now, why outside of Nebraska? As you may recall, Mr. President, a number of people in Nebraska, including their leadership here in the Senate, had concerns about the route of the TransCanada pipeline, the Keystone XL Pipeline within Nebraska itself, but Nebraska's leaders have taken it upon themselves to come up with a new route, which they will do in order to satisfy concerns about contamination of the aquifer in that State.

The one point I would like to emphasize is that we have been talking for a long time—since the financial crisis in September of 2008—about what we need to do to get our economy back on track and to create jobs. Indeed, there was a lot of discussion back during the passage of the stimulus that we needed shovel-ready jobs. But, as you will recall, there were a lot of things that went into the stimulus that did not include infrastructure development. In fact, infrastructure was comprised only of a very small fraction of what the spending on the stimulus actually did.

First of all, let me make clear what we are talking about. This chart demonstrates the existing Keystone Pipeline. In other words, there is already a Keystone Pipeline, but it goes from Alberta, Canada, and terminates in Illinois. That is the orange line. So what we are really talking about is an extension and expansion of the Keystone Pipeline, and it terminates in Port Arthur and Houston, TX, where we have the refinery capacity to make it into gasoline, jet fuel, and the like. So this is the proposed route, as you can see, of the expansion. It hooks up in Steele City, NE, with the existing pipeline going down to Cushing, OK, but then the expansion would be down into Houston and Port Arthur.

I think this is another educational document. These actually are the crude oil and refined product pipelines that currently exist in the United States. So lest anybody feel as if we are doing something new and novel that has never been done, let me try to disabuse them of that notion.

As you can see, this is a huge spider's web of oil and gas and refined product pipelines throughout the United States. Not surprisingly, you see a lot of them concentrated down in my State of Texas but, importantly, a good portion of that pipeline traffic emanates from our No. 1 trading partner in the world, Canada, which is a friend and an ally and a safe source of oil and gas into the United States. As to some people who perhaps wonder about this pipeline and wonder what it all means, this will help allay any concerns or some concerns they might have that we are somehow doing something novel or risky or that we have not done in the past.

Pipelines are simply one mode of transporting oil and gas. You can do it other ways. You can put it on a tanker truck and drive it down our highways. I happen to think this is a better and safer way to do it than loading up a bunch of tanker trucks to drive down our highways. You can do it through barges, through our inland waterways. But the pipeline is simply the most efficient and safest way of doing it.

Of course, as we all know, these pipelines are by and large buried and more or less unseen. So this is a transportation network for our Nation's oil and gas that most people probably are not even aware of, and I guess that is a good thing, but it is important that people understand what we are talking about.

These pipelines move crude oil from oilfields on land and offshore to refineries, where it is turned into fuels and other products.

You can see down here in the Gulf of Mexico, for example, where we have tremendous reserves of oil and gas. You can see how the pipelines extend even beneath the water out into the Gulf of Mexico.

These pipelines move crude oil to refineries, where it is turned into fuels and other products, and then from the refineries to terminals, where fuels are trucked to retail outlets. One amazing thing about this is this literally happens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, out of sight and out of mind to most Americans.

Let's talk a minute about safety because this is something on which no one has an exclusive claim when it comes to our environmental and safety concerns. Under the law, any spill associated with one of these pipelines has to be reported—a spill of 5 gallons or more—to the Department of Transportation. There are already a number of Federal agencies that regulate this industry, including the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Once this oil gets to the refineries, the U.S. refining sector has invested a lot of money upgrades throughout the country to adapt to the world's changing oil supply, including the increasing percentage of the world's oil that is so-called heavy crude. My understanding is that what comes out of the oil sands in Canada is heavy crude which requires a little different refining capability. But refineries in the U.S. gulf region have long received heavy crude from other countries and are well-positioned to receive and to handle these supplies from Canada.

I think it is important for us to also contemplate not just the economic aspects of this source of oil to be consumed here in America but also that it is not dependent, for example, on imported oil from the Middle East and subject to weather conditions or hostile environments that might otherwise cause economic and national security concerns here in America.

We hear from time to time that Iran, which we know has growing aspirations for regional influence in the Middle East—and now, with the end of America's involvement in the Iraq war, we know Iran is going to rush in to try to fill some of that vacuum there, and I am concerned about it. But more to the point today is that 90 percent of the Persian Gulf's oil exports and 40 percent of the global seaborne oil trade goes through the Straits of Hormuz, which would be a logical first place for the Iranian Government to choke off—should they decide to create havoc—the oil supply through that vital area. The Straits of Hormuz, of course, is very important in a geopolitical sense.

The point I am simply trying to make is that this is not only a matter of jobs—but it is a matter of jobs in America with the construction of this pipeline—it is not just a matter of how we protect our environment, which is very important—how do we regulate this industry in a way that protects the health, safety, and welfare of the American people—but this is a national security issue as well.

It is also very important in terms of simply the price of gasoline. I am not an economist by training, but I do understand that when there is more of something and given that there is stable demand, you will be able to lower the price when there is a greater supply. It is purely a matter of supply and demand.

I looked online at the price of gasoline a year ago. It was $2.98 for the price of a gallon of regular gasoline. Today it is about 27 cents higher. Of course, it has been much higher, as you know. But my point is that this is a stable and secure source of oil used to make gasoline and other refined petroleum products that will help bring down or at least stabilize the price of gasoline for consumers.

We all know that in the current economic environment, people are living under much more constrained circumstances. They are having to make choices that I wish the Federal Government would make more often; that is, what things you have to have today, what things you would like to have but you can put off until tomorrow, and what things you maybe would like to have but you are going to have to end up doing without because you simply cannot afford it.

Well, gasoline is something people need in order to drive their kids to school or drive to work, and the increased price of gasoline because of geopolitical uncertainty, because of concerns about supply, disasters such as we had in the Gulf of Mexico—all of those cause disruptions or concerns about disruptions in supply that cause gas prices to go up. So this is another good reason why I believe we need a stable source of additional oil and, again, from a friendly nation, our No. 1 trading partner, which is Canada.

Let me just quickly go over a few other little factoids that people might find interesting. This is a $7 billion project. As I said, it is the largest shovel-ready infrastructure project in the United States currently. It has been under review by the Federal Government for 3 years. This is not some knee-jerk or impulsive decision we are asking to be made here; this is something that has been carefully reviewed for its environmental impact.

The good news at a time when unemployment remains unacceptably high is that this project is estimated to cause the creation of about 20,000 jobs. We all know that the No. 1 problem in America today is that too many people are out of work, the No. 2 problem in America today is that too many people are out of work, and the No. 3 problem in America today is that too many people are out of work. This would create jobs at a time when we sorely need them, and that is why this project has gained the kind of bipartisan support that gives me great hope that we will somehow knock down the impediments to building this pipeline so we can get people back to work and we can get that stable oil supply and create economic development in the private sector when we need it most. It is estimated this pipeline would ultimately generate about $20.9 billion in new private sector spending. We all know that with the Federal Government revenue down around 15 percent of our GDP because of the recession and slow economy, while spending is up around 25 percent of GDP, we need to do two things: We need to cut Federal spending, and we also need to increase growth in the private sector which will produce additional revenue to the Treasury and help us close that deficit gap and begin to chip away at the debt. This pipeline and the jobs it would create and the tax revenues that would be generated will help do that.

This is also important to our relationship with our trading partner Canada. As the Presiding Officer knows, the North American Free Trade Agreement is a big deal in my State of Texas because of the trade agreements between Canada and the United States and Mexico. But this recognizes that our trading relationship with Canada is literally the most important one in the United States. There is something in it for us as well in that for every dollar the United States spends on Canadian products, 91 cents is returned to the United States. There is a close economic security relationship between the United States and Canada.

This pipeline would also encourage development of additional oil resources in the northern part of the United States. North Dakota currently has I believe somewhere on the order of 3 or 4 percent unemployment. One reason why it does is because they have discovered—I can get a confirmation from Senator HOEVEN, perhaps, but one reason why North Dakota has been booming, in addition to great leadership, has been the fact that the Bakken formation there has been the source of a huge supply of oil. Of course, building this pipeline would help further enhance the ability to develop domestic oil and gas resources and put them in the pipeline and get them to the refinery and get them to market.

This is one of the big dangers I think we also need to highlight: In a world where we are so interconnected and where there are so many options available to our trading partners such as Canada, the fact is if we don't create this pipeline expansion for markets where these products come into the United States, then Canada is going to sell it to China or other parts of the world.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. May I remind the Senator that we are operating under a 10-minute time limit. The Senator has consumed 17 minutes and there is now another Senator on the floor.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for another 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. This is as close to a no-brainer as I think we can identify. But this also particularly benefits my State of Texas, which I am honored to represent. TransCanada's direct investment of about $1.6 million in Texas for the construction and development of the pipeline will lead to gains in business activity in the State of Texas of an estimated $2.3 billion in total expenditures and $2 billion in output. The increased economic activity stimulated by the TransCanadian investment in Texas will generate tax receipts in construction of an estimated $41.1 million to the State and $7.7 million to local taxing entities. Once these facilities are completed, they will have a useful life estimated at not less than 100 years. Using reasonable assumptions regarding valuation and tax rates, these assets are estimated to yield more than $1.1 billion in property taxes to local governments in the State, which are the primary source of funds for public education, among other things.

I recognize the distinguished Senator from North Dakota is here on the floor and I wish to yield to him. I appreciate the opportunity to address this issue. I would point out that this project has strong bipartisan support. I invite my colleagues—who perhaps are not as familiar with the importance of this pipeline project to the economy of the United States and job creation and who may not be aware that this is nothing new; this is something we have done before in a safe and environmentally responsible way—to join us and perhaps reconsider their view so we can get this done and help get 20,000 Americans back to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the subject of the Keystone Pipeline. I am pleased to follow my esteemed colleague from the great State of Texas. I think it is only appropriate that I follow him, both because I agree absolutely with his remarks and I think it shows the importance of this project to North Dakota and Texas and across this country. This is an incredibly important project, so I am pleased to be here again today to address it.

RUSSELL EVENMO

First of all, let me say it is nice to welcome Russell Evenmo to the floor on his last day. He has done an outstanding job working for me. He also has my chart, so I am glad we are able to get him on the floor.

The legislation we have authored on the Keystone Pipeline is included in the House package that provides an extension for the payroll tax cut. It is very appropriate that it is in that package, so I come today to talk about some misperceptions I am hearing out there in regard to this legislation. The first is that somehow this is an add-on to the payroll tax holiday extension legislation which some think shouldn't be there. I wish to address that, because it is absolutely where it should be. It is a jobs bill. The extension of the payroll tax cut, the payroll tax holiday, is about helping to create more jobs in this country. It is about helping people who are out there working hard every day. It is about stimulating economic activity. It is a tax reduction to help get this economy going and to help get people back to work.

Keystone is a jobs bill. It belongs in a jobs package. This is a jobs package. This is about creating jobs. It creates jobs without the Federal Government spending 1 penny. In fact, this will generate hundreds of millions of dollars of State and local tax revenues. It will generate private investment, but it will create jobs. This is a jobs package. So I wish to address that misperception I have heard from time to time and respond that this does belong as part of a jobs package. Of course it does. This is how we create jobs.

I appreciate greatly the esteemed Senator from Texas speaking about some of the things that are going on in North Dakota, and he is absolutely right; Texas has a long history with the energy industry. North Dakota is increasingly becoming a stronger and stronger energy player in all types of energy. We have wind; we have hydro; we have biofuels; we have biomass; we have solar. We are now the fourth largest oil-producing State in the country. Next year we will be the third largest oil-producing State in the country behind only Alaska and, of course, No. 1, Texas. But to do that, we need infrastructure. We need to be able to transport our oil—oil that we produce—to the refineries around the country. We will put 100,000 barrels of oil a day that we produce in North Dakota into this pipeline and get it down into the gulf refineries. So this isn't just about moving Canadian crude into the U.S; this is about moving our own domestic product as well.

As the Senator from Texas may have explained, there is a backlog of oil in Cushing right now, which is a hub for oil. But we need to move that oil from Cushing, in Oklahoma, down to the refineries in Texas and Louisiana. This pipeline will move that product to these refineries. So, again, it is not just about moving Canadian crude into the United States; this is about moving product throughout the United States as well where we have serious bottlenecks. When we have those bottlenecks, our producers in North Dakota get less. They face a discount. If the product has to move by rail or by truck, we suffer a discount. That affects not only the oil companies themselves but it also affects the individual producers, the mineral owners who get royalty payments. This is about truly creating economic activity.

The first point I want to emphasize is that this is absolutely—is and should be—part of this jobs package.

The second point I want to talk about for a minute is that the concern has been expressed that somehow we are rushing this process. Somehow we are not taking enough time in terms of approving this pipeline, so maybe that could create an environmental concern. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are taking more time than we did for almost the exact same project that has already been approved.

This red line here on this chart is the Keystone Pipeline. The Keystone Pipeline runs from Alberta, Canada, down to Patoka, IL. It brings product down to refineries in the United States. That pipeline has not only been approved but it has been built. It moves 590,000 barrels a day of oil from the Alberta, Canada area down to our refineries. That has been approved and built, and we are moving almost 600,000 barrels of oil today. This is the Keystone XL project, right next to it—a very similar project.

I want to talk a little bit about the timeline on this as well. I was formerly the Governor of North Dakota. While I was Governor, TransCanada built the Keystone Pipeline and now they are working to build the Keystone XL Pipeline. Let's walk through that timeline for a minute. First let's start with the Keystone Pipeline. That project initially applied for a permit on April 19, 2006. The final environmental impact statement was issued 2 years later—actually less than 2 years later. It was issued on January 11, 2008. So in less than 2 years, this project, very similar—in less than 2 years they got a final environmental impact statement. And amazingly enough, within 60 days after that final environmental impact statement it was signed off on and approved by the State Department. It had final approval. So it all happened within a 2-year process for that project.

Now let's talk about the Keystone XL project. Keystone XL: TransCanada, the same company, is building it. The same company is building both projects. They filed for a State Department Presidential permit in September 2008. That is when they filed for their permit. They went through the whole process. They got a final environmental impact statement on August 26, 2011—3 years.

The first project, the whole project was approved in less than 2 years. This project, we have already been at it for 3 years. So people are saying this is rushing—somehow rushing the project. Almost an identical project, fully approved from start to finish in 2 years, and we are sitting here 3 years later, and we don't even have approval yet, and we are rushing the process somehow.

Furthermore, the Department of State indicated that after all this environmental work—after 3 years of environmental work the State Department said, We are going to have a decision out before year end, meaning now. Before the end of this year, the State Department says, we are going to have a decision.

So myself and others who have been working on this say: Well, that is great. Finally, we are going to get a decision. Then all of a sudden the administration says: No, no, we are not going to have a decision. We are going to need another 18 months. We are going to need another 18 months somehow because there is concern about the route through Nebraska. That was the concern.

So the State of Nebraska then—let's make sure I have my dates right—then said: OK, we are concerned in Nebraska. But we are going to address the problem. We are going to solve the problem. The State of Nebraska had a special session on November 1 of this year, which concluded on November 22. In their special session, they agreed that they would reroute the Keystone XL Pipeline as to the route in Nebraska. The concern was that it went through western Nebraska, what is called the Ogallala Aquifer or the sandhills region. There is a lot of irrigation there. Even though there are other pipelines there, they said: We do not want it in that part, so we will agree to reroute the pipeline in Nebraska.

All this legislation provides, the legislation we have written—and there have been other bills on this—but the legislation included in the House package we are working to get passed in the Senate, here is what it says: 60 days after the bill is passed, the President, through the Department of State, has to make a determination on whether this project is in the national interest. They do not have to say yes. They can say yes or they can say no, but they have to determine whether it is in the national interest—60 days after the bill is passed.

But as to the Nebraska piece, we say, Nebraska's Department of Environmental Quality will work with EPA and the State Department and take the time they need to reroute in Nebraska. Because that was the concern. It does not set a timeline on how fast they have to do it. It says: You have the time you need to reroute and address the concern that was raised.

This legislation is all about solving the concern that was raised so this project can go forward. It does not set a timeline on it. Again, where is this rush that it could somehow create an environmental issue? It is not there.

The point is this: If we do not pursue this project, this oil will still be produced—700,000 barrels a day—700,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude. It will still be produced. But instead of coming down to our refineries in the United States, instead of creating jobs in the United States, instead of reducing our dependence on oil from the Middle East, the oil is going to China. That pipeline, instead of going south, will go west. The product will be put on oil tankers and it will go to Chinese refineries. In the Chinese refineries there will be higher emissions, lower environmental standards. So you are going to have more emissions, more environmental impacts.

Again, I come back to the point: Are we going to create more energy independence for ourselves, are we going to create more jobs here, or are we going to send that product to China? Because that is the choice. That is the real choice. Do you want to deal with reality, real terms? That is the choice we face.

Look, this project is about creating jobs. It belongs in a bill that is about creating jobs. This—and I will wrap up, Mr. President—legislation is about reducing our dependence on oil from the Middle East—700,000 barrels a day—not to mention the product it helps my State of North Dakota, Montana, and others move down to our refineries in Texas and Louisiana.

With this pipeline, we will have better environmental stewardship, not worse. This is a project on which we need to move forward. We have drafted this legislation. We have worked on a

bipartisan basis to get legislation that addresses the concerns. It is time to move forward. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I want to talk on a number of issues, but I would tell my friend from North Dakota, I very strongly disagree with him about this Keystone XL Pipeline. For those of us who are concerned about global warming, and all of the destruction that is currently taking place because of global warming, and will increase in years to come, this Keystone XL project is exactly what we should not be doing.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 7 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, before I get to the Keystone issue, I want to suggest that at this particular moment, at the very end of the congressional session, before the end of the year's work, it is a strange moment in Congress because you have, behind closed doors, negotiators from the House and the Senate—Republicans and Democrats—trying to put together large and complicated bills, and the concern I have—and I speak only for myself, but I think other Members in the Senate feel the same way—is we are suddenly going to be given a fait accompli, a complicated and long bill with many implications, many very important provisions, and then we are going to be asked to vote on it with not having had much input into the bill or even the ability to digest it fully and know what it means to our constituents.

Let me touch on some of the issues that concern me, and let me also say that what I am going to be referring to are reports in the media. I do not know what will be in the final product. I am not sure anybody does. But here is some of what the media is reporting that might be in the payroll holiday tax bill—or what might not be in it, for that matter.

One of the issues I believe very strongly about is that at a time when the middle class is disappearing, when poverty is increasing, and when more and more Americans understand that the wealthiest people are doing phenomenally well, and yet their effective tax rate is the lowest in decades—an issue Warren Buffett keeps reminding us about—that it is almost definitely going to be the case that while we continue to cut programs or raise revenue from the middle class and working families, the wealthiest people in this country will continue to avoid paying anymore in taxes. So we have a situation where the effective tax rates on the wealthiest people in this country are the lowest in decades, and yet, once again, as we talk about deficit reduction we are going to cut this program, we are going to cut that program, and yet the wealthy—millionaires and billionaires—are not going to be asked to pay one nickel more in taxes. I think that is wrong, and people should understand that in all likelihood that is exactly what will happen again.

Furthermore, we have major corporations, companies on Wall Street, oil companies that in recent years have made billions of dollars in profit and yet have, in some cases, believe it or not, not paid one nickel in Federal corporate income tax because of a wide variety of loopholes.

We have a situation where we are losing tens and tens of billions of dollars—a hundred billion dollars—a year because of all kinds of tax havens which exist in the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, other countries. Large corporations, wealthy individuals can shelter their money, not pay taxes, and then the result is revenue declines in the United States, and my friends in the Republican Party suggest: Cut this, cut that, go after Social Security, go after Medicare, go after Medicaid, go after education, go after environmental protection. Yet once again—once again—the wealthiest people in this country will not pay a nickel more in taxes, large corporations will continue to enjoy huge tax loopholes.

Second of all, as somebody who believes it is absolutely imperative this country transform its energy system away from fossil fuel, away from greenhouse gas emissions, and moves to energy efficiency and sustainable energy, I am very concerned that in the legislation we will be dealing with today or tomorrow—or Sunday or whenever—there will not be an extension of important programs for renewable energy.

One of the most important is the 1603 renewable energy extender. This is a Treasury grant program which helps provide financing for renewable energy projects by converting an existing tax credit into a grant.

This one program, which costs barely more than $1 billion, has leveraged $23 billion in private investments. It supports 22,000 renewable energy projects in all 50 States of our country. It has created up to 290,000 jobs. If we do not include the 1603 program in legislation, it will expire at the end of this year. What we have seen, time and time again—whether it is wind, whether it is solar—is, if we do not extend these programs, investments in these technologies significantly decline, we lose jobs, we lose our ability to compete internationally in terms of becoming a leader in sustainable energy.

I hope very much what I am hearing in the media and other sources is not correct. I hope, in fact, the 1603 Treasury grant program is included in any legislation that we vote on. That is an issue of major concern to me.

We have today a declining middle class. We have 50 million people who have no health insurance. We have a lot of elderly folks who, despite Medicare, pay a great deal of money out of their own pockets for health care. What I am hearing—again, I do not know what will be in the final package, but what some media reports suggest is, there are proposals out there to increase Medicare income-related premiums by 15 percent, starting in 2017, and also that there are some ideas out there which would decrease the income at which beneficiaries pay these income-related premiums to $80,000 for an individual and $160,000 for a couple. What this would mean is that older people will have to pay more for health care. In some cases they cannot afford to do that. I hope very much that does not happen.

When we talk about Medicare in this country, we have to talk about the overall health care crisis, which is not only that 50 million people are uninsured, it is not only that health care costs for all health insurance companies are soaring—or virtually all of them—but we have to ask why it is in the United States of America we end up spending almost twice as much per capita on health care as do the people of any other country.

Yesterday in my office I had a member of the Australian Parliament. In Australia, all people have health care as a right. Prescription drug coverage is largely covered by the government. Their costs for prescription drugs are much lower because their national health care program negotiates prices with the drug companies. Yet in our country the situation is very different.

What we want to do is not ask middle-income people to be paying more for their health care at a time when many of them are paying already more than they can afford. So the changes in Medicare which I have been reading about are something that concern me very much.

There is another area out there which I think will have profound implications for our economy. The House Republican leadership passed a bill recently as part of this conference negotiation going on now to slash unemployment insurance in half and cut up to 40 weeks of unemployment benefits. If this legislation were to become law—and I certainly hope it will not—it could lead to the loss of 140,000 jobs and hundreds of thousands of unemployed workers, who lost their jobs through no fault of their own, losing their benefits.

Here we have a situation where, in real terms, 25 million Americans are unemployed or underemployed, long-term unemployment is the longest on record, we have more people who are experiencing long-term unemployment than at any other time we can remember, and the solution our Republican

friends want to bring about—after fighting to make sure millionaires and billionaires are not asked to pay more in taxes—is to slash unemployment insurance in a very significant way.

Now, there is another issue dealing with employment above and beyond unemployment insurance; that is, that the House Republican bill, the ideas that they are bringing into the conference, would freeze Federal employee pay through 2015, and over a period of years reduce the civilian workforce by 10 percent, cutting some 200,000 decent-paying jobs.

Now, let's be clear. For Federal employees there has already been a pay freeze for the last 2 years. Those are the nurses in our Veterans' Administration hospitals. Those are people who are making $30,000, $40,000 a year. There is now a proposal to once again extend the freeze to them.

This is a real cut in real wages because inflation is going up for our Federal employees. But what concerns me equally is not only the impact this freeze would have on Federal employees, it sends a signal to every employer in America who says: Well, yes, I know you guys have not gotten a wage increase in a number of years. I know that I have asked you to pay more for health insurance. Yes, we have cut back on your pensions. But guess what. In Washington, the Congress says they are going to once again, for the third year, freeze Federal pay. In fact, they are going to ask Federal employees to pay more, too, for their pensions, which means a cut for many Federal employees. Well, if the Federal Government can do it, it says to private employers all over America so can they.

One of the points President Obama has been making and why he last fought for a middle-class tax cut is that he wants to put more money into the hands of working families. I understand that. I agree with that concept. But what is the sense of providing tax breaks for the middle class on one hand—a concept which I support——

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 2 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANDERS. What is the sense on one hand in saying, we need to put money in the hands of the middle class through a tax cut, and, on the other hand, send a green light to employers all over this country who will now look at the Federal Government and then say to their employees: Hey, the Federal Government has frozen wages for a third year, cut back on pension programs, and we are going to do that as well.

Lastly, but not least, for whatever reason, my Republican colleagues in the House have put into this mix of a payroll tax holiday a demand that the Keystone XL tar sands project be completed; that the President be forced, as I understand it, to make a decision on this within the next several months.

The reality is that among many other factors, the inspector general of the State Department is currently investigating whether the State Department acted inappropriately in appointing a particular company to do the environmental study which, amazingly enough, given the fact that I think they had a conflict of interest, ended up in a very positive light.

So the inspector general is now looking at a conflict of interest issue in terms of the environmental study which will take a bit of time. Furthermore, I think many of us understand that at a time when greenhouse gas emissions are rising rapidly in this country and all over the world, at a time when virtually the entire scientific community tells us that global warming is an enormously significant problem for the future of our planet, at a time when we are seeing increased floods and droughts and extreme weather disturbances, anyone who has studied the issue understands that in terms of global warming, the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline is a very dangerous project.

Producing energy-intensive tar sands oil emits 82 percent more carbon pollution and contributes more to global warming than conventional oil, according to the EPA.

With that, let me conclude but just suggest that I think we need to be discussing publicly some of the issues that we may be voting on in a very short period of time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

FEDERAL DEFICIT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, we will be voting, I understand, on three pieces of legislation from the House. One is a massive omnibus bill that would include 9 of the 13 appropriations bills that should be brought up individually and voted on individually, with amendments on each one. They have all been cobbled together now at the end of the year in one giant omnibus bill, with only a few hours for us to review their contents.

In addition, there will be a vote to offset certain emergency expenditures—in other words, pay for these new expenditures with savings elsewhere in the government rather than borrow the money for it—add to our debt for it. A third vote will be, in effect, to fund and appropriate the money that would be so offset or spend it by borrowing it if it is not offset.

I would just share with my colleagues one particular thing. The Presiding Officer, Senator WHITEHOUSE, is on the Budget Committee, and our staff has looked at these budget numbers. I would just advise my colleagues—I believe they should vote to offset the additional expenditure. This is the reason: The Budget Control Act enacted this summer was part of an effort where Republicans said: We will raise the debt limit, but we want you to cut spending. We need to cut back on spending because we have had a series of deficits the likes of which the Nation has never seen before. We have to do better. We need to reduce spending.

Our Democratic colleagues resisted. So when it was finally done, it was a $900 billion-plus reduction in spending, which was to occur over 10 years. Plus, the committee of 12 was supposed to find $1.2 trillion more if they could. If they could not, there would be an automatic cut of that. So it would be about a $2.1 trillion savings over 10 years.

Experts have told us we need at least $4 trillion in savings over 10 years, not $2 trillion. But it was a step in the right direction, and that was the best that could be done under the circumstances. So the bill was passed. What I want to say is that under that legislation, it was discovered that this year—the current fiscal year, that began October 1—we were going to spend $1.43 trillion instead of the $1.5 trillion we spent last year. So there was a lot of heartburn and complaining. We are only cutting $7 billion out of the discretionary portion of our budget, not Social Security and Medicare, but other programs that are going up every year: food stamps, college loans, Pell grants.

So we were going to cut at least the discretionary accounts by $7 billion, from $1.50 trillion to 1.43 billion. But I have to say, we are not going to achieve that. Just as has so often been the case, we promise reductions in spending but do not get there. You would think that we could find $7 billion. You would think that is not too much to ask this government, that has been increasing spending at a substantial rate, to reduce spending a little bit.

In fact, in the first 2 years of President Obama's administration, nondefense discretionary spending went up 24 percent, a dramatic increase. So to reduce spending and try to get this huge deficit under control is not too much to ask, in my opinion. Indeed, we are borrowing 40 percent of every dollar we spend. This year we will spend about $3.6 trillion and take in about $2.2 trillion or $2.3 trillion. That is just not any way to do business.

This will be the third straight year that has happened. So we were looking for some improvement. I would just say to my colleagues, this is one little offset, $8 billion in additional spending, and it will determine whether we have any reduction in spending or whether, in fact, contrary to our promises this summer, we will spend more this year than last year.

These are the numbers as we have calculated them from the Budget Committee staff. The regular appropriations would be this year $1.43 trillion, but they have added to it disaster and other spending of $11 billion, which

would mean we would be spending $1.54 trillion, more than the $1.50 trillion we spent last year. We would be spending more, not less.

The House has sent over a bill that would offset $9 billion of that, which would bring the total spending this year to $1.45 trillion. That would reduce our spending this year by $5 billion, not as much as we promised in the Budget Act but at least a modest reduction.

It is a very important vote. It is a symbolic vote. It says: Are we honest with the American people when we go before them with a bill that says we are going to spend less than we spent last year, even if it was a small amount? We cannot even achieve that.

Perhaps that is why people are unhappy with us. We have been promising them that we would do something about the debt situation in this country. But we have not done much. As a matter of fact, we have done almost nothing.

So I would just urge my colleagues to think about that as they cast their votes on this portion of the House legislation, which has not been discussed much among our colleagues, and not particularly well-understood. But I do think it is important. I think it is an important, symbolic vote.

Are we willing to do that? It would amount to about a 1.86-percent, less than 2 percent across-the-board rescission to offset spending on the other spending items, exempting defense and some other items. Defense, of course, has taken dramatic cuts already. They are working on very dramatic cuts, and as a result of the failure of the committee of 12, they will take a huge cut.

The Defense Department has taken, on a percentage basis and a real dollar basis, far more in reductions than any other department. Of course this is not for war spending. War is in a separate overseas contingency account. This is the base defense budget that is taking the cuts. I wanted to share that with my colleagues.

I also appreciated Senator HOEVEN's presentation on the Keystone Pipeline. And I truly believe, and agree with my friend from Vermont, that unemployment is a tremendous problem for us.

What I don't agree with is that it can be fixed by borrowing and spending and taxing. That is what we have seen lately. I suggest that one way to deal with unemployment is to not spend any government money, get the government bureaucrats busy, examine this pipeline. We have pipelines crossing all over this country. If we bring those under control, approve this pipeline, it will add 20,000 real jobs and 100,000 indirect jobs and make this country more safe and secure from foreign energy exploitation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for as long as I may consume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the Omnibus appropriations conference report that I guess will be before this body at the pleasure of the members of the Appropriations Committee.

I call my colleagues' attention to the size of this bill. There are 13 agencies of government, all appropriations bills, and none of this, because of the pressing issues of the calendar, will be open to any amendments—no amendments regarding all these functions of government and a cost of, in this particular bill, it is $915 billion. These are 9 appropriations bills of the 12. This contains $915 billion that we will probably be considering, and because of the fact that we all have to get out of town—and I am one of those—we will vote sometime tomorrow, and we will be able to tell our constituents we have completed our task for the year, at least as far as funding the government to continue—as we seem to threaten to do every year, although I am not sure people are as frightened as they used to be.

This bill before me is 1,221 pages long and contains funding for nine of the annual appropriations bills, for a grand total of $915 billion. If you add the three appropriations bills already enacted, we are going to spend $1.043 trillion. That is a fantastic improvement because last year it was $1.1 trillion. So I am glad our constituents, whom we promised, when some of us, such as myself, ran in 2010 for reelection, that we would get this $15 trillion debt under control—and we go back to Washington and eliminate the reckless and out-of-control spending, I am sure they will be pleased to know that instead of $1.1 trillion, we are now down to $1.043 trillion—a reduction of approximately 5 percent. We can get a better deal than that at the Macy's Christmas sale. Of course, not to forget the earmarks—here it is.

I am confident no average Member of the Senate—what I mean by that is not a member of the Appropriations Committee has had a chance to peruse this hernia-inducing piece of legislation. If it sounds like I am a little cynical and a little angry, it is because I am, and the American people are cynical and angry.

There are 535 Members of Congress. All of us are sent by our constituents to represent them. But I think the American people and our constituents should know this is a report on a bill that is signed by 37 Members of the House and 17 Members of the Senate. There are 535 Members, and these are the ones who put this together. It is full of hundreds of earmarks, pork, unnecessary spending, and projects in the defense portion of the bill, which I will be talking a fair amount about, which are neither requested nor needed by the men and women serving in the military. It is full of things I will talk about later on, such as artifact museums for Guam, medical research—this is in the Defense appropriations bill and has nothing to do with defense.

Then we begin to wonder why the American people have such a low opinion of our performance in our Nation's Capital. I saw a poll that says it is as low as 9 percent. Hopefully, that is not representative—maybe it is a 10-, 11-, 12-percent approval rating. We were debating a bill last year that had $1.1 trillion and contained 6,488 earmarks that totaled $8.3 billion. Now we have a bill that is $915 billion, and this year we have no traditional earmarks, but there is $3.5 billion in unauthorized spending in the Department of Defense portion of the bill alone—the Defense appropriations part of it is $3.5 billion, on which there has never been a hearing, and it has never been considered by the Armed Services Committee. If it was, it was rejected. So we have $3.5 billion just in the defense part of the bill. Nobody wanted it or asked for it, neither the military, nor the services, nor was there a hearing. They added $3.5 billion in the Department of Defense alone.

I think the men and women in the military deserve better than some of these earmarks that I will talk about. Here we are, we are going to rush and beat the clock, and we haven't even moved to this piece of legislation yet. In case some of our constituents don't know, a call will be made to everybody saying please agree to a few hours' time agreement so we can vote tomorrow and we can all go home, and we will. There will not be a single amendment debated and voted on, on this bill on this floor. I would like to say we didn't see it coming, but the fact is we did see it coming.

In keeping with the regular order and legislating requirements of the Senate, the Armed Services Committee—of which I have been a proud member for many years—scheduled and conducted more than 70 hearings, vetted the President's budget request, and reported a bill out. Seven months later, we moved to the floor of the Senate and we did authorize funding and hundreds of millions of dollars and the appropriators decided they knew better. We have a fundamental problem in the Senate, and we are unable to engage in the process of authorizing prior to the regular appropriations. What is the outcome? A handful of people—all good, honest, decent people, I am sure—and unelected staff disburse hundreds of billions of dollars, often in a manner that directly contradicts the will of the authorizers—those who are entrusted in their Committee assignments to authorize what is necessary to defend this Nation.

So here we are at the eleventh hour ramming through a measure so we can get out of town for the holidays. I will talk about some of the provisions,

most of which are in the Defense appropriations portion of this conference report.

Section 8083 of the bill permits the Secretary of Defense to transfer operations and maintenance funds. Operations and maintenance funds are supposed to buy the gas and the spare parts—the things that keep the military machine moving. That is what it is. So $33 million goes to Guam, and this funding is in direct contradiction of the explicit direction that was in the conference report that prevented this because we knew it was coming.

If this omnibus bill were subject to amendment, I would immediately seek to strip the funding from this bill. Let me be clear. This funding I am talking about for Guam is a ''bridge to nowhere.'' The money, in part, is to provide the Government of Guam funds to buy 53 civilian schoolbuses. They put money in the Defense bill for 53 schoolbuses and 53 repair kits for the buses for $10.7 million. That is to buy schoolbuses and repair kits for Guam. Why? Why would we want to do that? Their reasoning is because we are redeploying marines from Japan. But we have paused that redeployment in the authorization bill because we don't know exactly how to do it. So we are pausing the redeployment of marines; meanwhile, the appropriators move forward and put $10.7 million in to buy civilian schoolbuses, and not one single marine, sailor or airman has been assigned to Guam as part of the intended buildup that would justify in any way using that money.

What else are we buying with this $33 million? Well, $12.7 million is intended to be used for a cultural artifacts repository. I am not making that up—$12.7 million of your tax dollars is buying a cultural artifacts repository in Guam, in the name of the redeployment of the U.S. marines from Japan, which is not taking place. They claim it is related to artifacts that will be dug up during the major military construction projects that have been planned for Guam as part of the buildup. But with the agreement of the Pentagon, we have put it on hold.

I guess it is important when you are doing a military construction project to preserve the artifacts. The money intended for this cultural artifacts repository is, at best, early, and much less if it were ever needed. So here we are with an investment of at least $33 million on a ''bridge to nowhere'' to hold artifacts that will never be dug out of the Earth.

The money in this Defense appropriations bill for this cultural artifacts repository is actually going to be spent to build a 20,000-square-foot museum, most of which will be used for the storage of existing artifacts and existing administration, completely unrelated to the major military construction projects associated with the buildup on Guam.

They get the benefits of $12.5 million in Federal largess for a new museum, which otherwise they could not get. I would like to say there are many citizens of Arizona who are out of work, whose homes have been lost, and who would benefit from any sort of action by the Federal Government—the holiday season is approaching in my State and all over America where there is not enough money to fund the food banks, and we are going to spend money on schoolbuses and cultural repositories in Guam.

That is not the end of the story. This initial funding grant to Guam of $33 million includes $9.6 million for the first phase of a mental health facility. They claim that is somehow related to the proposed military buildup on Guam. I am still trying to sort that one out. Without one additional marine or his family being stationed on Guam, how does a proposed buildup not happening for years help with a mental health facility on Guam?

It might not surprise you to learn this money for a new mental health facility has nothing to do with any marines coming to Guam but is required to satisfy a current Federal injunction that mandates the construction of a new facility. So take it out of Defense. Take it out of the hardware and the operations and maintenance our men and women in the military need.

Our committee did the research for these projects. We reviewed the working papers of the Department of Defense's Economic Adjustment Committee and found this funding would not go to its priorities and decided, as a conference, not to support the authorization.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the Working Papers Excerpt of DOD's Economic Adjustment Committee.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE 2010 GUAM SOCIOECONOMIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORKING PAPERS

SUMMARY OF PROJECTS ASSESSED

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE—GUAM MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACILITY

Recommendation: Consider for Fiscal Year 2012 budget submission. A Federal injunction mandates Guam Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to hire additional staff and construct a new facility to provide for approximately 60 percent of identified and un-served cases. Projected military buildup induced growth could adversely impact the island's mental health and substance abuse system. A new $34.2 million facility provides enhanced treatment services in counseling, physical training, recreation, daily living assistance, peer support, and speech therapy.

CULTURAL—CULTURAL REPOSITORY

Recommendation: Consider for Fiscal Year 2012 budget submission. Federal law requires the U.S. Government to curate and archive cultural artifacts discovered as a result of U.S. Government construction. Guam's existing space to receive, study, and store such unearthed cultural artifacts is inadequate. A $12.7 million Cultural Repository will provide 20,000 square feet of curatorial and administrative spaces. Currently, the majority of Guam's artifacts reside in foreign museums for archival storage.

EDUCATION—BUS FLEET

Recommendation: Consider for Fiscal Year 2012 budget submission. This $10.7 million project buys 53 school buses and associated spare parts' packages to correct Guam's severe shortage of school buses. Future induced population growth will further strain the busing system.

EXCERPTS

PROJECT 1: GUAM MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACILITY

GovGuam provided an initial $34.2 million cost estimate to build a new mental health and substance abuse facility at Oka Point. When completed, this facility would provide enhanced treatment services that include counseling, physical training, recreation, assistance with activities of daily living, peer support, and speech therapy, in addition to other efficiencies gained through close location to other related inpatient and outpatient medical care. Presently, the GovGuam Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA) program is managed by the court-appointed Guam Federal Management Team (FMT) and the Guam Mental Health Planning Council. DMHSA is currently under permanent Federal injunction and is required to hire additional staff and construct a new facility to address their deficiencies. Due to inadequate staff and facility resources, DMHSA is not able to provide services to approximately 60 percent of 1,400 identified as requesting assistance.

PROJECT 2: CULTURAL REPOSITORY

The Federal Team reviewed a $12.7 million project cost estimate from GovGuam for the design, construction and outfitting of a Cultural Repository that would provide 15,000 square feet to store existing artifacts, artifacts anticipated to be discovered during the buildup of military forces on the island, and an additional 5,000 square feet of space for administrative offices. Presently, GovGuam provides artifacts to foreign museums for exhibitions or stores them in 7,600 square feet of space split between two floors of an office building. This storage space is presently over capacity and does not meet cultural storage requirements, including environmental controls. The proposed facility would be located on government owned land and be adjacent to the future Guam Institute of Natural History and Cultural Heritage (GINHCH). The present facility would be decommissioned and the artifacts would be transferred to this new facility with the remainder of the space projected to be occupied in 10 years.

PROJECT 3: SCHOOL BUS FLEET

GovGuam estimates $10.7 million is needed to purchase 53 school buses and spare parts packages. The school bus fleet provides transportation services to all non-DoD students on the island for both public and private schools and for extracurricular activities. The bus fleet is also an integral part of the island's emergency response plan and is used for population relocation during large scale events. Currently, the fleet operates only at 47 percent, requiring buses to be triple cycled during the day. Schools also start classes at different times in order to ensure that all children can be bused to school. Daily bus runs begin before 6:00 a.m., resulting in some students arriving well before classes begin. Subsequent morning bus cycles often deliver students to school well after classes have begun. At the end of the school day, students are often delayed by hours in their departure from school due to school bus shortages.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, this is not the way Congress is supposed to

work. Authorizing committees exist to provide specific congressional approval of Federal spending. Appropriations committees and subcommittees exist to take the available Federal dollars and allocate them to programs consistent with the authorizations that have been provided by the authorizing committees. In no way do appropriations committees have the legitimate authority to override the specific direction of authorizing committees when those authorizing committees have spoken to a matter and denied authority for a specific type or level of funding.

This is why the approval rating of Congress is in single digits. The American people have seen through this. They see this kind of abuse and waste and they have had enough of it. If you don't understand the rise of the tea party, you can start by looking right here.

It is not as if this issue was somehow hidden from the leadership of the Appropriations Committee. I wrote to the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. Let me give a few examples of what the Appropriations Committee has done.

There is a program called MEADS—the Medium Extended Air Defense System. The program was supposed to have been terminated as originally proposed in the Senate version of the bill. The Defense appropriations portion of the bill is at $390 million, nearly the entire $406 million requested. We found out the Appropriations Committee was going to fund the program, and I felt compelled to ensure the final Defense authorization conference report prohibits any funding beyond 2012. Under the requirements imposed by the Defense authorization conference report, this year's funding will be restrained by prohibiting the Department from spending more than 25 percent until the Secretary of Defense provides a plan to either restructure the program in a way that requires no additional funding or terminates the program. So we wanted to get this report from the Secretary. But what did the Appropriations Committee do? The full $406 million.

I think my colleagues should understand, they have decided to never put this system—the Medium Extended Air Defense System—into operation. They want to have a corporate memory, a memory of what they have learned in spending what ends up to be a couple of billion dollars.

The Next-Generation Bomber. The President asked there not be money proposed for the Next-Generation Bomber, but the appropriators chose to add $100 million—$100 million. This is money for the Next Generation Bomber that was not requested by the Air Force nor was there any testimony by the Air Force leadership, either civilian or military, in support of this additional huge addition in funding. It magically appeared here.

This morning, I tried to find out if this money would be wisely spent, and the answer is no. We called the Air Force Chief of Staff. They said they didn't request the funding. They do not want it. The money is ahead of need, meaning it could not be applied to the program in an effective or efficient manner.

The analysis of alternatives, which helps determine what the capability of the bomber should be, will not be completed for another year and a half. The capabilities requirement document, which is key to ensuring the new bomber design is stable—which is needed to determine if increased taxpayer dollars should be invested in the new bomber—is not complete and will not be complete for a couple of years. Finally, they wanted to use this money to sustain the bomber force they have.

So why? Why? Why would we add $100 million when there is absolutely no way it could be used? Well, I can only say there are reasons for it. I will not make allegations, but it is not magic. It is not something that appears out of thin air.

There is a program called Combat Dragon. Of approximately 100 unrequested and unauthorized additions above the President's budget request found in the appropriations bill, one of the more interesting ones is a $20 million allocation for an obscure aircraft program called Combat Dragon II. The name is interesting. Sounds pretty exciting. You won't find it in the President's budget request. It didn't appear in our authorization bill. So I asked my staff to find out what happened.

The purpose of the program: Combat Dragon II is to lease up to four crop-duster-type aircraft and to outfit them with machine gun pods, laser-guided bombs, rockets, and air-to-air missiles. I asked if this request was justified, vetted, approved in any way. The answer was no, no, no. There is no urgent operational requirement for this type of aircraft.

After a little investigation, we found this aircraft lease will not be—surprise, surprise—competitively awarded. As such, it is effectively earmarked for a particular aircraft manufacturer that has the corner on this particularly obscure part of the aviation market.

The C–17. The Defense appropriations bill adds $225 million—only $225 million—for an unrequested, unauthorized C–17 aircraft that no one in the U.S. Air Force or the Pentagon thought we needed. According to every strategic planning document, the Air Force has an excess capacity of large cargo aircraft, and the Air Force already has 222 C–17 cargo aircraft and more than 80 C–5s.

The key reason for an overage of large cargo aircraft is because the Appropriations Committee over the past several years added 44 C–17s that were not authorized—that we neither needed nor could afford—at a cost of $14 billion above the Department's request.

The OMB, five Secretaries of Defense, the Commander of Transportation Command, and the current Secretary of the Air Force have all unanimously stated they do not need nor can they afford to operate any more C–17 aircraft. In fact, the President appealed to the Congress and said the Nation cannot afford any more. You would think after $14 billion and 44 C–17s, averaging over $250 million each, that would be enough of an earmark. Obviously, not so for the Appropriations Committee.

There are others in here. Some of my old favorites. There is $25 million for unrequested helicopter upgrades, an increase to the Civil Air Patrol Program of $7 million, unrequested, unauthorized; $273 million in unrequested, unauthorized research on everything from Parkinson's disease and HIV to alternative energy and nanotechnology.

Speaking of alternate energy, the appropriators tucked unrequested, unauthorized funding throughout a certain division of the bill, and $130 million in ambiguously named ''alternative energy research'' is scattered for the same sort of programs that brought us the recent achievement of the Department of the Navy, which proudly announced the purchase of 450,000 gallons of alternative fuels for $12 million. My friends, that equates to $26 a gallon. I am certain our constituents will be glad to know their tax dollars are now going toward paying $26 a gallon for aviation fuel.

But, no, no, they need more money—$262 million in unauthorized Navy research and development programs. The list of Navy adds is eerily similar to the Army's, and as you would expect, it covers a familiar set of Member interest items—nanotechnology, alternative energy, and giveaways to home-State interests.

There are increases for Space Situational Awareness.

I repeat, $50 million in increases for Space Situational Awareness in two funding lines—just two lines—with no justification. No argument for it. Maybe it is good. It may be good, but we won't know. We won't know for months and months and months, and maybe years.

For those who are interested in the compelling national security issue of space situational awareness, you will be glad to know $50 million of your tax dollars is going to be spent there.

The budget requested $86 million for Operationally Responsive Space. This bill adds $26 million more, just for fun.

The Armed Services Committee authorized, and the Congress will soon appropriate, some $290 million for research into post-traumatic stress disorder, prosthetics, blast injury, and psychological health. These are critical to improving our actual battlefield medicine. Yet once again, the appropriators inserted unrequested money for medical research, this time to the tune of $600 million.

Let me remind my colleagues that these unrequested projects are funded at the expense of other military priorities. I agree that research on multiple

sclerosis is necessary, and Alzheimer's and cancer. But why should it have to come out of the Defense funding?

I will tell you why it does. It is the same reason why Willie Sutton robbed banks. When they asked him why, he said, that is because the money is there. So this money, which may be meritorious to spend on Alzheimer's and cancer and other medical issues, should not come out of the Defense appropriations bill.

Of course, the Guard and Reserve always come in and get additional money. They got $1 billion in unrequested, unauthorized funding for ''miscellaneous equipment.'' I repeat: $1 billion for ''miscellaneous equipment.'' I am sure certain States on the appropriators' short list will be very pleased to have the money directed their way. I am not so sure about the taxpayers.

Some have merit, some don't. None of the ones I talked about were requested. And this is just in Defense. The tragedy of all this is, except for the Senator from Oklahoma and myself and a few others, all this will slide through and the American people—obviously, the taxpayers—will pick up the tab.

We won't have a chance to address the issue of the bonuses that have gone to the executives of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that have cost the American citizens so many hundreds of billions of dollars. We are going to let these people—because this won't be appropriated—we are going to let them take home annual salaries of $900,000 and bonuses of $12.08 million, while they ask the taxpayers for more bailout money. Mr. Edward DeMarco says that is the only way you can get good people to serve the country.

I am sure the men and women in the military would be interested to know that is what is required to serve. The base pay of a four-star general is $179,000. The Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court makes $223,000. But Mr. DeMarco feels people who are working at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac deserve $900,000, and millions of dollars in bonuses.

After all, they are doing such a great job.

The Alaska Native corporations is one of my favorites. We need to be especially mindful of how taxpayer dollars are appropriated. The Army Corps, in light of a recent Justice Department investigation, revealed what prosecutors called one of the largest bribery scandals in U.S. history involving Army Corps contracting officials and the contracting director of Eyak Technology, an ANC-owned company. In the authorization bill, we are trying to have all of these small business funding issues, no matter whether it be in an ANC or others, looked at.

And, of course, we won't be able to address the Solyndra issue. Private investors will collect the first $69 million that can be recovered from the company, with taxpayers placed in second position by the Department of Energy.

If we had been able to amend this bill, I would have worked with my colleague, Dr. COBURN, to restore much needed funding to the Government Accountability Office. In a recent report released by Dr. COBURN, he highlights that ''just this year GAO identified hundreds of billions of dollars of duplicative and overlapping programs that, if addressed by Congress, could both save money and improve services for taxpayers. For every $1 spent on the GAO, the agency provides $90 in savings recommendations. Yet, instead of adopting those good-government reforms, the Senate Appropriations Committee has responded by proposing dramatic budget cuts to the GAO.''

I don't want to go through all this pork that I just described again, but we can afford all that and yet we are going to cut the only watchdog organization that really gives us an objective view of what we do here in Congress. I am sure that it is a coincidence.

So here we are again. Here we are again, the same thing as last year, the same thing for years—a few Members of the House and Senate making decisions on hundreds of billions of dollars, perhaps over $1 trillion, and we, the other Members, because of our desire—understandable—to leave this body and return to our homes for the holidays, after a few hours of debate, no amendments, no changes in the bill, not having had the ability to even examine it, we will be voting.

I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Oklahoma.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. I would just mention, I say to my colleague from Oklahoma, the issue of this cutting of the budget of the Government Accountability Office. It seems rather strange to me. And I would be curious, with this cut to the Government Accountability Office, what will the effect be on our ability to have this watchdog organization give us the reports and information we need as far as the functions of government are concerned?

Mr. COBURN. I thank the Senator for his question.

I think the people need to know what the GAO actually does. The GAO is nonpartisan; they are not Democrats or Republicans. They are accountants, and they are investigators, and they are the most valuable tool we have because we won't do the oversight of calling agencies up here. I think the numbers are that we are going to lose 400 investigators and auditors out of the GAO. One question to ask is, Why is it we are cutting the GAO more than we are cutting our own budget?

Let me make one additional point. Things are not right in our country because things aren't right in the Senate. This 1,200-page bill that should have come out here appropriations bill by appropriations bill—11 or 12 appropriations bills—has over $3.5 billion worth of phonemarks in it. We don't have earmarks anymore; they are all phonemarks. The corruption is still here. The pay-to-play game is still going on in Washington. Now we just don't do it in the bill, we do it by telephone, and we threaten agencies: If you don't give this money to this person, your money will be cut the next year.

So the fact is, although we have an earmark ban, there are thousands of earmarks in this bill. And what do we do? We cut the very agency that is going to be required to help us solve our financial problems over the next few years; we cut them more than we cut our own budgets. Now, they can be cut, and appropriately so. Everybody is going to have to share. But to cut the GAO 6.4 percent—40 percent more than we are cutting our own budgets—out of spite? They and the Congressional Research Service do the best work on the Hill. They do better than we do. Yet we are going to take away a tool that is going to help this country solve its very difficult financial problems. I think it is outrageous. It nauseates me.

Mr. MCCAIN. I would ask my colleague, I identified $3.5 billion unrequested, unauthorized, no-hearing-on projects—$3.5 billion. Since Dr. COBURN has taken a broader view of things, I wonder how many billions he would estimate totally there are of these unauthorized, unrequested projects in the entire bill.

Mr. COBURN. I would just respond to the Senator, I don't know for sure because we haven't been able to go through the whole bill, and the creativity associated with parochialism and getting reelected by helping the very well-connected few in this country is unbelievable. So it is hidden, and it takes a long time. It doesn't take 48 hours.

We got this bill at 2:00 Tuesday morning. That is when we got it. And of course nobody is around at 2:00 Tuesday morning, are they? So we will have 72 hours to read a 1,200-page book, and then we have to figure out what is in it. As the Senator said, we are not going to know what is in it, not until the next Solyndra comes, not until the next person goes to jail, not until the next Senator goes to jail. We are not going to know.

The fact is, what we are seeing is irresponsible behavior on the part of the Congress with this bill, and if we don't break this cycle of protecting incumbency through spending money, we are not going to have a country left. It is not just wrong, it is immoral. It is immoral.

The Senator talked about research at the Department of Defense. There are good reasons to do medical research at the Department of Defense, but we have the world's premier institutes, the National Institutes of Health. Now, we are not increasing them significantly, but we are markedly increasing the study of MS at a military research facility instead of through NIH, where we are spending $100 million already a

year on it? So we are going to duplicate it.

I have said it before: We have taken a stupid pill. We have either taken a stupid pill or a corruption pill. I don't know which it is. But I know that the long-term effects of doing this kind of legislating at this time in our history, when we have the greatest difficulty and the greatest landmines ahead of us financially—for us to do what we are doing here today to please a very small group of Congressmen and Senators who happen to make up the Appropriation Committee and to address their election concerns and their knowing better than the authorization committees—it won't surprise the Senator that in this bill, this conglomeration of what I will call an omni-terrible, is over $400 billion in spending that is unauthorized, that has never been authorized or the authorizations have expired long ago and the authorizing committees don't reauthorize it for a reason, and yet we keep spending the money.

So I think it is amazing that we have as high as a 9-percent approval rating. And I am saddened not just for us, I am saddened for the future of America that we would now, right before Christmas—because we are running on a deadline to go home we are going to pass a bill that is essentially irresponsible, inept, and loaded with political favors instead of doing the best right thing for this country.

The GAO, in late February, early March, put out a report on duplication in the Federal Government. Most of my colleagues applauded it. It was a great deal of work that they spent a lot of time on. The second and third component of that, of the Federal Government, is coming out this February, and in it were hundreds of billions of dollars of duplicative programs. Not in one place in this bill that we have been able to find so far has any of what the GAO said should be eliminated, should be discontinued—none of it has happened.

What is the consequence of spending $200 billion of borrowed money—money we don't have—on things the GAO says we don't need? What is the consequence of that? The consequence of that is impoverishment of our children. It is the theft of opportunity from our children. That is what it is. So I don't say the word ''corruption'' lightly. When you are stealing opportunity and you are impoverishing those who follow, that is corrupt. It is also immoral.

We won't be able to defeat this bill. We won't be able to amend this bill. We won't be able to offer amendments to what the GAO said is absolute stupidity because of the way we are bringing this up and the fact that we didn't bring these bills through here. And the bills they did bring through, they limited the amendments on anyway. So the voice of the average American doesn't get heard in the Senate under the way it is operating right now. Good ideas that actually will improve our country and save us money don't ever get heard. That is not the America I know. That is not the country I love.

So we are leading by example into our demise, and this is one of the greatest examples of that I have seen.

Mr. McCAIN. May I also point out, as my colleague did, that all of us as Members of the Senate are guided to some degree by seniority, which means assignment and ranking in various committees. But we should have an equal opportunity to represent our constituents and our priorities and our views and our goals.

This document was signed by 37 Members of the House and 17 Members of the Senate, so really this system hands the important decisions that all 535 Members of the House and Senate are responsible for over to 37 in the House and 17 in the Senate. Neither the Senator from Oklahoma nor I had a single time to discuss with our colleagues all that is in this bill. Not a single time did we have a chance to say: Wait a minute, let's not put in that cultural repository for Guam. Not a single time did we have a chance to say: Hey, this Combat Dragon II is not really something we need to fund. You know, the Civil Air Patrol is really a great outfit, but we don't think we need to add $7 million in these difficult times. We think helicopters needed to be upgraded, but why should we add $25 million to helicopter upgrades when the military says we don't need $25 million for helicopter upgrades? This is what is wrong with this system.

Mr. COBURN. If I could respond, that $25 million is going to go to one company—we don't know where yet—that is well-connected and well-heeled to either a Member of the House or the Senate. Mark my words, that is where it is going. Somebody—one individual business, one individual constituent—is going to benefit from that at the expense of our children and our future.

Mr. McCAIN. So the system now has deteriorated to the point where these decisions are made—by the way, I would like to correct the record. There are 37 total Members in the House and Senate, so 37 out of 535 who would be making these decisions.

So we really are in a kind of situation where we come down and all we can do is complain about it. That seems to me a deprivation of all of us who are not in that group of 37 of the ability to make our input into the future of this country. I do not think the American people are going to stand for it too much longer. I really don't.

I say to my colleague, I think a couple of things are going to happen. I think in the next election—I say this to all my colleagues. I think in the next election no incumbent is safe. But I also say, one way or another there is going to be a third party in the political arena of the United States. We cannot keep doing these things, Republican and Democrat, without sooner or later a response by the very well-informed electorate—thanks to devices like this.

I believe we have done this long enough. For long enough the American people, who now are in more dire economic straits than they have been since the Great Depression, are fed up with spending a few million dollars on schoolbuses in Guam that have nothing to do with our Nation's defense.

I hope the Senator from Oklahoma will not give up. I certainly will not. But I think, frankly, the American people deserve a lot better than they are getting out of this process. If they are cynical and if they are angry and if they are frustrated, they have every reason to be so.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, 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. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I guess I am one of several Senators who doesn't know for sure what is going to happen tonight or tomorrow. I do know that we have one very contentious issue in the pipeline. Several people have been talking about this. I would like to give, perhaps, a different, maybe a historic perspective on this issue as we are looking at it.

I think with all the talk and all the demagoging people want us to be independent from the Middle East when producing our energy in fact we have the recoverable resources in the United States to be totally independent—for the North American Continent to be totally independent in providing its own energy. We are the only country in the world that does not exploit its own resources. We have more recoverable reserves in oil, gas, and coal than any other country in the world. Yet it is a political problem because there are people who do not want to exploit our own resources. They do not want to go offshore. They do not want to go there.

Eighty-four percent of our onshore public land is off-limits, so we cannot drill there. It is very disturbing when we see the real reason. We have an administration that doesn't want us to exploit our own resources. We have a Secretary of Energy who said we are going to have to get the price of gasoline in the pumps comparable to Europe, $8 a gallon, before people realize we have to go in another direction other than fossil fuels. We have an Assistant Secretary of Energy who said we have to wean ourselves off fossil fuels.

All this green energy stuff is fine, and someday when the technology is there we will be able to do something with it. But it is not there. In the meantime, we have to run this machine called America.

So here the rest of the world is laughing at us, looking at us and saying why is it we have a country that does not use its own resources. It is pretty mind-boggling to me.

The first effort of this administration, in order to hide this agenda of not wanting to provide our own energy, was to do away with hydraulic fracturing. A lot of people don't know what that is.

Hydraulic fracturing is a technique started in my State of Oklahoma in 1948. There has never been a case of groundwater contamination in over 1 million of these applications since 1948. Yet the President made a speech about 6 months ago saying we need to use this good, clean natural gas, and it is plentiful, cheap, and we have a lot of it, we should use it—but we have to do something about hydraulic fracturing.

The reality is we cannot get into any of these tight formations for oil or gas without using hydraulic fracturing. It is a perfectly safe process. They are trying to kill fossil fuels by stopping it.

Just last week the EPA said, like an endangerment finding, that we have now said in the State of Wyoming, in this very shallow well up there, only 600 feet, that somehow there is some contamination, and it was due to hydraulic fracturing. It is not. Hydraulic fracturing is done 1 mile, 2 miles down deep. That is one of the efforts.

The second issue we are addressing tonight—and this is significant. It is almost as if, with all the majority they have supporting the President with the 2012 elections coming up, I am in shock a lot of my colleagues on the left side, on the Democratic side, are following President Obama off this plank and going along with these efforts to kill fossil fuels. The most recent one is the one we are talking about tonight, and that is the pipeline.

On November 10 the Obama administration State Department announced it would delay the Keystone XL Pipeline decision until after the 2012 elections. This delay came shortly after the head of the Sierra Club, the executive director, Michael Brune, tied their political support for President Obama's reelection to the Keystone decision—and they went along with it. That is what we are facing right now. It is something that is very punitive to our whole country, not just in terms of the fact that we cannot use our good, cheap energy we develop right here but the number of jobs.

The Keystone XL Pipeline is estimated to add more than 250,000 permanent jobs for U.S. workers and add more than $100 billion in annual total expenditures to the U.S. total economy. During the construction phase alone, it would generate more than $585 million in State and local taxes.

I am particularly interested in this. As to my State of Oklahoma, I did not bring it with me, but there is a map that shows where this pipeline would go in order to get to the tight formations in Alberta. You will notice two-thirds of the way down is Cushing, OK. Cushing, OK, is kind of the intersection of all the pipelines. Right now it is clogged. It is full, and we cannot open it. Oklahoma alone, it is expected, if they would open the Keystone Pipeline, would have some 14,000 new jobs. That is just in my State, in Oklahoma alone.

The construction of the pipeline is expected to add about $1.2 billion in new spending in my State of Oklahoma. We have heard Senators from Nebraska and North Dakota and South Dakota talk about how it would affect their States. Just in my State alone, once operational, it is projected that it would add more than $667 million in property taxes.

Cushing, OK is a very important part of this. It is mind-boggling. When I go back to Oklahoma—I hope we go back sometime tomorrow—and people ask the question of why is it, since we want cheap oil and gas right from the North American Continent—why would they stop a pipeline to carry it?

They do it because politically they do not want that to happen. I believe it is important to look at the other aspects. Jim Jones—a lot of us knew him when he was a four-star general who served with a lot of dignity. He was very successful. He became the National Security Adviser to President Obama.

He said:

> In a tightly contested global economy, where securing energy resources is a national must, we should be able to act with speed and agility. And any threat to this project, by delay or otherwise, would constitute a significant setback.

He ties this in to national security. He further said the failure to move forward with the project will prolong the risk to our economy and our energy security and send the wrong message to job creators.

One of the opponents of the pipeline thinks that stopping the construction would prevent Canada from developing its tar sands. We have the far left environmentalists who think somehow they can stop this activity in Canada when we know what will happen if we continue to stop the transportation through the pipeline all the way from Alberta down into Texas.

According to Austan Goolsbee, a former Obama chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers—keep in mind he is on their side. He said:

> It's a bit naive to think the tar sands would not be developed if they don't build that pipeline.

He went on to say:

> Eventually, it's going to be built. It may go to the Pacific, it may go through Nebraska, but it's going to be built somewhere.

They go ahead and talk about the fact that they have already approved a way of getting it to the west coast of Canada and shipped to China. So this is something where there is no justification for stopping it other than the political justification. Other than the administration looking at the far left environmentalists—it all started in Nebraska—they said there is one little area that might not want it. So what do they do in Nebraska? They got together and changed the routing of it so it goes to an area where there is no opposition, and there is still no pipeline.

I think even if we were to have to stay here—and I am the last one who wants to stay here for any length of time—a key issue right now is getting that open again.

I will yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following my remarks, the Senator from Ohio, Mr. BROWN, be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORTGAGE FINANCING

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, this morning it was announced that the former officers of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are going to be prosecuted, or cases have been filed, for their misrepresentation of the liabilities that both of those institutions posed to the American Congress and American taxpayers.

Last year when we passed the Dodd-Frank amendment on mortgages and on risk retention, we exempted Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae from the liability that every other company in the country had to go through. We find ourselves today in a place where Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have cost the American taxpayer at least $171 billion. That number is rising because of the exemption from Dodd-Frank; Freddie and Fannie, other than FHA, are the only act in town.

A week ago I introduced a piece of legislation to deal with this issue. It is a piece of legislation that will terminate Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and create a bridge, or a transition, from where we are to a privatized mortgage securitization and guarantee program.

I want to briefly address how that takes place because in the end it will pay back the American taxpayer. It will put Freddie and Fannie out of business, and we will have a robust mortgage market available to the American people as the housing market begins to recover in this country.

First of all, the legislation creates a new entity called the Mortgage Finance Agency. It is an agency with directors that are appointed by the President with advice-and-consent approval by the Senate. Its directors are members of the government that deal with financial institutions and financial regulations. It will have advisory groups for people affiliated with housing, and it will be established with the following goals: Within a year it will be up and running so it can be a guarantor of quality residential mortgages—and I underline QRM, quality residential mortgages.

The mortgage disaster America has today was a failure of underwriting. We didn't make good loans. We made high-risk loans because they had high coupon paper and securitized it on Wall Street. People made a lot of money, but America lost and today our economy suffers because of it.

The new mortgage finance agency would be able to guarantee and wrap high-quality residential mortgages. In those wraps and in those guarantees they would receive a fee which would go into a catastrophic fund to back up the risk on those mortgages.

In addition to that, the QRM requirements would make it essential that no loan was made 95 percent loan-to-value. Any loan above 70 percent would have private mortgage insurance on the amount up to 95 percent, and within 36 months the agency would be required to have supplemental insurance coverage to take the risk down to 50 cents on the dollar.

It would be required by the fifth year to have a game plan established and a plan of liquidating the asset and privatizing the guarantee to the private sector. That is a very important process because it is the bridge to the end of Freddie and Fannie and the taxpayer guaranteeing of residential mortgages. We would have a situation with a downpayment of 5 percent, private mortgage insurance of 25 percent, and supplemental insurance of 20 percent, and the risk to the government would be 50 cents on the dollar.

In the great recession values fell 31 percent. In this recession they have fallen 33 percent. So the government's coverage would be 17 percent in addition to the liability that exists today. It is a very good place to have the government and to build an entity that brings us back to a mortgage market in the United States of America that is viable and that works.

I don't like Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, and I don't like what happened, but it has happened. I know everybody wants to terminate them, and I do too. But we have a difficult housing market in America that will only come back when this robust capital is flowing into the mortgage markets, and that will only take place when we get ourselves out of the current dilemma and on a path toward privatization.

The American private sector is a tremendous entity. It has proven in many ways they can find a solution to most all problems we have, but we have to create a bridge to that privatization. We have to create an entity that works, an entity that is self-sustaining, and change some of the principles of lending back to the way it used to be in this country so that when people borrow money on their houses, they really have a job, and it is verified, and their credit score indicates they can make the payments they are going to be required to make; that their credit history is a good history, and the house appraises and the underwriting is sound. Most importantly of all, the borrower has skin in the game, and there is insurance on the mortgage above 70 percent and supplemental insurance down to 50 percent. When we do that, we have qualified residential mortgages, an entity that in the beginning can secure those and can guarantee those and can, at the end of 10 years, have an institution that can be privatized.

Here is the real kicker. Upon privatization, the money that is made by the government on the sale of the entity goes to pay back the taxpayer for the $171 billion or more they lost, and any excess money, which more than likely there would be, goes to reduce the national debt.

So I hope everyone in this body will look at the Mortgage Finance Agency proposal I introduced last week. When we come back next year, instead of griping about the problems we have had, let's start looking to the solutions that will take us back to the America we love economically and the housing market that is absolutely critical to our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, we ask a great deal from our first responders, from firefighters, and from police officers to keep our neighborhoods safe from violence and drugs. We ask them to put their lives on the line, to save people from burning buildings, to track down armed criminals. We ask and they give each day and each night. That is why we cannot just honor them through parades, memorials, speeches on the Senate floor, showing up at various kinds of festivals, but we honor them by the priorities we set in our Federal Government, in State legislatures in Santa Fe and Columbus and Atlanta, in city halls, and in county courthouses.

Earlier this year, Ohioans overwhelmingly rejected issue 2, which would have curtailed the ability of first responders, firefighters, and police officers not just to organize and bargain collectively for their wages and their benefits but, much more broadly than that, to have them sit down and negotiate with their employers, with cities, with counties, with the State, and with taxpayers for safety equipment and adequate staffing.

This was a victory for them. The defeat of issue 2 was a victory for hard-working men and women in Ohio. It was the only time in American history when the issue of collective bargaining was on a State ballot for a statewide vote, and voters voted more than three-fifths—61 percent to 39 percent—to preserve collective bargain rates. Again, collective bargaining not just for themselves in terms of wages and benefits but collective bargaining for police officers' safety vests; for firefighters to have the right kind of safety equipment; for teachers organizing and bargaining collectively at the negotiating table for class size. It was way more than about them and that is why the voters of Ohio, in such a resounding number, voted to preserve collective bargaining and what it meant to public employees and what it meant to our way of life for those who are not public employees, and that is at the State level.

At the Federal level we must continue to fight to ensure these brave public servants have the resources necessary to safely perform their jobs. That is because so many give the ultimate sacrifice. In the last 10 years, 47 law enforcement officials representing 35 Ohio agencies were killed while on duty. Forty-seven law enforcement officials were killed while on duty just in a decade.

According to the FBI, 48 law enforcement officials across the country were feloniously killed in the line of duty in 2009. More than 57,000 law enforcement officials were assaulted while performing their duties.

This past May during National Police Week, I attended a Greater Cleveland Police Officer Memorial service in Huntington Park in Cleveland. During the service, I met Sara Winfield of Marysville, OH. Sara's husband Bradley Winfield was a deputy in the Marion County Sheriff's Department, a north central community, when he was shot and killed while on duty. In her grief, this widow, with two young sons to care for, has become an advocate ensuring that those who protect us are protected themselves. That is why I cosponsored legislation introduced by Maryland Democrat BEN CARDIN that would create a national blue alert system aimed at apprehending criminals who injure or kill law enforcement officials.

Modeled after the Amber Alert System used to find missing children, the blue alert system would disseminate critical information about suspected criminals to other law enforcement agencies, the public, and the media. When someone has gunned down a police officer, police departments all over the region, the State, and the country need to know about it. Blue alerts would be broadcast to local media and on messaging signs. It would include a detailed description of the suspect, the vehicle, and other identifying information. It would encourage State and local governments to develop additional protocols to help apprehend suspects.

Eleven States already have such a system, but if it is only on the State level and the perpetrator who killed the police officer escapes to another State that doesn't have it, it doesn't work so well. That is why Senator CARDIN's national blue alert bill is so important.

Ohio doesn't have this. I am encouraged that the Ohio Senate recently passed a version of this law. Again, it needs to be national so that it goes

across State lines, and we can obviously do that as police departments are talking to each other more than they ever have through technology.

I spoke to police chiefs from across Ohio like my city of Lorain, OH. Cel Rivera, the chief there, said the blue alert system would be a critical resource to track down criminals and to protect law enforcement. It would be made possible with existing community-oriented policing services such as, the COPS Program funded by the Department of Justice.

I remember 15, 18 years ago when the COPS Program began with President Clinton and the Congress in the 1990s. It made such a difference in helping local communities, small towns, big cities, rural areas, suburbs, to be able to staff up in a better way with community police officers.

It is these types of Federal investments that are so critical for communities facing significant budget shortfalls. Too many communities are forced to make cutbacks in essential services reducing staff size and scaling back investments on safety equipment. These choices are difficult, and they are made with great reluctance. That is why Federal grants such as the staffing for adequate fire and emergency response, so-called SAFER grants, or the assistance for the firefighters grant are critical to help communities hire more firefighters as well as recruit and retain first responders. The omnibus bill we are considering now will provide much needed investments that will help communities do that.

While I fight for stronger investments, it is clear every little bit helps. Earlier this week the Chillicothe Fire Department received a funded grant through the AFG Program. It follows the SAFER grant that not only helped hire personnel, it saves lives. Fire Chief Steve Gallacher, whom I have spoken with prior to this, was off duty when he experienced a pulmonary embolism, a blood clot to the lung. Without a grant that kept his neighborhood firehouse open or without the medic who was hired because of the AFG grant, Chief Gallagher says he would have died.

These Federal investments literally helped to save Chief Gallacher's life. According to him, 40 percent of deaths among firefighters occur due to cardiac arrest. He wrote to me:

> When I helped write the grant application, I knew that it would save lives. But I never imagined that one of those lives would be my own.

With reduced tax revenues, with the increased need of vital public services such as fire and police, it is critical we help our communities carry out the most basic and lifesaving duties. We can keep first responders and firefighters and officials on the job.

We can establish an alert system to warn us when criminals seek to harm law enforcement officials. These are bipartisan actions that can help communities across Ohio and throughout the Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN of Ohio). The Senator from Florida.

RESOLVING ISSUES AND VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, at the late hour, as the Senate continues to try to do its work, there is word that maybe—as the Good Book says: ''Come, let us reason together''—maybe there is some movement in bringing about some consensus-building so the people's work can be done and these issues that have kept us apart for so long can finally be resolved. Maybe they will be resolved only on a temporary basis. But at least we would be in a situation where we did not allow the tax cuts for Social Security payments that would be such—if those tax cuts did not continue, there would be an immediate amount more that people will have to pay out of their pocket. Maybe those will continue. It is certainly the right thing to do.

It is also the right thing to do to keep unemployment compensation going in a time of a recession, when so many people are out of work, and they do not have the opportunity to get work or only get what they can piece together, which is not enough to sustain their families. That is the right thing to do. Certainly passing the funding bills to keep the government going past midnight tonight is clearly the right thing to do, instead of extraneous issues holding us up, to having us all wound around the axle where we can't even fund the Government of the United States. So maybe some reasonable minds are coming together to start working out these issues. I certainly hope so.

In the meantime, what I wish to speak about is something that is even more pernicious and that is making it harder for our people to express their constitutional right of casting a vote. We have seen a pattern in 14 States, enacting new election laws that basically are a suppression of voter rights. One of those States that is glaringly, dubiously at the top of the list as being the most severe in cutting back on people's ability to vote and to know the vote they have cast is going to be counted as they intended it—and, in the first place, making it so they can register to vote—that very fundamental constitutional right for Americans is being threatened through these laws in the States, including my State, of suppressing the right to vote.

If we look at the similarities of the laws in the 14 States, we will see an obvious pattern. But in my State of Florida, we see the most severe assault on the rights of voters of all the 14 States. The present issue is joined in a court in the District of Columbia, a suit ironically brought by the State of Florida against the Department of Justice over the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its implementation. A part of that suit actually questions the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. That is a rather brazen attempt, but I think the courts will take care of that in short order.

But the very issue, as brought in this new Florida elections law, does a number of things to cut back on the rights of voters. In the first place, the League of Women Voters, which has been registering voters for years, has stopped its registration of voters because of the new law. Why? Because the old law on the books for decades said that once an organization such as the League of Women Voters registered the new voters, they had 10 days to turn that in to the respective supervisors of elections in the 67 counties. The new elections law amended that to 48 hours, and they attached to that the possibility of a fine that could go up to $1,000 per person on the person doing the registration if they did not turn in the names in 48 hours. Of course, we had the two cases of two civics teachers in two different parts of the State who, being good teachers, in their government class were registering their students to vote and did not meet the 48-hour deadline and the State of Florida is looking at the possibility of fining these teachers. That is the height of hypocrisy. That is the height of an assault on the right of people to vote by impeding their ability to register to vote.

The intended result is there. The League of Women Voters is just one organization. There are many. But it shows what has happened; that all the registrations that would occur of people being encouraged to participate in the political system is not being done and will not be done until this issue is settled in the courts, and that is probably going to be late summer. So for the period of over 1 year, since the passing of this new law in Florida, voters will not be registered by organizations such as the League of Women Voters. That is a sad commentary, but in fact that is what has happened. That is what has happened in the State of Florida.

But that is not all. Let me tell my colleagues what else the law does. My colleagues remember how college students got so active for the first time in a Presidential election. When the Presiding Officer and I were coming up in college, we were taught that public service was one of the highest callings a person could have. We were also taught that to be a participant in our democracy was a civic responsibility. But over the intervening years, after the Vietnam war, after a number of other circumstances, young people got turned off to politics and government. Then we saw them in this past Presidential election becoming energized once again. They went down in the cities where they went to school and they registered in great numbers. Then, on election day, they turned out in great numbers. Do my colleagues know what the State of Florida did in passing the

new elections law? They changed the law which said that when a college student goes down there on election day to vote and they bring out their identification to show they are who they say they are and they compare their driver's license identification and address to the voting registration in the college town, if that driver's license, which likely shows their parents' address, if it is in a different county, they will not give them a ballot. They will give them a provisional ballot. As a result, we saw in the last Presidential election in Florida half the provisional ballots cast were not counted.

This is a blatant attempt to cut out a certain element or to make it more difficult, all under the guise that they are trying to weed out fraud. We haven't had a lot of voter fraud in our State of Florida, and I daresay we would find the same in the other 13 States that enacted these very repressive laws.

But that is not all. The law goes on further to restrict voters' rights by cutting back on the number of days of early voting. Why did we have early voting? In our State, we went through the trauma of the Presidential election of 2000, when there was so much confusion about whether the ballot was intended to be this way, and people were confused with the way the ballot was constructed. It went on and on and on. We know the high drama that ended in the Supreme Court of Bush v. Gore. Because of that trauma, many State legislatures decided to try to make it easier to vote. One way to vote so there was less confusion was to allow what other States have done, which is to let part of the voting occur before election day—early voting. Then a person can take their time going in. People don't have to be confined to voting within a 12-hour period from 7 o'clock in the morning until 7 o'clock at night, with the long lines and perhaps inclement weather, with a pouring down rainstorm or snowstorm, to inhibit people's ability to exercise their right to vote.

So legislatures across this country started enacting early voting. In Florida, that early voting period was 2 weeks. The 2 weeks went all the way up through the Sunday before the Tuesday election. Lo and behold, in the last Presidential election, because of early voting, 40 percent of the electorate of Florida voted before election day.

You certainly know the supervisors of election liked that because then on the election day, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., there was 60 percent of the vote—not 100 percent of the vote—and, therefore, it was much more manageable, even though there was an extremely high turnout because it was in a Presidential election.

Well, by constricting, as the Florida law did, from 14 days to 8 days, they are limiting that ability. They cut it back. Instead of the Sunday before the Tuesday election, the last day of the eighth day will be the Saturday before the Tuesday election.

On the basis of the experience of the last decade, guess who voted in record numbers on the Sunday before the Tuesday election after church. Certain minority groups, in record numbers. Therefore, it is again an attempt at suppressing that particular vote.

Why cannot we use walking-around common sense that would say we want to help people, to facilitate people, to make it easier for them to cast their vote, make it easier for them to register to vote; and then, once they have cast that vote, to do it in a manner where they know exactly what they are doing, lessen the amount of mistakes, and have the security of mind of knowing that the vote was going to be counted as they intended it? Yet we see laws have been passed in a number of States to the contrary.

It is my hope—it is the hope of a lot of people across this country, who care about one of the most fundamental rights of being a citizen of the United States of America: the right to vote; a right, a constitutional right that casts us in contrast to a lot of other countries on the face of planet Earth—it is my hope, as the court deliberates and renders its judgment, the Constitution of the United States will be upheld.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I previously filed committee allocations and budgetary aggregates pursuant to section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011. Today, I am further adjusting some of those levels, specifically the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations for fiscal year 2012 and the budgetary aggregates for fiscal year 2012.

Section 101 of the Budget Control Act allows for various adjustments to the statutory limits on discretionary spending, while section 106(d) allows the Chairman of the Budget Committee to make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate will soon be considering the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012, as well as H.R. 3672, the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012. I previously made adjustments pursuant to the Budget Control Act to the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and to the spending aggregates for items contained in H.R. 2055 and H.R. 3672, including funding designated for overseas contingency operations, disaster relief, emergencies, and program integrity. I am now revising those prior adjustments to reflect the final amounts contained in the two pieces of legislation. When compared to my previous adjustments, the combined effect of H.R. 2055 and H.R. 3672 is to increase budget authority by $2.302 billion and lower outlays by $0.286 billion in 2012.

With these revisions, I have now made adjustments to budget authority in 2012 pursuant to the Budget Control Act of $137.48 billion. That total breaks down as follows: $126.544 billion for overseas contingency operations, $10.453 billion for disaster relief, and $0.483 billion for program integrity initiatives.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing the changes to the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and the budgetary aggregates be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to section 106(b)(1)(C) of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

$s in millions	2011	2012
Current Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,070,885	2,983,398
Outlays	3,161,974	3,047,189
Adjustments:		
Budget Authority	0	2,302
Outlays	0	−286
Revised Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority	3,070,885	2,985,700
Outlays	3,161,974	3,046,903

FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(Pursuant to section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011 and section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

$s in millions	Current Allocation/Limit	Adjustment	Revised Allocation/Limit
Fiscal Year 2011:			
General Purpose Discretionary Budget Authority	1,211,141	0	1,211,141
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,391,055	0	1,391,055
Fiscal Year 2012:			
Security Discretionary Budget Authority	814,744	2,200	816,944
Nonsecurity Discretionary Budget Authority	363,434	102	363,536
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,327,925	−286	1,327,639
Memorandum: Cumulative Adjustments, Fiscal Year 2012:			
Security Discretionary Budget Authority	n/a	132,944	n/a
Nonsecurity Discretionary Budget Authority	n/a	4,536	n/a
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	n/a	65,639	n/a

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2012 ALLOCATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(Pursuant to Section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011)

$s in billions	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Overseas Contingency Operations	Total
Combined adjustments for H.R. 2055 and H.R. 3672:					
Budget Authority	−0.410	2.712	0.000	0.000	2.302
Outlays	−0.359	0.213	0.007	−0.147	−0.286
Memorandum 1: Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category:					
Security Budget Authority	0.000	2.200	0.000	0.000	2.2000
Nonsecurity Budget Authority	−0.410	0.512	0.000	0.000	0.102

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2012 ALLOCATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS—Continued

(Pursuant to Section 106 of the Budget Control Act of 2011)

$s in billions	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Overseas Contingency Operations	Total
General Purpose Outlays	−0.359	0.213	0.007	−0.147	−0.286
Memorandum 2: Cumulative Adjustments (Includes Previously Filed Adjustments):					
Budget Authority	0.483	10.453	0.000	126.544	137.480
Outlays	0.415	1.803	0.000	63.421	65.639

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:18 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:14 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CASEY).

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 94, which is a 24-hour continuing resolution, which was just received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 94) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 94) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO WILSON ''BILL'' LIVINGOOD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the extraordinary work of the Honorable Wilson ''Bill'' Livingood, who served with distinction for 17 years as the House of Representatives Sergeant at Arms, protecting and serving Members, staff and visitors to the Capitol complex.

Mr. Livingood, the House Chief Law Enforcement Officer, served with great merit in his capacity as Sergeant at Arms and as a member and biennial Chairman of the United States Capitol Police Board, shepherding monumental security enhancements post September 11, 2001.

Mr. Livingood was sworn in on January 4, 1995, for the 104th Congress, making him the third longest-serving House Sergeant at Arms in United States history. Prior to 1995, Mr. Livingood was the Senior Advisor to the Director of the U.S. Secret Service, from 1989 to 1995, serving for 33 years as a special agent with the Secret Service.

Born on October 1, 1936, in Philadelphia, Mr. Livingood received a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Administration from Michigan State University. His public service began at an early age, as he served as Michigan State University's student body president in 1959. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he was appointed as a Special Agent at the Secret Service's Dallas Field Office in 1961 and held supervisory assignments at headquarters and on several protective divisions to include the Presidential Protective Division.

In 1969, Mr. Livingood was promoted to Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge of the Presidential Protection Division. Five years later, he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Protective Forces. Mr. Livingood was named Special Agent in Charge of the Houston Field Office in 1982 until his appointment as Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Training in 1986. From 1988 to 1995, he served as the Senior Advisor to three Directors.

Mr. President, Mr. Livingood is known best around the world for his introduction of the President of the United States at the State of the Union address, and he is the 36th person to hold the Sergeant at Arms office since the House of Representatives first met in New York City in 1789.

Mr. Livingood served during critical, historical and tragic events that include the fatal shootings of two United States Capitol Police officers, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and the anthrax attacks the following month in 2001.

Mr. President, during his tenure, Mr. Livingood has served with great resolution, balancing security needs while maintaining open access to the ''People's House.''

Mr. President, I congratulate Mr. Livingood on his well-earned retirement.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I wish to explain my absence from rollcall votes 230 and 231 on Thursday, December 15, 2011.

I was unable to vote yesterday because I was back in Atchison, KS, paying my respects to slain police sergeant David Enzbrenner. Officer Enzbrenner was a veteran of the Atchison Police Department but, more important, he was a loving dad and a caring husband. Although I returned to Washington today to continue the important work being done in the Senate, my thoughts and prayers continue to be with Officer Enzbrenner's family and the Atchison community.

WELCOMING HOME U.S. TROOPS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to welcome home 53 of the men and women of the Headquarters Element of the storied 25th Infantry Division, also known as Tropic Lightning, who will be returning to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii from their deployment to Iraq this Sunday, in time to join their loved ones for the holidays. I would like to recognize the entire 25th Infantry Division for their service in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past decade. I would also like to pay my respects and give my deepest condolences to the families of the 236 members of the 25th Infantry Division who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, defending the American values and freedoms we enjoy.

Although I cannot be there in person, I send my warmest aloha and heartfelt gratitude to these soldiers and their families for their many sacrifices and dutiful service to our country.

Since its activation on October 1, 1941, the 25th Infantry Division has played a significant role in every major conflict we have had. In that tradition of outstanding service, the 6 major elements of the 25th Infantry Division—the division headquarters, the 4 brigade combat teams, and the combat aviation brigade—have made a total of 19 combat deployments since 2004. Thirteen of these deployments were to Iraq and another six were to Afghanistan. In addition, three separate Tropic Lightning battalion-sized aviation task forces have deployed to Iraq.

I commend MG Bernard S. Champoux, commanding general, and CSM Ray Devens, division command sergeant major, for their exceptional service and strong leadership of the 25th Infantry Division.

With this weekend's homecoming, the 25th Infantry Division represents the last U.S. military division to leave Iraq as part of the complete withdrawal of American combat forces following the successful Iraqi campaign.

I am pleased that the war in Iraq has finally come to an end, and I urge my colleagues to remember that the full cost of war includes the extended care of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who serve so bravely. These men and women have risked their lives to protect this country in its time of need, and we must honor our Nation's commitment to them afterwards. I would like to again thank these soldiers for their service, and may God bless them and their families in Honolulu.

OFFSETTING DISASTER FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont and other the other States still reeling in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene have a huge stake in the misguided offset resolution sent to us by the House of Representatives. In fact, all Americans have a stake in this.

On the heels of unprecedented flooding this spring, the State of Vermont bore the full brunt of Irene in August. Our small State is stretched to the limit right now. Our people need the helping hand of Federal disaster recovery programs just as Vermonters, decade after decade, have always supported this safety net when other States have needed it.

These programs were already running on fumes before Irene and now the need is even greater in this tough year in which 48 States have had Federal disasters declared within their borders.

The Senate promptly started the effort to replenish the depleted disaster funds with a strong and responsible stand-alone bill in September. Our legislation is within the bounds of the budget agreement reached this summer, and after overcoming a partisan filibuster, we got that bill through the Senate in a bipartisan vote.

Now all these months later the House of Representatives sends us a smaller disaster aid bill along with a resolution that calls for the new disaster spending to be offset. In other words, undo the bipartisan budget agreement that we all agreed to back in August; change the long practice of Americans promptly helping fellow Americans in a disaster's aftermath; and pit disaster victims against those trying to get a loan to start their small business, those needing student loans, those needing nutrition and housing assistance, those developing alternative energy sources, or those performing cutting-edge research against disease.

The House resolution calling for disaster funding to be offset with across-the-board cuts is a weak and cynical response, and it should be rejected.

It is disappointing and incomprehensible that some in Congress continue to insist that assistance can only come at the cost of other programs relied upon by the American people. Some of these same voices had no problem with spending hundreds of billions of borrowed dollars on wars waged overseas, on rebuilding communities in Iraq and Afghanistan, and on giving tax breaks to the wealthiest among us. But now they insist on a different standard, different rules, for emergency recovery efforts desperately needed by Americans here at home. That is just wrong.

We need to come together as a country, as we always have in the past, to pass an emergency disaster bill that is adequate to the devastation faced by Vermonters and millions of other Americans. We are bound together as one nation, the United States. Americans help each other in time of need.

I know there are bipartisan majorities for passing a straightforward disaster relief package as we have for every other disaster in the past, but political point-scoring and my-way-or-no-way factionalism stand in the way. That is unconscionable.

Vermonters and countless others who are trying to get back on their feet after Irene and other calamities across our Nation do not have the luxury of time to waste on the temper tantrums of ideological factions in Congress. It is winter now; a harsh season in our part of the country. Some parts of Vermont already have seen over a foot of snow and more is on the way.

Statesmanship should never be out of season least of all, when our fellow Americans' livelihoods are at stake.

In the spirit of the holiday season, I continue to hope that reason and goodwill will prevail in the Senate on this ridiculous call to offset disaster relief, and on so many other issues before us that are critical to the American people.

375TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Today I rise to commemorate the 375th anniversary of the National Guard. As ceremonies are held across the country to celebrate this historic milestone, I wanted to pay tribute to our National Guard for the enormous contributions it has made to our country throughout the course of its proud history. The origin of the National Guard traces its roots back to the militias of the 13 original English colonies. The oldest units were organized on December 13, 1636, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

As the motto of the National Guard so aptly puts it, the force is ''Always Ready, Always There.'' Our Constitution bestows on the National Guard dual State and Federal missions. Whether aiding State law enforcement, responding to a national emergency or catastrophic natural disaster, or serving alongside our Active-Duty Forces overseas, the National Guard has always been and continues to be a force on which we can depend, in wartime and in peacetime.

Rhode Island has a distinguished record of National Guard service, which began in 1638 when the first colonial defensive force was established in Portsmouth, RI. The militia, which was known as the Traine Band, was formed to provide protection and security for the people. The group eventually evolved into the Rhode Island National Guard.

It was the Rhode Island militia that first engaged in offensive action against England during the lead up to the Revolutionary War. On July 19, 1769, members of the Rhode Island militia sunk the British schooner HMS Liberty in Newport. A few years later, on the night of June 10, 1772, Rhode Island volunteers organized under Captain Abraham Whipple, seized and burned the HMS Gaspee in Narragansett Bay. Then, on April 22, 1775, in response to shots fired at Lexington, MA, the Rhode Island General Assembly mobilized a 1,500-man ''Army of Observation'' to serve under the command of BG Nathaniel Greene. This force was sent to Boston to support the Continental Army in its fight for American independence. By the end of the Revolutionary War, more than 22 Rhode Island militia units had contributed to our country's glorious cause.

During the Civil War, more than 23,000 Rhode Island militiamen deployed in support of Union forces, and 16 soldiers received Medals of Honor. During the First World War, more than 3,800 members of the Rhode Island National Guard served in combat as part of the 26th ''Yankee'' Division. Furthermore, over 3,000 Rhode Island National Guard members were deployed to both the European and Pacific theaters to support operations in the Second World War. Rhode Island National Guard units also supported operations during the Korean and Vietnam wars, as well as Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

The Rhode Island National Guard has been particularly active meeting the operational demands of the post-9/11 era. Rhode Island has the second highest per capita National Guard deployment rate of all the States. It has fulfilled over 5,600 deployment requests, and many of its 3,200 members have deployed multiple times. In addition, the Rhode Island National Guard remains an indispensable asset in protecting the lives and property of Rhode Island citizens. The Guard played an instrumental role in 2010 responding to the historic floods in our State, from which we are still recovering. Today, the diverse mission of the Rhode Island National Guard is directed by MG Kevin R. McBride, adjutant general of the State of Rhode Island.

Since September 11, the National Guard has been deployed at unprecedented levels, with over 650,000 soldiers

and airmen mobilized in support of American operations overseas. In addition, thousands of National Guard members have responded to the litany of major disasters that devastated several areas of the country in the recent years. I applaud the National Guard for its vital work in protecting our country at home and abroad and commend its 375 years of dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO GUION S. BLUFORD, JR.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Guion S. Bluford, Jr. for being the 2011 recipient of the Pennsylvania Society Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement.

Mr. Bluford was born on November 22, 1942, to Guion Senior and Lolita Bluford in Philadelphia, PA. Mr. Bluford grew up in inner-city Philadelphia during a time of great prejudice and social change. As a youth he spent his free time reading about aviation technology, building model aircrafts, and dreaming of flying aircrafts.

Mr. Bluford attended Pennsylvania State University and joined the Air Force ROTC Program, receiving his FAA pilot license while still a senior in college. After graduating college in 1964 Mr. Bluford was assigned to the 556th Tactical Fighter Squadron in Vietnam and flew over 140 combat missions in Southeast Asia.

In 1978, Mr. Bluford was selected as one of NASA's class of 35 astronauts. On August 30, 1980, Mr. Bluford became America's first African American in space when he flew to orbit aboard the shuttle *Challenger*. During his career at NASA he flew on several other space missions, and when he retired in July 1993, he had logged more than 688 hours in space.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Guion S. Bluford, Jr., for his years of service to our country. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Bluford for his recent award and wish him well in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARTY PETERSON

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today I join with Idaho's senior Senator MIKE CRAPO to recognize and pay tribute to the exceptional dedication of Marty Peterson, who is retiring after 51 years of public service in our great State.

For nearly 20 years, Marty has served as the special assistant to the president of the University of Idaho. He has served seven U of I presidents during that time, giving them valuable insight into the politics of the State as he oversaw the government affairs work of the university.

Marty has an in-depth understanding of Idaho's government, having served as the budget director under Governors John Evans and Cecil Andrus. He also served on the staff of U.S. Senator Frank Church and was executive director of the Association of Idaho Cities. His counsel was always valuable and insightful.

It is no wonder, when Idaho was going to celebrate its 100th birthday in 1990, he was asked to oversee the planning and implementation of the State's centennial celebration. Twenty years later, he was the cochair of the committee that planned the rededication of Idaho's newly restored capitol building. Marty could always be counted on to deliver quality results.

His education and military service may have had something to do with his success. At the age of 17, as a junior in high school, he joined the Army National Guard. Marty served 8 years and was a staff sergeant when he was discharged.

Marty is a graduate of Columbia Basin College, the University of Idaho, and Harvard University's Senior Managers in Government Program. But through the years, Marty never stopped learning. He adapted, he studied and continued to provide good counsel to those who sought out his advice.

He consistently shares his time and expertise with community groups. Currently, he serves on the board of directors of the Foundation for Idaho History, North Idaho Chamber of Commerce, Idaho Humanities Council, and the James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy, as well as on the advisory board for the School of Journalism and Mass Media at the University of Idaho.

In addition, he is the current president of the Historic Silver City Foundation and a past president of the City Club of Boise and the Idaho Hemingway House Foundation.

As a well-known Hemingway scholar, Marty has lectured on Hemingway throughout the United States, Spain, and Cuba. He has also been very involved in the preservation of Ernest Hemingway's home in Ketchum, ID and in Cuba.

Although Marty will be retiring from the working world at the end of 2011, we know he will continue serving these and other groups throughout the State. His retirement will give him more time to spend with his wife Barb and their family and especially the grandchildren.

When people ask us what makes Idaho such a great place, we could talk about the beautiful mountains, skiing, whitewater rafting, hunting and fishing, or a myriad of other things. But in reality, it is people such as Marty Peterson who work to make Idaho even better—that is why Idaho is so great.

It is with our sincere thanks and well wishes that Senator CRAPO and I recognize Marty Peterson for his many contributions to the State of Idaho and its people. We wish him a happy and productive retirement.

ANNIVERSARY OF BELARUS ELECTION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the courageous men and women who are struggling for freedom in Belarus.

Almost 1 year ago, on December 19, 2010, elections took place in Belarus. At that time, some in the United States and Europe hoped that this vote would be a turning point for Belarus and that its authoritarian ruler, Aleksandr Lukashenko, would finally begin to pursue the political and economic reforms demanded by his people.

In fact, the December 19 election was a turning point for Belarus—but not in the way that some had hoped. It soon became obvious that the election had been egregiously rigged by the regime. In response, thousands of Belarusians from every background peacefully took to the streets in protest. It was the most significant public demonstration the country had seen in over a half decade, and the Lukashenko regime responded with violence.

On that day, Belarusian security forces detained or arrested over 600 peaceful protestors. Hundreds more were surrounded by armored tanks and beaten by thugs dispatched by the regime. The Lukashenko regime arrested seven opposition candidates who participated in the vote, severely beating one candidate. In the year that has followed the election, hundreds of people—including several Presidential candidates—have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms in sham trials that have again revealed Belarus' judicial system to be nothing more than a political tool abused by the regime. It is a system that has institutionalized torture and denies its prisoners access to family, lawyers, medical treatment, and open legal proceedings.

I should note that the peaceful protests that erupted in Belarus 1 year ago took place just 2 days after a 26-year-old man in the Tunisian town of Sidi Bouzid set himself on fire, which in turn sparked a series of peaceful protests that overthrew the long-ruling dictator in that country—starting the Arab Spring. But as the winds of change sweep across north Africa and the Middle East, ousting some of the world's most entrenched regimes, it is important for us to remember that there remains one last dictatorship in Europe; that is, the Lukashenko regime in Belarus.

Despite the extraordinary changes taking place around the world, the Lukashenko regime has sustained, and even intensified, its crackdown against its own people. This is a regime that recently outlawed nearly all forms of public speech and peaceful assembly, including silent protest. It is a regime that, instead of responding to the legitimate demands of its people, has sought to cultivate close ties with other dictatorships, like the regime in Tehran. It is a regime that, according to reports, delivered military equipment to the Qadhafi regime in Libya in February 2011 just as it prepared to slaughter its own people.

Over the past year, I have been encouraged by the close cooperation between the United States and the European Union to hold accountable those in Belarus who are responsible for the brutal crackdown there. Continued transatlantic coordination on Belarus is vital. The Euro-Atlantic community of democracies must speak with one voice to ratchet up pressure on Lukashenko. And while the United States and the EU have taken strong and important steps, including imposing travel bans on nearly 200 Belarusian officials, freezing the assets that these officials hold in the West, and both renewing and imposing new sanctions on Belarusian state-owned enterprises, more can be done.

In particular, I hope that in the weeks ahead, the United States and the EU will implement sanctions against other state-owned entities that enrich the Lukashenko regime at the expense of the Belarusian people.

Furthermore, it is critical that at a moment when the Lukashenko regime is looking for a financial lifeline to keep himself in power, the United States and our allies work together to ensure that responsible international institutions and actors—including the IMF—do not lend money to that regime. It is clear—as we have seen over the past 2 years—that such funds will only be used by Lukashenko to prop up his illegitimate and repressive rule. And I continue to urge our own government to state publicly that the United States will not support any further IMF assistance to Belarus until we see credible political and economic reforms by Belarusian authorities, beginning with the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Belarus.

At the same time we are shocked and appalled by the cruelty and thuggishness of the Lukashenko regime, we should also take note of the remarkable courage and perseverance of the Belarusian people, who press on in their struggle for greater freedom and opportunity.

Over the past year, I have been honored to meet with Belarusian opposition leaders and activists. These conversations have been extremely powerful, as I have heard directly from the men and women who are facing repression on the front lines and looking for help from us in their noble struggle.

Today, I join my colleagues in saying to the brave people in Belarus who are striving to secure their fundamental freedoms: We have not and will not forget about you and your important cause. We remember your names. We will stand in solidarity with you and in support of you until you achieve your goal, which is a free and democratic Belarus. And we believe more than ever that the day will come when Belarus will be free.

The extraordinary revolutions that are taking place across the Middle East and north Africa should remind us all that the United States does best in the world when we stand with our values and the people who share them. And there is much we can do to help the Belarusian people.

To begin with, we must work with our European allies to ensure that the financial and technical assistance we have pledged to the Belarusian opposition is disbursed and implemented as quickly as possible, particularly for groups operating inside of Belarus. And we in Washington must continue to engage with the Belarusian opposition and its emerging leaders, and lend them our support.

Let me conclude by saying that I do not know when Belarus will be free, but I have no doubt that someday it will be free. I am confident that the future of Belarus belongs not to Lukashenko and his thugs but to the Belarusian people.

Indeed, the future of Belarus belongs to the dissidents who are in jail or who are being harassed—to Ales Byalitski, the founder of Belarus' largest human rights organization who recently celebrated his 49th birthday in prison. It belongs to Alyaksandr Klaskouski, a 33-year-old former traffic police officer in Minsk who pleaded with security forces on December 19 not to use force against peaceful protestors and who himself stood between riot police and unarmed protestors. He, too, is now serving time in a maximum security prison for his efforts. The future of Belarus belongs also to Natalia Kaliada, the director of the Belarus Free Theatre, who was arrested on December 19 but continues to press on in her work—to fight dictatorship with art. Natalia does this, as she put it in January when she testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, because ''we want our spectators to think. When people start thinking, this is the most terrifying thing for a dictator.''

The future of Belarus belongs to every Belarusian who seeks a brighter future for their country—a future of democracy and opportunity. And we stand with them in their cause on this anniversary of the December 19, 2010, election—and on every anniversary to come, until Belarus is free.

TRIBUTE TO MARK JICKLING, CRS

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I want to recognize Mark Jickling, a dedicated public servant who has served as a financial economist with the Congressional Research Service and is retiring after nearly 33 years of providing expert analyses to the U.S. Congress on economic, finance and securities matters. He is widely respected in the Senate and House of Representatives, as well as among his CRS colleagues, for his broad knowledge and insights into financial and economic matters as well as his professionalism and collegiality. Thanks to his dedicated efforts, Congress has been better informed as it has sought to find legislative solutions to many of the issues facing the United States financial system.

Mr. Jickling graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and started work at the Library of Congress part-time with the Collections Management Division. His dedication and intellect led to his becoming an expert in economic matters about which he consistently delivered comprehensive, insightful and helpful analyses. He rose through the ranks to become an economist reaching the level of specialist, the highest level of analyst at CRS. He headed the Banking, Insurance, Securities and Macroeconomic Policy Section in the Government and Finance Division of CRS from 2005 to 2007, in which he oversaw the work of a dozen other analysts and specialists. He is the author or co-author of 100 CRS reports and countless confidential memos.

Mr. Jickling has worked on some of the most significant securities and banking issues facing the country. He wrote the first CRS reports on the impacts of the September 11 attacks on the markets and on the Enron scandal. At that time, he also coordinated CRS' internal ''Enron group.'' He assisted senior Congressional staff as they formulated legislative responses to the corporate accountability scandals.

From the onset of the recent financial crisis, Mr. Jickling has been instrumental in assisting Congress as we addressed the serious banking and market problems facing the country. He provided expert analysis on a daily basis to the Banking Committee and to others in Congress on housing finance, non-bank financial intermediation, financial derivatives, exotic financial products and markets, and many other issues. His dedication was shown by his working nights and weekends during this period. He significantly contributed to the quality of legislation that ultimately was enacted and cooperated effectively with Members and their staffs to produce the legislation. He was exactly the right person at the right time.

Mr. Jickling retires from the CRS having set a standard of superior service and having assisted a generation of CRS analysts in developing their skills. He leaves CRS to spend more time with his family and pursue some of his other interests, including the professional performance of music. His many accomplishments will remain a fitting tribute to his career and character.

Mr. Jickling will be greatly missed. I wish him and his family all the best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DON DIXON

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Don Dixon, who is retiring from Senate service. Don has been a trusted advisor and dear friend for many years.

Approximately 15 years ago, I was blessed to have Don join my staff as my State director of agriculture. He

brought to the position his experience as a farmer and his sincere dedication to solving challenges facing the agricultural community. Throughout his Senate service, Don has covered thousands of miles and spent countless hours meeting with constituents and ensuring that their concerns and interests are properly addressed. It has been said that anytime two farmers meet in Idaho, Don is there. This illustration, while not too far from the truth, emphasizes Don's deep personal commitment to ensuring sound representation of Idaho agriculture. For example, he has assisted with multiple farm bills, gathering input from Idahoans to craft the best policy possible, contributing throughout the drafting and providing information to farmers and ranchers when the laws were enacted. He sacrificed weeks with his family when he stayed in Washington, DC, to assist with the crafting of the 2002 farm bill. I have always been able to count on Don to literally go the extra mile for constituents.

Don's dedication and exemplary service led to his appointment to serve as the Idaho State executive director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, FSA. While this appointment, unfortunately, led to Don leaving my staff for the first time in 2007, his work on behalf of the agricultural community during his time at FSA and his return to Senate service were welcomed. I feel blessed to have once again benefited from his on-the-ground knowledge of production and agricultural policy for the past 3 years.

His enthusiasm and sincere desire to do all that he can for people are part of what make Don exceptional. His unsurpassed energy, faith, and optimism also set him apart. The humor and get-up-and-go Don brings to any challenge has enabled many accomplishments for Idahoans, and Don is widely respected for his integrity and devotion to achieving results.

Although for many, retirement provides time to slow down and relax, knowing Don, he will likely work as hard in his retirement as he does on the job. ''Idle'' is not a word in Don's vocabulary. However, I hope that retirement provides Don with more time to spend with his family whom he loves so much: his wonderful wife Georgia; his children Lucinda, ''Cindy,'' Lorin, Paul, and Tobin; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Lucky for me, Don is also one of my neighbors in my hometown of Idaho Falls, so I hope to see him often. We have shared many laughs over the years, and I look forward to sharing many more.

Don, you are model public servant, and I feel very fortunate to have benefitted from your wise counsel and hard work for so many years. I wish you the happy retirement you so greatly deserve for your years of dedicated service. Don, thank you for all that you have done on behalf of Idahoans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN OTIS CARROLL

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the public service of Mr. Franklin Otis Carroll, who is retiring from the U.S. Forest Service after 45 years of dedicated service to protecting our Nation's natural resources.

Frank was born on September 18, 1952, to Franklin and Betty Carroll, in Flagstaff, AZ. Blessed with a gift for expressing his opinion, Frank believed early in life that he was destined to pursue a career in the legal profession. But as he worked to pay for school, he took a job with the National Park Service as a firefighter at southern Arizona's Saguaro National Monument. From then on, he sought to follow in his father's footsteps and care for the lands we all enjoy. He has since served in four National Parks and in Forest Service Regions 2, 3, and 4—travelling from Arizona to Idaho to Minnesota before settling in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Frank earned a degree in history and English at the University of New Mexico and a Masters Degree in Public Administration at Boise State. He and Audrey, his wife of nearly 34 years, raised three girls—Jessica, Lauren and Merri—and are looking forward to spending more time with their seven grandchildren.

Over the years, Frank has worked tirelessly to protect our public lands, first working on hand crews, then working his way up the ranks to becoming a top level fire boss. He has been a respected spokesman for forest health and land management practices that keep our lands green as we battle the Mountain Pine Beetle. Proactive in educating the public about our lands, Frank is the first person to pick up the phone to explain what is happening in the forest. During his tenure, Frank has built lifelong friendships with a wide variety of folks that continue to this day.

Rick Cables, a former Regional Forester for Region 2 who has known Frank for 35 years, describes Frank as, ''one of the most passionate and dedicated individuals in protecting our public lands that I have ever known. He is a talented communicator whose unique gift for communicating allows him to convey complex forest issues in simple terms so all can understand. When the Black Hills National Forest was looking to establish its new Forest Advisory Board, I could think of no one better to help in the process. I remember telling the supervisor at the time, John Twiss, he's someone that will push you harder to communicate more than you may want.''

Frank's life work has been the protection of public lands and he has done so with an intense love of the places where he lives. It is because of the work of people like Frank Carroll that the forest industry continues to thrive and maintain its crucial role throughout South Dakota.

I am proud to recognize and honor Frank's service to the United States Forest Service and am delighted to join with his family and friends in congratulating him on his retirement. I wish Frank and Audrey all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.•

REMEMBERING VIRGINIA GABRIEL

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Virginia Gabriel of Clarks Summit, PA, who passed away on September 26, 2011, at the age of 93. To those who knew and loved her, she will forever remain an inspiration, a motivator, and a role model.

It is no coincidence that Virginia was born into what has been called the greatest generation. Like so many others of her generation, she and her husband Steven responded when the country called on them during a time of great need. Their commitment to the Nation was visible on the day of their wedding. As they exchanged their vows on the altar, Steven's Navy unit waited outside for the ceremony to end, at which point he joined them and together they departed for their assignment, which ultimately took them to the Pacific theater. Like Steven, Virginia also engendered a sense of social responsibility towards our Nation. Remaining stateside during World War II, Virginia did what she could to help in the war effort. This commitment to help our Nation took her to Bridgeport, CT, where she secretly worked at the Singer sewing machine factory throughout the war manufacturing bomber sights for American aircraft.

Beyond Virginia's devotion to our country in its time of need, she will always be remembered for her abiding commitment to her family and by those who profited from her presence. She made life better for everyone around her by lifting their spirits through her kindness, generosity, laughter, and memorable smile. Her love of family and their awareness of that love was an incalculable source of strength which propelled them forward every day. Evoking the same sentiment that Senator Edward Kennedy had for his brother Robert, Virginia provided strength in time of trouble, wisdom in time of uncertainty, and sharing in time of happiness. The manner in which Virginia lived her life, and expected her family to live theirs, leaves behind a legacy that ensures she will always be by their side.•

RECOGNIZING KAKE, ALASKA

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate 100 years of Kake, AK, as an incorporated first-class city. Kake Day, on January 8, 2012, will acknowledge the community's accomplishments, ranging from

government to education, as well as recognize the village as a Native community rich with history of the Kake Tlingit ways.

The Tlingit people have inhabited the region of Kake for thousands of years, controlling the trade routes around Kuiu and Kupreanof islands, enjoying the territory, raising families, and living off the land. The Tlingit of the Kake region gained a reputation among early explorers as being strong and powerful. Some encounters with early European and American explorers have been documented by historians as resulting in occasional skirmishes.

In the early part of the 20th century, Kake began to physically transform. Stores were built, a government school was installed, and a post office was established in 1904. Kake also became the first Native village to organize under Federal law, resulting in U.S. citizenship for community residents. In 1912, Kake was incorporated as a first-class city government in the territory of Alaska. This event is now known as Kake Day, and it is the 100th anniversary of that event that I wish to commemorate today.

Kake Day is not only a celebration of past accomplishments but also a celebration of the history of the Kake Tlingit ways. Kake has blended Western ways and the rich cultural traditions of its past to make Kake into the city it is today.

Recognized tribes—the Organized Village of Kake and the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska—are essential components of Kake, alongside entities such as the Inside Passage Electric Cooperative. Important food sources link the old and the new ways of life, including salmon, halibut, shellfish, deer, bear, waterfowl, and berries.

Nearby, standing on a bluff overlooking Kake, is the world's largest totem pole, which serves as a reminder of the city's history and as a guide moving into the future. Standing at 132 feet, this properly sanctioned totem pole was carved by the Chilkats in 1967 for Alaska's centennial.

On the 100 year celebration of Kake Day, Alaskans will enjoy a parade, a protocol workshop, and song and dance featuring Keex' Kwan dancers. I am sure the event will be memorable for all involved.●

TRIBUTE TO LEE OSTERHOLM

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss the life of a great American, a fellow Montanan, and a true patriot who served his country proudly in World War II, Army SGT Lee Osterholm, a native of Butte, MT.

Born on April 24, 1919, Lee served in the Border Patrol in Texas prior to World War II. When our country was thrust into war, Lee answered the call of duty, enlisting in the U.S. Army on March 8, 1943, and was soon on the battlefields of Central Europe fighting for our very freedom.

Between 1943 and 1945 Lee's unwavering commitment to duty and courage under fire was evident as he led men into combat throughout the European theater and performed superbly in both the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Air Corps. Sadly he never received the recognition he deserved once the war ended and he was discharged on February 9, 1946.

Over 65 years later, his country is finally recognizing Lee's accomplishments by awarding him the Bronze Star posthumously. I ask unanimous consent that the citation to accompany this award be printed in the RECORD.●

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to Sergeant Lee Osterholm, United States Army, Service Number 39–616–345: ''For exceptionally meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces while assigned as Reconnaissance Sergeant, Company H, 387th Infantry Regiment, 97th Infantry Division, in the Central Europe Campaign, World War II. Sergeant Lee Osterholm's outstanding performance of duty, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to mission accomplishment in ground combat in an active war zone were vital to successful combat operations in the Central Europe Campaign. His contributions and dedication to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself, the 97th Infantry Division, and the United States Army in World War II.''

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 and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

At 4:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that.the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 278. An act to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2867) to reauthorize the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

At 5:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 94. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 16, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H. J. Res. 94. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed subsequent to adjournment by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3094. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 16, 2011, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 384. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

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–4354. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to test and evaluation budgets that are not certified by the Director, Test Resource Management Center (TRMC), to be adequate by March 31 of the year preceding the fiscal year for which such budgets are proposed; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4355. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition,

Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report indicating that a report relative to the Department of Defense's purchases from foreign entities for fiscal year 2011 is not yet available and is expected to be submitted by April 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4356. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Emergency Solutions Grants Program and Consolidated Plan Conforming Amendments'' (RIN2506–AC29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4357. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Defining 'Homeless' '' (RIN2506–AC26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4358. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Certification of Part 23 Turbofan—and Turbojet-Powered Airplanes and Miscellaneous Amendments'' ((RIN2120–AJ22)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0738)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4359. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Harmonization of Various Airworthiness Standards for Transport Category Airplanes—Flight Rules'' ((RIN2120–AJ72)(Docket No. FAA–2010–0310)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4360. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Damage Tolerance and Fatigue Evaluation of Composite Rotorcraft Structures'' ((RIN2120–AJ52)(Docket No. FAA–2009–0660)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4361. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Evansville, IN'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2011–0429)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4362. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Driggs, ID'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2011–0837)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4363. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2011–0971)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4364. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (139); Amdt. No. 3452'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4365. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (50); Amdt. No. 3453'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4366. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (36); Amdt. No. 3454'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4367. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (27); Amdt. No. 3455'' (RIN2120–AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4368. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Alternate Passenger Rail Service Pilot Program'' (RIN2130–AC19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4369. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the Department of Transportation in the position of Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4370. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''The National Initiative for Increasing Seat Belt Use: Buckle Up America Campaign''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4371. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rural Business Investment Program'' (RIN0570–AA80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4372. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Golden Parachute and Indemnification Payments; Technical Correction'' (RIN3133–AD73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4373. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Development Revolving Loan Fund Access for Credit Unions'' (RIN3133–AD91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4374. A communication from the Associate Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Environmental Policy Act Compliance for Proposed Tower Registrations; Effects of Communications Towers on Migratory Birds'' (FCC 11–181) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4375. A joint communication from the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, and Chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations, transmitting a report entitled ''A Decade Later: A Call for TSA Reform''; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4376. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Turbomeca S.A. Arriel 2B Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–1031)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4377. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; ATR–GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–0721)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4378. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace LP (Type Certificate Previously Held by Israel Aircraft Industries, Ltd.) Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–0716)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4379. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211–524G2–19; –524G2–T–19; –524G3–19; –524G3–T–19; 524H2–19; –524H2–T–19; –524H–36; and –524H–T–36 Turbofan'' ((RIN2120–AA64)(Docket No. FAA–2011–1109)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4380. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Turboshaft Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–1159)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4381. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–1232)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4382. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Class E Airspace; Blythe, CA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2011–0585)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4383. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Luray, VA'' ((RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2011–0785)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–4384. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's annual report on the administration of the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4385. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2012 Standard Mileage Rates'' (Notice 2012–1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4386. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Recurring Item Exception to the Economic Performance Requirement'' (Rev. Rul. 2012–1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4387. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment involving the transfer of F–110–GE–132 jet engines to the United Arab Emirates in the amount of $14,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4388. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed export of defense articles, to include technical and defense services to the Netherlands related to Airframe Doors, Weapons Bay Doors, Engine Inlet Duct Skins and Engine Inlet Duct Assemblies of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft in the amount of $100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4389. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to support the design, development, testing and qualification of weapon kits to be installed on UH-60M helicopters owned and operated by the Armed Forces of the United Arab Emirates in the amount of $50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4390. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea for the manufacture, assembly, inspection, and test of F404–GE–102 aircraft engines in the amount of $100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4391. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a proposed revision of the U.S. Munitions List Category XIX in part 121 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4392. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a proposed revision of the U.S. Munitions List Category VII in part 121 of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4393. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services for the NATO Active Layered Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence Systems Engineering and Integration Contract in the amount of $100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4394. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Establishment of Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO OP) Program'' (RIN0938–AQ98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–4395. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4396. A communication from the Acting Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4397. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the audit report for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 financial statements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4398. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Ezogabine into Schedule V'' (Docket No. DEA–354) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4399. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Carisoprodol'' (Docket No. DEA–333) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 16, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4400. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the first quarter of fiscal year 2011 quarterly report of the Department of Justice's Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CASEY, from the Joint Economic Committee:

Special Report entitled ''The 2011 Joint Economic Report'' (Rept. No. 112–101).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 1134. A bill to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values.

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1855. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize various programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act.

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 Mr. DEMINT:

S. 2008. A bill to repeal certain provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, title 17 of the United States Code, and the regulations of the Federal Communications Commission that intervened in the television marketplace, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2009. A bill to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2010. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio):

S. 2011. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide certain port authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2012. A bill to require that labels on children's sleepwear that indicate the sleepwear is flame resistant to include the chemical name of the flame retardant used, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2013. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, the body of laws of the United States dealing with the National Guard, to recognize the City of Salem, Massachusetts, as the Birthplace of the National Guard of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2014. A bill to reform the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 2015. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the Powell Recreation District in the State of Wyoming; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2016. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase access to healthy food for families, to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to increase access to credit for small and new farmers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2017. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2018. A bill to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2019. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in certain residential areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2020. A bill to protect all school children against harmful and life-threatening seclusion and restraint practices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY:

S. 2021. A bill to nullify certain regulations regarding the mandatory replacement of certain traffic signs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2022. A bill to establish a demonstration program to test the viability of community integrated small-house nursing care homes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2023. A bill to establish a safety performance rating system for motorcoach services and operations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2024. A bill to make technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2025. A bill to postpone the remapping of areas protected by certain levees for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2026. A bill to ensure that representative payees under the Social Security program are subject to criminal background checks; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 228

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to preempt regulation of, action relating to, or consideration of greenhouse gases under Federal and common law on enactment of a Federal policy to mitigate climate change.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 431, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 707

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 707, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for puppies.

S. 1096

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1096, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under the Medicare part B program by extending the minimum payment amount for bone mass measurement under such program through 2013.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 1318

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to enhance pre- and post-adoptive support services.

S. 1403

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1403, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1597

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1597, a bill to provide assistance for the modernization, renovation, and repair of elementary school and secondary school buildings in public school districts and community colleges across the United States in order to support the achievement of improved educational outcomes in those schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1833, a bill to provide additional time for compliance with, and coordinating of, the compliance schedules for certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

S. 1903

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1903, a bill to prohibit commodities and securities trading based on nonpublic information relating to Congress, to require additional reporting by Members and employees of Congress of securities transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1930, a bill to prohibit earmarks.

S. 1941

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to prohibit operators of civil aircraft of the United States from participating in the European Union's emissions trading scheme, and for other purposes.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to provide level funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

S. 1988

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1988, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to consider private landownership and private use of land in issuing hydropower licenses, and for other purposes.

S. 1994

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1994, a bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

S. 2003

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2003, a bill to clarify that an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority shall not authorize the detention without charge or trial of a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the troops who defended Bataan during World War II.

S. RES. 310

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 310, a resolution designating 2012 as the ''Year of the Girl'' and congratulating Girl Scouts of the USA on its 100th anniversary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2014. A bill to reform the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Postal Investment Act of 2011 which lays out many ideas to help strengthen the United States Postal Service through investment and innovation.

For many years, I have been an advocate for the Postal Service, its workers, and importantly, postal customers. The Postal Service represents a multibillion dollar industry on which all Americans rely for delivery of mail and packages. Unfortunately, in recent years, the downturn in the overall economy has negatively impacted the postal business, exacerbating a decline in the mail because of electronic diversion.

The 21st Century Postal Service Act, S. 1789, passed in November by the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, contains many needed postal reforms and sensible compromises. Unfortunately, that bill also contained an unrelated measure reducing benefits for disabled and injured federal workers. As Chairman of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee, this issue concerned me enough that I had to vote against reporting the bill to the full Senate. However, I did think the bill contained important provisions that will help the Postal Service and I look forward to further debate. I am introducing the Postal Investment Act to add to that conversation. While this bill is not a comprehensive approach that can rescue the Postal Service on its own, it represents several new ideas that have not yet been debated.

Since 2006, we have required the Postal Service to pay roughly $5 billion per year in to an account to prefund its retiree health benefit liability. This is a payment that no other agency, and few private sector companies, must make. While prefunding this liability was a worthy goal, and it addressed an accounting problem in the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, it is crippling the Postal Service financially. The core of the Postal Investment Act would restructure the retirement health benefit prefunding requirement and allow for the funds set aside against the future liability to be invested in a diverse mix of government and non-government securities, instead of only in government securities as is now the case.

There are promising precedents for investing funds in this way in the Federal Government. In 2001, we passed the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act, which created a trust fund to invest railroad employee retirement assets in non-government securities. Assets of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation also are invested in a diversified manner. Even in the turbulent economic times of the past few years, these funds have seen healthy returns on average, at a much higher rate than government securities alone.

I want to emphasize that the funds invested are there to cover a future liability to provide benefits to workers, some of whom have not been hired yet. Because of the long time horizon and significant assets of this fund, I believe that diversifying its investment would mean positive growth for the fund over time, and would bring it in line with many private sector retirement accounts. If we want the Postal Service to act more like a business, we could start by allowing it similar flexibility.

In addition to investing the fund, my bill would also suspend payments to the prefunding account in any years in which the Postal Service does not have the profits to invest. Unfortunately, under current law, the fund which was set up to insure against future default of the Postal Service is the very thing putting the Postal Service on the brink of default. I believe this new approach is a responsible way forward, which also recognizes the legitimate goal of prefunding this liability over a longer term.

Just as importantly, the Postal Service needs more flexibility in its business model to innovate. My bill contains several provisions to accelerate innovation in the Postal Service's products. Many of these are based on recommendations provided to Congress in a Postal Regulatory Commission, PRC, report released earlier this year. The bill would allow for pricing flexibilities for increased premium services subject to performance requirements. It would also explicitly allow the Postal Service, through the PRC, to create new classes of mail to meet evolving customer demands. For instance, there may be a market for a product with the speed of first class mail, but with none of the additional services that are part of first class. The bill also encourages the further development of experimental products to find new sources of revenue.

In order to create more accountability for product innovation, the bill would require the Postmaster General to designate a Chief Product Innovation officer to come up with new ideas and keep the public better informed of what the Postal Service is doing to find new products and services. My bill would also require more focus on retaining revenues for existing products by reducing uncollected postage.

Finally, my bill contains several provisions related to the postal workforce. Like several other proposals introduced already, the bill would allow the Postal Service access to excess payments it has made over the years to the Federal Employee Retirement System. It would use those funds first to offer voluntary retirement incentives to employees to help right-size the workforce.

The bill also contains a provision which was developed after we were informed that postal workers may not be taking full advantage of the benefits of Medicare after they reach the age of eligibility. The 21st Century Postal Service Act originally contained a provision which would have shifted costs from the Postal Service to the Medicare program and postal retirees by requiring eligible retirees to sign up for Medicare Parts A and B, and reducing the Federal Employees Health Benefit package available to them. Instead, my bill would ask the Postal Service to work with the Office of Personnel Management and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services to educate the postal workforce about how the Medicare program can work to enhance their existing health benefits.

To address concerns that have been expressed about how the Postal Service works with its employee unions and management organizations on collective bargaining and consultation rights, the Postal Innovation Act offers ways to strengthen these relationships. It contains a provision clarifying arbitrators' broad authority to consider the factors he or she deems relevant should collective bargaining with a union fail. It also contains a provision clarifying the consultation process for managers, supervisors, and postmasters. In the case of labor and management agreeing to any future workforce reductions, the bill also clarifies that the process would be subject to existing procedures for other Federal employees.

Additionally, as the postal workforce has begun making concessions on pay and benefits and other contributions to the organization's solvency, this bill contains a provision intended to ensure that those at the very top of the Postal Service share in the sacrifice. This provision is modeled on an amendment drafted by Senator TESTER that was discussed but never settled on during Committee consideration of postal reform legislation. Currently, the Postmaster General and several other top executives at the Postal Service make more than $200,000 per year, in addition to bonuses, deferred compensation, and other benefits. I believe that running the Postal Service is public service, and the Postal Service simply cannot afford to treat the top management like corporate executives, especially when postal employees and so many other Americans face pay freezes. As important as his duties are, I believe it is wrong for the Postmaster General to be paid more than the Secretary of Defense. My bill would tie the top pay at the Postal Service to the Executive Level schedule used to determine pay for Federal executives.

I believe that the provisions I have outlined in this bill will serve as important ideas as we move forward with comprehensive postal reform. It is my sincere hope that we can work out our differences on the 21st Century Postal Service Act, which would be a workable proposal to address the future of the Postal Service without its flawed workforce provisions.

As we continue this debate, I hope to offer these ideas as ways to further strengthen the Postal Service and show my commitment to preserving that service for all Americans well into the future. I ask my colleagues to consider the proposals I have put forward and work with me and all members who have their own proposals to help enact lasting improvements for the United States Postal Service.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2016. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase access to healthy food for families, to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to increase access to credit for small and new farmers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, over the last 10 months, I have been working with a diverse group of people in my State on ways to get healthier food and more local agricultural products to consumers throughout the country. Our group included folks from every part of the State, from gleaners to cattle ranchers to pear growers. Today, I am introducing legislation based on my discussions with that agricultural advisory group. What we came up with is a series of proposals that I believe will create agricultural jobs, increase access to healthy locally grown fruits and vegetables and reduce paperwork for small farmers while improving access to Federal loans.

This legislation, the Fresh Regional Eating for Schools and Health Act, or FRESH, will provide healthier choices for recipients of Federal programs, push the U.S. Department of Agriculture's, USDA's, technology agenda forward, increase flexibility for State and local stakeholders, and provide better tools for small and beginning farmers.

For too long, the Federal Government has pushed one size fits all solutions when it comes to nutrition and school lunches. That is why this bill allows States to put forward innovative approaches to increase nutrition outcomes for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, beneficiaries. Let me make it clear: under this waiver, no benefits will be reduced, and eligibility requirements will not be changed. But States will be allowed to provide incentives for eating healthy for SNAP recipients, and help those folks meet the nutritional guidelines the Federal Government has put out.

Another area where flexibility is needed is in the school lunch program. Right now, over $1 billion goes to Oregon schools to purchase food for school lunches from a USDA commodity warehouse. Meanwhile, I have heard time and time again from school lunch administrators in Oregon that they would prefer to use that money locally to purchase the healthy fruits and vegetables that are so plentiful in our State. This bill would give them the flexibility to use half of what they now get from USDA to buy local agriculture products. This approach not only enables schools to buy healthier food for their students but also helps keep that money in their local economy and support the family farmers down the road.

This bill also moves USDA nutrition programs into the 21st century when it comes to technology. It would push USDA to allow using smartphones and tablet technology to accept SNAP benefits, just as they can accept debit and credit cards today. This will open up access for SNAP beneficiaries to roadside food stands and farmers markets, and encourage innovation within the agency. SNAP recipients would also be allowed to use online grocery stores to purchase foods—a hugely helpful option for busy moms or elderly folks for whom a grocery store is just too hard to get to. For the WIC program, state agencies will be allowed to use technologies like videoconferencing to keep costs low when it comes to training and certification, particularly for stores in rural areas.

Folks will also get a better sense of how the over $70 billion a year taxpayers fund SNAP with is being spent if this bill passes. It requires companies that take in over $1 million a year from the SNAP program to provide the Federal Government with a receipt of just what they have provided.

For small farmers, this bill suspends the 15-year limit for farmers to use FSA-guaranteed operating loans and the 7-year limit for them to use FSA direct operating loans. By suspending these time limits indefinitely, farmers will have more access to these critical capital tools. It includes creation of a streamlined micro-loan program that will allow small farmers who just need a quick loan to repair their truck or buy some feed to borrow up to $5,000 on an expedited basis and with reduced paperwork.

For beginning farmers, this legislation provides an alternative to the requirement that they need three years of farm management experience to get direct loans to buy farm lands. Instead, it allows the completion of college degrees related to business and agriculture to be considered a substitute for hands-on experience. For example, Horticulture or Agricultural Business Management degrees would be acceptable as an alternative. This will give young folks more opportunities to get the capital needed to start a farm.

I am really proud of the efforts the Oregonians on my agricultural advisory committee made in helping provide common sense solutions for nutrition and farming programs. I want to thank them for helping to create these

proposals, and I am going to work hard with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we move to the next farm bill to include these ideas.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2017. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act. The Democracy Restoration Act, or DRA, had been introduced in previous Congresses by former Senator Russ Feingold of Wisconsin and I am proud to follow his example. I want to thank Senator DURBIN for joining me as an original co-sponsor of this legislation.

As the late Senator Kennedy often said, civil rights is the ''unfinished business'' of America. The Democracy Restoration Act would restore voting rights in federal elections to approximately 5 million Americans who have been released from prison and are back living in their communities.

After the Civil War, Congress enacted and the states ratified the Fifteenth Amendment, which provides that ''the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.''

Unfortunately, many states passed laws during the Jim Crow period after the Civil War to make it more difficult for newly-freed slaves to vote in elections. Such laws included poll taxes, literacy tests, and disenfranchisement measures. Some disenfranchisement measures applied to misdemeanor convictions and in practice could result in lifetime disenfranchisement, even for individuals that successfully reintegrated into their communities as law-abiding citizens.

It took Congress and the states nearly another century to eliminate the poll tax, upon the ratification of the Twenty-Fourth Amendment in 1964. The Amendment provides that ''the rights of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.''

Shortly thereafter Congress enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which swept away numerous State laws and procedures that had denied African-Americans and other minorities their constitutional right to vote. For example, the Act outlawed the use of literacy or history tests that voters had to pass before registering to vote or casting their ballot. The act specifically prohibits states from imposing any ''voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure . . . to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.'' Congress overwhelmingly reauthorized the Act in 2006, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush.

In 2011, I am concerned that there are still several areas where the legacy of Jim Crow laws and state disenfranchisement statutes lead to unfairness in Federal elections. First, state laws governing the restoration of voting rights vary widely throughout the country, such that persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights, while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently. Second, these state disenfranchisement laws have a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities. Third, this patchwork of state laws results in the lack of a uniform standard for eligibility to vote in Federal elections, and leads to an unfair disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on where an individual lives.

In 35 States, convicted individuals may not vote while they are on parole. In 10 States, a conviction can result in life-time disenfranchisement. Several States requires prisoners to seek discretionary pardons from Governors, or action by the parole or pardon board, in order to regain their right to vote. Several States deny the right to vote to individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors. States are slowly moving or repeal or loosen many of these barriers to voting for ex-prisoners. But studies show that a growing number of African-American men, for example, will be disenfranchised at some point in their life, partly due to mandatory minimum sentencing laws that have a disproportionate impact on minorities. Congress recently addressed part of this problem by enacting the Fair Sentencing Act to partially reduce the sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine convictions. While I welcome these steps, I believe that Congress should take stronger action now to remedy this problem.

The legislation would restore voting rights to prisoners after their release from incarceration. It requires that prisons receiving federal funds notify people about their right to vote in federal elections when they are leaving prison, sentenced to probation, or convicted of a misdemeanor. The bill authorizes the Department of Justice and individuals harmed by violation of this Act to sue to enforce its provisions. The bill generally provides State election officials with a grace period to resolve voter eligibility complaints without a lawsuit before an election.

The legislation is narrowly crafted to apply to federal elections, and retains the States' authorities to generally establish voting qualifications. This legislation is therefore consistent with Congressional authority under the Constitution and voting rights statutes, as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am pleased that this legislation has been endorsed by a large coalition of public interest organizations, including: civil rights and reform organizations; religious and faith-based organizations; and law enforcement and criminal justice organizations. In particular I want to thank the Brennan Center for Justice, the ACLU, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the NAACP for their work on this legislation.

This legislation is ultimately designed to reduce recidivism rates and help reintegrate ex-prisoners back into society. When prisoners are released, they are expected to obey the law, get a job, and pay taxes as they are rehabilitated and reintegrated into their community. With these responsibilities and obligations of citizenship should also come the rights of citizenship, including the right to vote.

In 2007, President George W. Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, after overwhelming approval and strong bipartisan support in Congress. The legislation expanded the Prison Re-Entry Initiative, by providing job training, placement services, transitional housing, drug treatment, medical care, and faith-based mentoring. At the signing ceremony, President Bush said: ''We believe that even those who have struggled with a dark past can find brighter days ahead. One way we act on that belief is by helping former prisoners who have paid for their crimes. We help them build new lives as productive members of our society.''

The Democracy Restoration Act is fully consistent with the goals of the Second Chance Act, as Congress and the States seek to reduce recidivism rates, strengthen the quality of life in our communities and make them safer, and reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

DECEMBER 16, 2011.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We, the undersigned organizations, a coalition of civil rights, social and criminal justice, and other legal and advocacy organizations, are writing to urge your support and co-sponsorship of the Democracy Restoration Act of 2011, a bill that seeks to restore voting rights in federal elections to people who are out of prison and living in the community. The current patchwork of laws that disfranchise people with criminal records has created an inconsistent and unfair federal electoral process, perpetuating entrenched racial discrimination. As organizations dedicated to promoting democracy and justice as well as equal rights for all Americans, we strongly support passage of this legislation.

Currently, 5.3 million American citizens are denied the right to vote because they have a criminal conviction in their past. Four million of these people are out of prison, living in the community, paying taxes and raising families; yet they remain disfranchised for years, often decades, and sometimes for life. The United States is one of the few western democratic nations that

excludes such large numbers of people from the democratic process. Congressional action is needed to restore voting rights in federal elections to the millions of Americans who have been released from incarceration, but continue to be denied their ability to fully participate in civic life. Fortunately, Senator Ben Cardin and Representative John Conyers are lead sponsors of the Democracy Restoration Act of 2011, which is intended to address these injustices.

Criminal disfranchisement laws are rooted in the Jim Crow era. They were enacted alongside poll taxes and literacy tests and were intended to keep African Americans from voting. By 1900, 38 states denied voting rights to people with criminal convictions, most of which disfranchised people until they received a pardon. The intended effects of these laws continue to this day. Nationwide 1-3% of African-American men have lost the right to vote. If current incarceration rates continue, three in ten of the next generation of African American men will lose the right to vote at some point in their lifetimes. This racial disparity also impacts the families of those who are disfranchised and the communities in which they reside by diminishing their collective political voice.

In this country, voting is a national symbol of political equality and full citizenship. When a citizen is denied this right and responsibility, his or her standing as a full and equal member of our society is called into question. The responsibilities of citizenship—working, paying taxes and contributing to one's community— are duties conferred upon those reentering society. To further punish individuals who are back in the community by denying them a right of citizenship counters the expectation that citizens have rehabilitated themselves after a conviction. The United States should not be a country where the effects of past mistakes have countless consequences—and no opportunity for redress.

Passage of the Democracy Restoration Act of 2011 will ensure that all Americans living in their communities will have the opportunity to participate in our electoral process. A strong, vibrant democracy requires the broadest possible base of voter participation, and allowing all persons who have completed their prison time to vote is the best way to ensure the greatest level of participation.

We urge you to support the passage of the Democracy Restoration Act of 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Deborah J. Vagins of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office or Nicole Austin-Hillery of the Brennan Center for Justice.

Sincerely,

American Civil Liberties Union; APIA Vote; Brennan Center for Justice; Center for the Study of the American Electorate; CitiWide Harm Reduction; Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism; Crossroad Bible Institute; Demos; Desiree Alliance; Drug Policy Alliance; Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii; Fair Elections Legal Network; The Fortune Society's David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy; Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy; International CURE; Law Enforcement Against Prohibition; Lawyers' Committee For Civil Rights Under Law; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Maryland CURE; NAACP; NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.; New Mexico Women's Justice Project; A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing); North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition; NORML; The Office of Social Justice, Christian Reformed Church of North America (CRCNA); ProjectVote; Queers for Economic Justice; South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT); State Rep. Edward J. Orlett (Ret) -Ohio; StoptheDrugWar.org; The Sentencing Project; Women With A Vision, Inc.

DECEMBER 16, 2011

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We, the undersigned religious organizations, reflecting diverse faith traditions, in one voice write to urge you to support and co-sponsor the Democracy Restoration Act, a bill which seeks to restore federal voting rights to millions of Americans living and working in our communities who have been disenfranchised because of a criminal conviction in their past. As people of faith, we believe all people are created in God's image. We are deeply concerned that state disenfranchisement laws continue to deprive our neighbors of their fundamental right to vote and relegate them to second-class citizenship.

From Joseph saving untold numbers from famine, to Peter being the rock upon which Christ's church was built, our scriptures bear powerful witness of the great achievements that can be made by persons who have spent time in prison. It is consistent with the best of our democratic values and our moral heritage to encourage former prisoners to participate constructively with their communities in ways such as voting.

Accordingly, we join the many Americans who believe that continuing to deny the franchise to millions of our fellow citizens who have rejoined our communities is unwise and unjust. Our support for the Democracy Restoration Act rests squarely on our obligation to be merciful and forgiving, our commitment to treat others with the respect and dignity that God's children deserve, and our steadfast belief in the human capacity for redemption.

We applaud your efforts to restore the franchise to persons who have been released from prison, and we urge you to pass the Democracy Restoration Act.

Yours truly,

The Aleph Institute, an organization for Jewish renewal; Christian Reformed Church of North America; Crossroad Bible Institute; Evangelicals for Social Action; The Institute for Prison Ministries at the Billy Graham Center; Masjid An-Nur, an Islamic center in Minneapolis, MN; Mennonite Central Committee; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference; NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby; Presbyterian Church USA, Office of Public Witness, Washington, DC; Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.; Restorative Justice Ministries Network of North America; Sojourners, a Christian ministry based in Washington, DC; United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries; The United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society; Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.

DECEMBER 16, 2011

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We, the undersigned law enforcement and criminal justice leaders, urge you to support and co-sponsor the Democracy Restoration Act, a bill which seeks to restore federal voting rights to the nearly four million Americans living, working and paying taxes in our communities who have been disenfranchised because of a criminal conviction in their past. We support the restoration of voting rights because continuing to disenfranchise individuals after release from prison is ineffective law enforcement policy and violates core principles of democracy and equality.

There is no credible evidence that denying voting rights to people after release from prison does anything to reduce crime. In our judgment, just the opposite is true. Every year over 600,000 people leave prison. We must find new and effective ways to foster reintegration back into the community and prevent recidivism. We believe that bringing people into the political process makes them stakeholders in the community and helps steer former offenders away from future crimes.

The hallmark of a democratic government is that it reflects the views of the governed, views that are most readily expressed through the ballot box. As law enforcement and criminal justice officials, we are deeply committed to securing our system of American democracy. Carving a segment of the community out of the democratic process is inconsistent with America's best traditions and highest values.

People who commit crimes must and will serve all terms of their sentence. But once the criminal justice system has determined that they are ready to return to the community, they should receive both the rights and responsibilities that come with the status of being a citizen. Restoring the right to vote is simply good law enforcement policy.

To protect basic public safety and strengthen the core of our democracy, we urge you to use your leadership to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

American Correctional Association; Association of Paroling Authorities International; American Probation and Parole Association; James H. Austen; Blacks in Law Enforcement of America; Correctional Association of New York; Charles J. Hynes, District Attorney, Kings County, New York; International Community Corrections Association; Doug Jones; Peg Lautenschlager; Jorge Montes, Principal at Montes & Associates; Oklahoma Department of Corrections; Police Foundation; Providence Police Department; Rhode Island Department of Corrections.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2019. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to prescribe regulations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in certain residential areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011, which is cosponsored by Senator BOXER.

This legislation is very simple. It directs the Federal Aviation Administration to develop and enforce regulations to control helicopter noise and improve helicopter safety above Los Angeles.

FAA must complete the regulations within three years, in consultation with the local community, and it must include an exemption for public safety aircraft.

The bill is a companion to legislation with the same name introduced by Representative BERMAN.

This legislation is long overdue.

Under current law, helicopter pilots can and do fly practically wherever they want above Los Angeles, and no agency limits their activity.

The Federal Aviation Administration controls our Nation's airspace exclusively, but it imposes no restrictions on helicopter flight paths, elevation, or hovering.

If a helicopter wants to hover over a home in Los Angeles for an hour, it can.

One neighborhood leader told the New York Times this summer that he was afraid of complaining too loudly about the noise helicopters create because he feared helicopter operators would retaliate, legally, by parking over his house.

City officials and State agencies permit the location of helicopter landing pads, but they have absolutely no power to govern what the chopper does once it takes off. They can do nothing to discourage tourist pilots from flying low and banking hard for the promise of a tip.

Bottom Line: This is, for all intents and purposes, an unregulated industry.

This reality is increasingly frustrating to Los Angeles residents who are experiencing what many people say is the most intense period of helicopter use in memory.

Every day brings a steady swarm of helicopters buzzing above Southern California's bedroom communities in what many officials say are greater numbers than ever before.

There are media helicopters, traffic helicopters, tour helicopters, paparazzi and film crew helicopters, corporate helicopters and private commuter helicopters.

Downtown L.A. has a helicopter parking lot in the clouds; helipads lie atop nearly every skyscraper.

But the city's residents may have finally reached their breaking point in July, after two consecutive weekends of extreme helicopter noise.

First, the helicopters hovered for hours on end as Prince William and his new bride, Kate, settled into Hancock Park, a Los Angeles community.

Then, a week later, the helicopters monitoring the impact of closing Interstate 405 were even worse.

Los Angeles resident Sue Rosen told the New York Times that there were, at any given time, at least five helicopters hovering over her house watching the 405. ''The noise was nerve-wracking,'' she said. ''The house was vibrating.''

The same week, a helicopter thumped loudly above the Hollywood Bowl at the exact moment Gustavo Dudamel was leading the Los Angeles Philharmonic through the adagio in the overture to Mozart's ''Abduction From the Seraglio.''

Although the Hollywood Bowl has worked aggressively with helicopter operators to establish a voluntary no-fly zone during concert nights, they have no power to enforce it, and pilots ignore it.

Noise from helicopters above the Hollywood bowl has been so loud some years that the Symphony had to stop playing.

As one pilot explained: the Hollywood Bowl managers ''are always calling the towers telling them to get us away. But they can't do anything.'' Only FAA can act.

Only the FAA has the authority to improve the lives of millions of Californians bothered by helicopters by establishing common sense rules that increase safety and reduce noise.

But to date, FAA leaders have ignored this problem. In fact, FAA has not even tracked noise and annoyance complaints.

This bill directs the FAA to take this matter seriously.

FAA would be required to bring about safer, more pleasant skies above Los Angeles in cooperation with the local communities.

The air above our cities is a common Federal resource that only Congress has the power to protect, and today the air above Los Angeles is polluted with helicopter noise.

This is therefore a very important bill for the quality of life in America's second largest city.

I hope my colleagues will support this legislation and work with us to enact it as part of FAA reauthorization.

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. 2019

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 ''Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. REGULATIONS TO REDUCE HELICOPTER NOISE POLLUTION IN CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

(a) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall prescribe regulations for helicopter operations in Los Angeles County, California, that include requirements relating to the flight paths and altitudes associated with such operations to reduce helicopter noise pollution in residential areas, increase safety, and minimize commercial aircraft delays.

(b) EXEMPTIONS.—In prescribing regulations under subsection (a), the Administrator shall exempt helicopter operations related to emergency, law enforcement, or military activities from the requirements described in that subsection.

(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In prescribing regulations under subsection (a), the Administrator shall make reasonable efforts to consult with local communities and local helicopter operators in order to develop regulations that meet the needs of local communities, helicopter operators, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

By Mr. HARKIN.

S. 2020. A bill to protect all school children against harmful and life-threatening seclusion and restraint practices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, throughout my career in public service I have been committed to ensuring that children in this country receive a quality education. I believe that each child should be educated in a supportive, caring, stimulating environment in which they are treated as an individual and provided with the tools they need to succeed. I also believe no child should be subjected to abusive disciplinary strategies or violent behavioral interventions while in school and no child should be secluded or unnecessarily restrained. I have fought to ensure that all children be treated fairly in schools in this country, and as a result I am pleased to introduce today the Keeping All Students Safe Act. This important legislation will protect school children against ineffective harmful and life-threatening seclusion and restraint practices.

In 2009 the Government Accountability Office conducted a study on seclusion and restraint in schools. This study revealed that although the Children's Health Act of 2000 amended Title V of the Public Health Service Act and regulated the use of seclusion and restraint on residents and children in hospital facilities that receive Federal funds, there was no Federal law restricting the use of seclusion and restraint in schools. In a hearing on May 19, 2009 parents of children who were injured or killed as a result of the use of seclusion and restraint in schools testified before the House Committee on Education and Labor. This testimony from parents highlighted the very real need for this legislation. The Keeping All Students Safe Act addresses many of the concerns raised at that hearing and by the G.A.O. study. The act specifically prohibits seclusion, the use of locked or barred rooms where children are left unattended, without supervision. The act also prohibits mechanical and chemical restraints, physical restraints that are life-threatening, including those that restrict breathing, and aversive behavioral interventions that compromise a student's health and safety.

The G.A.O. study also revealed that restraint and seclusion-related fatalities and injuries most often involve children with disabilities. This vulnerable population must especially be protected from this type of abuse, and this legislation seeks to do just that. The Keeping All Students Safe Act prohibits the use of all types of restraint and seclusion in all schools receiving Federal financial assistance, and prevents the use of this type of intervention from being included in any child's individualized education plan. This prohibition is included in the act because we know that planning for the use of restraint or seclusion has been shown to actually increase their use.

Although the act does allow for the use of restraint in emergency situations to prevent serious bodily injury to the student, other students in the classroom, or staff, it also requires

staff to be trained and certified by a State-approved crisis intervention training program as to how to approach these types of emergency situations. This will help to ensure that in the rare instances where restraint is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury, all techniques will be administered appropriately and unnecessary injury can be avoided.

Another issue uncovered by the G.A.O. study was that no web site, Federal agency, or other entity currently collects comprehensive data related to the use of restraint and seclusion in our Nation's schools. This Act will remedy this situation, as it requires each State educational agency to prepare and submit a report documenting, among other information, any instances in which physical restraint was imposed upon a student. This will allow us to track the use of restraint and to determine if our efforts to decrease it are being successful.

Support for this Act comes from many sectors of the education community. Organizations such as Easter Seals, United Cerebral Palsy, The Arc of the United States, the National Disabilities Rights Network and the Council of Parent and Attorney Advocates all support this legislation. In addition, in the House, our colleague, Representative GEORGE MILLER, introduced in April a companion bill with bi-partisan support.

This act is an important step towards protecting all children within our Nation's schools from the use of restraint and seclusion. No child should be subjected to physical restraint or seclusion as a disciplinary technique or behavior intervention strategy.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2020

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 ''Keeping All Students Safe Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The term ''applicable program'' has the meaning given the term in section 400(c)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1221(c)(1)).

(2) CHEMICAL RESTRAINT.—The term ''chemical restraint'' means a drug or medication used on a student to control behavior or restrict freedom of movement that is not—

(A) prescribed by a licensed physician, or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under State law, for the standard treatment of a student's medical or psychiatric condition; and

(B) administered as prescribed by the licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting under the scope of the professional's authority under State law.

(3) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms—

(A) ''Department'', ''educational service agency'', ''elementary school'', ''local educational agency'', ''parent'', ''secondary school'', ''State'', and ''State educational agency'' have the meanings given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801); and

(B) ''school resource officer'' and ''school personnel'' have the meanings given such terms in section 4151 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7161).

(4) FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The term ''Federal financial assistance'' means any grant, loan, contract (other than a procurement contract or a contract of insurance or guaranty), or any other arrangement by which the Department provides or otherwise makes available assistance in the form of—

(A) funds;

(B) services of Federal personnel; or

(C) real and personal property or any interest in or use of such property, including—

(i) transfers or leases of such property for less than fair market value or for reduced consideration; and

(ii) proceeds from a subsequent transfer or lease of such property if the Federal share of its fair market value is not returned to the Federal Government.

(5) FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION.—For those students eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), the term ''free appropriate public education'' has the meaning given the term in section 602 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

(6) MECHANICAL RESTRAINT.—The term ''mechanical restraint''—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 595(d)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290jj(d)(1)), except that the meaning shall be applied by substituting ''student's'' for ''resident's''; and

(B) does not mean devices used by trained school personnel, or used by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which such devices were designed and, if applicable, prescribed, including—

(i) restraints for medical immobilization;

(ii) adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports; or

(iii) vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle.

(7) PHYSICAL ESCORT.—The term ''physical escort'' means the temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, waist, hip, or back for the purpose of inducing a student to move to a safe location.

(8) PHYSICAL RESTRAINT.—The term ''physical restraint'' means a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of an individual to move the individual's arms, legs, body, or head freely. Such term does not include a physical escort, mechanical restraint, or chemical restraint.

(9) POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORTS.—The term ''positive behavioral interventions and supports''

(A) means a school-wide systematic approach to embed evidence-based practices and data-driven decisionmaking to improve school climate and culture in order to achieve improved academic and social outcomes, and increase learning for all students, including those with the most complex and intensive behavioral needs; and

(B) encompasses a range of systemic and individualized positive strategies to reinforce desired behaviors, diminish reoccurrence of challenging behaviors, and teach appropriate behaviors to students.

(10) PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEM.—The term ''protection and advocacy system'' means a protection and advocacy system established under subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.).

(11) SECLUSION.—The term ''seclusion'' means the isolation of a student in a room, enclosure, or space that is—

(A) locked; or

(B) unlocked and the student is prevented from leaving.

(12) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education, and, where appropriate, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Defense.

(13) SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.—The term ''serious bodily injury'' has the meaning given the term in section 1365(h) of title 18, United States Code.

(14) STATE-APPROVED CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term ''State-approved crisis intervention training program'' means a training program approved by a State that, at a minimum, provides training in evidence-based practices shown to be effective—

(A) in the prevention of the use of physical restraint;

(B) in keeping both school personnel and students safe in imposing physical restraint in a manner consistent with this Act;

(C) in the use of data-based decisionmaking and evidence-based positive behavioral interventions and supports, safe physical escort, conflict prevention, behavioral antecedents, functional behavioral assessments, de-escalation of challenging behaviors, and conflict management;

(D) in first aid, including the signs of medical distress, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and

(E) certification for school personnel in the practices and skills described in subparagraphs (A) through (D), which shall be required to be renewed on a periodic basis.

(15) STUDENT.—The term ''student'' means a student who—

(A) is enrolled in a public school;

(B) is enrolled in a private school and is receiving a free appropriate public education at the school under subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 612(a)(10) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(10)(B), (C));

(C) is enrolled in a Head Start or Early Head Start program supported under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831); or

(D) receives services under section 619 or part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419, 1431 et seq.).

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to promote the development of effective intervention and prevention practices that do not use restraints and seclusion;

(2) to protect all students from physical or mental abuse, aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety, and any restraint imposed for purposes of coercion, discipline or convenience, or as a substitute for appropriate educational or positive behavioral interventions and supports;

(3) to ensure that staff are safe from the harm that can occur from inexpertly using restraints; and

(4) to ensure the safety of all students and school personnel and promote positive school culture and climate.

SEC. 4. MINIMUM STANDARDS; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Each State and local educational agency receiving Federal financial assistance shall have in place policies that are consistent with the following:

(1) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN ACTION.—School personnel, contractors, and resource officers are prohibited from imposing on any student—

(A) seclusion;

(B) mechanical restraint;

(C) chemical restraint;

(D) aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety;

(E) physical restraint that is life-threatening, including physical restraint that restricts breathing; and

(F) physical restraint if contraindicated based on the student's disability, health care needs, or medical or psychiatric condition, as documented in a health care directive or medical management plan, a behavior intervention plan, an individualized education program or an individualized family service plan (as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)), or plan developed pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), or other relevant record made available to the State or local educational agency.

(2) PHYSICAL RESTRAINT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Physical restraint may only be implemented if—

(i) the student's behavior poses an immediate danger of serious bodily injury to self or others;

(ii) the physical restraint does not interfere with the student's ability to communicate in the student's primary language or mode of communication; and

(iii) less restrictive interventions have been ineffective in stopping the immediate danger of serious bodily injury to the student or others, except in a case of a rare and clearly unavoidable emergency circumstance posing immediate danger of serious bodily injury.

(B) LEAST AMOUNT OF FORCE NECESSARY.—When implementing a physical restraint, staff shall use only the amount of force necessary to protect the student or others from the threatened injury.

(C) END OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT.—The use of physical restraint shall end when—

(i) a medical condition occurs putting the student at risk of harm;

(ii) the student's behavior no longer poses an immediate danger of serious bodily injury to the student or others; or

(iii) less restrictive interventions would be effective in stopping such immediate danger of serious bodily injury.

(D) QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS ENGAGING IN PHYSICAL RESTRAINT.—School personnel imposing physical restraint in accordance with this subsection shall—

(i) be trained and certified by a State-approved crisis intervention training program, except in the case of rare and clearly unavoidable emergency circumstances when school personnel trained and certified are not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency circumstance;

(ii) engage in continuous face-to-face monitoring of the student; and

(iii) be trained in State and school policies and procedures regarding restraint and seclusion.

(E) PROHIBITION ON USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AS PLANNED INTERVENTION.—The use of physical restraints as a planned intervention shall not be written into a student's education plan, individual safety plan, plan developed pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), individualized education program or individualized family service plan (as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)), or any other planning document for an individual student.

(3) OTHER POLICIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The State or local educational agency, and each school and educational program served by the State or local educational agency shall—

(i) establish policies and procedures that ensure school personnel and parents, including private school personnel and parents, are aware of the State, local educational agency, and school's policies and procedures regarding seclusion and restraint;

(ii) establish policies and procedures to keep all students, including students with the most complex and intensive behavioral needs, and school personnel safe;

(iii) establish policies and procedures for planning for the appropriate use of restraint in crisis situations in accordance with this Act by a team of professionals trained in accordance with a State-approved crisis intervention training program; and

(iv) establish policies and procedures to be followed after each incident involving the imposition of physical restraint upon a student, including—

(I) procedures to provide to the parent of the student, with respect to each such incident—

(aa) a verbal or electronic communication on the same day as each such incident; and

(bb) within 24 hours of each such incident, written notification; and

(II) after the imposition of physical restraint upon a student, procedures to ensure that all school personnel in the proximity of the student immediately before and during the time of the restraint, the parent, the student, appropriate supervisory and administrative staff, and appropriate IEP team members, participate in a debriefing session.

(B) DEBRIEFING SESSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The debriefing session described in subparagraph (A)(iv)(II) shall occur as soon as practicable, but not later than 5 school days following the imposition of physical restraint unless it is delayed by written mutual agreement of the parent and school. Parents shall retain their full legal rights for children under the age of majority concerning participation in the debriefing or other matters.

(ii) CONTENT OF SESSION.—The debriefing session described in subparagraph (A)(iv)(II) shall include—

(I) identification of antecedents to the physical restraint;

(II) consideration of relevant information in the student's records, and such information from teachers, other professionals, the parent, and student;

(III) planning to prevent and reduce reoccurrence of the use of physical restraint, including consideration of the results of any functional behavioral assessments, whether positive behavior plans were implemented with fidelity, recommendations of appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports to assist personnel responsible for the student's educational plan, the individualized education program for the student, if applicable, and plans providing for reasonable accommodations under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794);

(IV) a plan to have a functional behavioral assessment conducted, reviewed, or revised by qualified professionals, the parent, and the student; and

(V) for any student not identified as eligible to receive accommodations under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) or services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.), evidence of such a referral or documentation of the basis for declining to refer the student.

(iii) COMMUNICATION BY THE STUDENT.—When a student attends a debriefing session described in subparagraph (A)(iv)(II), information communicated by the student may not be used against the student in any disciplinary, criminal, or civil investigation or proceeding.

(4) NOTIFICATION IN WRITING ON DEATH OR BODILY INJURY.—In a case in which serious bodily injury or death of a student occurs in conjunction with the use of physical restraint or any intervention used to control behavior, there are procedures to notify, in writing, within 24 hours after such injury or death occurs—

(A) the State educational agency and local educational agency;

(B) local law enforcement; and

(C) a protection and advocacy system, in the case of a student who is eligible for services from the protection and advocacy system.

(5) PROHIBITION AGAINST RETALIATION.—The State or local educational agency, each school and educational program served by the State or local educational agency, and school personnel of such school or program shall not retaliate against any person for having—

(A) reported a violation of this section or Federal or State regulations or policies promulgated to carry out this section; or

(B) provided information regarding a violation of this section or Federal or State regulations or policies promulgated to carry out this section.

SEC. 5. INTERACTION.

(a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict or limit, or allow the Secretary to restrict or limit, any other rights or remedies otherwise available to students or parents under Federal or State law (including regulations) or to restrict or limit stronger restrictions on the use of restraint, seclusion, or aversives in Federal or State law (including regulations) or in State policies.

(b) DENIAL OF A FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION.—Failure to meet the minimum standards of this Act as applied to an individual child eligible for accommodations developed pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) or for education or related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.) shall constitute a denial of a free appropriate public education.

SEC. 6. REPORT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency shall (in compliance with the requirements of section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly known as the ''Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974'') (20 U.S.C. 1232g)) prepare and submit to the Secretary, and make available to the public, a report with respect to each local educational agency, and each school not under the jurisdiction of a local educational agency, located in the same State as such State educational agency that includes the following information:

(1) The total number of incidents in which physical restraint was imposed upon a student in the preceding full academic year.

(2) The information described in paragraph (1) shall be disaggregated—

(A) by the total number of incidents in which physical restraint was imposed upon a student—

(i) that resulted in injury to students or school personnel, or both;

(ii) that resulted in death; and

(iii) in which the school personnel imposing physical restraint were not trained and certified as described in section 4(2)(D)(i); and

(B) by the demographic characteristics of all students upon whom physical restraint was imposed, including—

(i) the subcategories identified in section 1111(h)(1)(C)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(h)(1)(C)(i));

(ii) age; and

(iii) disability category.

(b) UNDUPLICATED COUNT; EXCEPTION.—The disaggregation required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be carried out in a manner to ensure an unduplicated count of the total number of incidents in the preceding full academic year in which physical restraint was imposed upon a student; and

(2) not be required in a case in which the number of students in a category would reveal personally identifiable information about an individual student.

SEC. 7. GRANT AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—From the amount appropriated under section 9, the Secretary may award grants to State educational agencies to assist in—

(1) establishing, implementing, and enforcing the policies and procedures to meet the minimum standards described in this Act;

(2) improving State and local capacity to collect and analyze data related to physical restraint; and

(3) improving school climate and culture by implementing school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports.

(b) DURATION OF GRANT.—A grant under this section shall be awarded to a State educational agency for a 3-year period.

(c) APPLICATION.—Each State educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require, including information on how the State educational agency will target resources to schools and local educational agencies in need of assistance related to preventing and reducing physical restraint.

(d) AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUBGRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency receiving a grant under this section may use such grant funds to award subgrants, on a competitive basis, to local educational agencies.

(2) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency desiring to receive a subgrant under this section shall submit an application to the applicable State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State educational agency may require.

(e) PRIVATE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency receiving grant funds under this section shall, after timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate private school officials, ensure that private school personnel can participate, on an equitable basis, in activities supported by grant or subgrant funds.

(2) PUBLIC CONTROL OF FUNDS.—The control of funds provided under this section, and title to materials, equipment, and property with such funds, shall be in a public agency and a public agency shall administer such funds, materials, equipment, and property.

(f) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—A State educational agency receiving a grant, or a local educational agency receiving a subgrant, under this section shall use such grant or subgrant funds to carry out the following:

(1) Researching, developing, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based strategies, policies, and procedures to reduce and prevent physical restraint in schools, consistent with the minimum standards described in this Act.

(2) Providing professional development, training, and certification for school personnel to meet such standards.

(g) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—In addition to the required activities described in subsection (f), a State educational agency receiving a grant, or a local educational agency receiving a subgrant, under this section may use such grant or subgrant funds for 1 or more of the following:

(1) Developing and implementing a high-quality professional development and training program to implement evidence-based systematic approaches to school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports, including improving coaching, facilitation, and training capacity for administrators, teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff.

(2) Providing technical assistance to develop and implement evidence-based systematic approaches to school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports, including technical assistance for data-driven decisionmaking related to positive behavioral interventions and supports in the classroom.

(3) Researching, evaluating, and disseminating high-quality evidence-based programs and activities that implement school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports with fidelity.

(4) Supporting other local positive behavioral interventions and supports implementation activities consistent with this subsection.

(h) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Each State educational agency receiving a grant under this section shall, at the end of the 3-year grant period for such grant—

(1) evaluate the State's progress toward the prevention and reduction of physical restraint in the schools located in the State, consistent with the minimum standards; and

(2) submit to the Secretary a report on such progress.

SEC. 8. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) USE OF REMEDIES.—If a State educational agency fails to comply with the requirements under this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) withhold, in whole or in part, further payments under an applicable program in accordance with section 455 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1234d);

(2) require a State or local educational agency to submit, and implement, within 1 year of such failure to comply, a corrective plan of action, which may include redirection of funds received under an applicable program;

(3) issue a complaint to compel compliance of the State or local educational agency through a cease and desist order, in the same manner the Secretary is authorized to take such action under section 456 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1234e); or

(4) refer the State to the Department of Justice or Department of Education Office of Civil Rights for an investigation.

(b) CESSATION OF WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS.—Whenever the Secretary determines (whether by certification or other appropriate evidence) that a State or local educational agency that is subject to the withholding of payments under subsection (a)(1) has cured the failure providing the basis for the withholding of payments, the Secretary shall cease the withholding of payments with respect to the State educational agency under such subsection.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act for fiscal year 2012 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet on December 16, 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Russell Evenmo, an intern in my office, be permitted floor privileges for today. It is his last day and I wish to get him on the floor, if I could.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning, Saturday, December 17, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 257, H.R. 3630; that the majority leader be recognized to offer a Reid-McConnell substitute amendment agreed to by both leaders—a 2-month extension of the payroll tax reduction, doc fix, and unemployment insurance; that following the reporting of the amendment, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the substitute; that there be no amendments in order to the substitute or the bill prior to the vote; that the amendment be subject to a 60-vote threshold; that if the substitute amendment is agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; that if the Reid-McConnell substitute amendment is not agreed to, the majority leader be recognized; that upon the disposition of H.R. 3630, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report with respect to H.R. 2055; that there be 15 minutes of debate, 5 minutes each for Senators INOUYE, COCHRAN, and MCCAIN; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the conference report be temporarily set aside and, notwithstanding the lack of receipt of the papers from the House with respect to H.R. 3672, the Senate proceed to the consideration en bloc of the following items: H.R. 3672, a bill regarding emergency disaster funding, and H. Con. Res. 94, a correcting resolution to provide offsets for the emergency disaster funding; that there be no amendments in order to the bill or the concurrent resolution prior to votes in relation to those measures; that following the reporting of the bill and the concurrent resolution, the Senate proceed to votes on the measures in the following order: passage of H.R. 3672, adoption of H. Con. Res. 94, and adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, the Omnibus appropriations bill; that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote; that each of the votes be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold; that no motions or points of order be in order prior to the votes other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; further, the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 3630 be vitiated; finally, that the House be immediately notified of the Senate's action following the votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that from Friday, December 16 through Monday, January 23, 2012, the majority leader be recognized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 17, 2011; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 257, H.R. 3630, the House payroll bill that we have talked about, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Senators should expect a series of rollcall votes tomorrow morning beginning at 9 a.m. in relation to a 2-month extension of the payroll tax, unemployment insurance, the doc fix, disaster aid, and the omnibus appropriations conference report.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:38 p.m., adjourned until Saturday, December 17, 2011, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN THOMAS FOWLKES, JR., OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE BERNICE B. DONALD, ELEVATED.

KEVIN MCNULTY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE GARRETT E. BROWN, JR., RETIRING.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

RICHARD B. BERNER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FINANCIAL RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NANCY J. POWELL, OF IOWA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, PERSONAL RANK OF CAREER AMBASSADOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO INDIA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JEFFREY K. BARNSON
COLONEL ABEL BARRIENTES
COLONEL KIMBERLY A. CRIDER
COLONEL THERON G. DAVIS
COLONEL CHRISTOPHER L. EDDY
COLONEL LYMAN L. EDWARDS
COLONEL JOHN C. FLOURNOY, JR.
COLONEL KATHRYN J. JOHNSON
COLONEL KENNETH D. LEWIS, JR.
COLONEL STEPHEN J. LINSENMEYER, JR.
COLONEL VINCENT M. MANCUSO
COLONEL UDO K. MCGREGOR
COLONEL ERIC S. OVERTURF
COLONEL KAREN A. RIZZUTI
COLONEL VINCENT M. SARONI
COLONEL JAMES P. SCANLAN

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on December 16, 2011 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

RICHARD SORIAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE CHRISTINA H. PEARSON, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 26, 2011.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

END OF U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the official end of United States military operations in Iraq. President Obama has fulfilled his promise to bring all of our troops home by December and, for that, I commend him.

I objected to the invasion of Iraq at the outset, and I have vigorously opposed it since. As we withdraw from Iraq after nearly nine years of war, there is no sense of "mission accomplished" because the mission was incomprehensible. We invaded the country under false pretenses and deliberate misrepresentations: no credible evidence pointed to the existence of weapons of mass destruction and, not surprisingly, none were found.

It is my hope that history books accurately will record the sorry consequences of invading a sovereign nation on the basis of adulterated evidence. That is what we did in 2003, and our country has paid, and will continue to pay, dearly for its foolish rush to war. Today, Iraq's economy is in shambles, its coalition government is fragile, anti-Americanism runs high, and violence abounds.

Since we launched this war, nearly 4,500 American soldiers have lost their lives and tens of thousands have sustained lifelong injuries. Their sacrifice must be honored and remembered. One way to do so is by not repeating the grievous mistakes that led us into Iraq. My fear is that those who sought this war again are urging conflict—this time with Iran. George Santayana warned that "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Let us reflect at length on the punishing costs of war and its unforgiving legacy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TIME WARNER CABLE ON THE OPENING OF THEIR D.C. BUREAU

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Time Warner Cable for its investment in local television news coverage in North Carolina and its recent expansion into Washington, D.C.

By opening a news bureau in our nation's capital, the people of North Carolina will have another outlet to learn about the important work being done on their behalf and other updates that are important to the communities throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, TWC is dedicating significant resources to high quality local news channels that provide critical local news, weather, traffic and sports coverage in the communities that they serve.

In my district, the Raleigh research triangle area is home to some of the leading innovators in technology and healthcare. The legislation that we pursue and enact in Washington has an enormous impact on these businesses and research facilities. With Time Warner Cable's commitment to reporting both at the local and national level, they are giving our residents an important resource to stay informed and involved.

I applaud Time Warner Cable for recognizing the importance of local news, for investing in it and creating jobs while providing this critical service to their customers and the constituents I serve.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD ROBINSON

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Richard Robinson in the event of his retirement after seven dedicated years of service as Chief Executive Officer of Stanislaus County.

Rick was appointed Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer in September 2004. In this position, under the director of the Board of Supervisors, Rick oversees all aspects of Stanislaus County government, which includes 26 County departments, a $900 million operating budget and over 3,600 employees.

Faced with severe financial challenges during the current economic crisis, Rick led an effort to develop a multi-year framework around which the County budget functions, a strategy which enables the County to address both current and future year budget shortfalls in a systematic and proactive manner. During his career with Stanislaus County, he also led many efforts aimed at strengthening the County health care safety net, including successful initiatives to attain the Federally Qualified Health Care Facility Designation in the County's health clinic system, a multi-year effort to retain the County Residency Program, and the sale and transition of the Stanislaus Behavior Health Center to private Ownership.

Prior to his appointment with Stanislaus County, Rick had, since 1991, held the position of Chief Administrator with Tehama County. Rick started his local government career in 1982 as an Accountant for the Tehama County Auditor-Controller's Office. In 1986, he was elected Auditor-Controller and ran unopposed for a second four-year term in 1990.

Rick currently serves on several local committees, including the Community Hospice Board of Directors, the Governing Board of Doctors Medical Center, Stanislaus Workforce Alliance Board of Directors and the Valley First Credit Union Supervisory Committee. Rick was recently honored by the Stanislaus County Equal Rights Commission as a recipient of the 2011 Annual Dale Butler Equal Rights Award for exemplary service in equal employment opportunity matters and leadership in promoting equal rights.

Rick was an honors graduate of California State University, Chico, earning his degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. He is a lifetime selection to Beta Gamma Sigma, a national scholastic honor society for business graduates. Rick has been married to his beautiful wife Kathy for 37 years. They have 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring my good friend, Mr. Richard Robinson for his years of dedication to the County of Stanislaus.

TO COMMEND ZIAMATIC CORPORATION FOR RECEIVING THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR SAFETY AND EXCELLENCE IN 2011

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a prestigious Bucks County based company, Ziamatic, for receiving the Governor's Award for Safety and Excellence. Ziamatic Corp. (ZICO) was founded in 1958 with the intention of providing the men and women in the fire services industry with products that make their profession safer and easier. Over the years, Ziamatic has grown to become a leading manufacturer of fire and safety equipment in the United States. Today, the Yardley-based company employs 33 people.

For almost half of the last century, ZICO has designed and developed dozens of new products ranging from breathing apparatus to ambulance equipment and ladder access systems. With each new design, one thing has always been consistent: quality. Before a product has the ZICO name attached to it, it must undergo rigorous testing to be sure that it meets the highest of standards.

Thank you to Mike Ziayalek, and all of the employees at Ziamatic. Congratulations on receiving the Governor's Award for Safety and Excellence. We appreciate all that you do for the community and wish you many more years of success.

HONORING THE SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR PLAYING THE NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2011 St. Xavier University Cougars football team, who will compete in the

school's first National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championship game on December 17, 2011. The Cougars, who call my district home, will compete for the title in Rome, Georgia, against Carroll College of Montana.

St. Xavier defeated Marian University on December 3rd to go 13-1 for the season and earn a trip to the title game. Marian was the only school to defeat St. Xavier this year, and the Cougars avenged their loss in exciting fashion to earn their title birth. With SXU leading by three points in the final moments of the game, Marian was threatening to score with a first-and-goal situation. On third down, SXU freshman Clayton Fejedelem intercepted a pass in the end zone to seal the victory.

The Cougars' potent spread offense was on full display in the second half of the contest with three touchdowns through the air. St. Xavier's offense leads the NAIA in scoring offense with 45.9 points per game. Just as impressive was the defense as it held Marian's star running back to just 26 yards on 16 carries.

SXU had come close in the past, making it to the NAIA semifinals three times before, but this year the fourth time was the charm. When the Cougars face Carroll College tomorrow, I am confident they will be ready to take on the Fighting Saints. Please join me in honoring the St. Xavier University Cougars football team and their head coach, Mike Feminis, on competing in the NAIA National Championship and sealing their place as a perennial football powerhouse. May they perform like champions and bring back a national championship trophy.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, while I am deeply concerned about Iran's capacity to develop nuclear weapons and I support targeted sanctions against Iran, I voted no on H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011 because I do not believe it would accomplish its stated goal of reducing the threat from Iran.

I am concerned that at a time when more nuanced diplomatic tools are needed to successfully address this important and multifaceted effort to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, this legislation would dangerously limit the flexibility of the U.S. Government to engage directly with Iran to turn back these efforts. The Administration has made it clear that the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA), enacted just last year after careful deliberation by both the House and Senate, is an adequate and effective tool for addressing the threat potentially posed through multilateral negotiations with Iran. I have spoken directly with officials at the State Department and they tell me they are very concerned that piling on additional sanctions could have the counterproductive result of sending the already destabilized economies of our European allies into a tailspin and threaten the stability of the global economic recovery.

I am also troubled by the 601(c) provision inserted during mark-up of the bill, which takes the unprecedented step of restricting dialogue between U.S. and Iranian officials. The controversial provision would prohibit contact between U.S. diplomats and any Iranian official who "would pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the vital national security interests of the United States." This is dangerous and would have prohibited the efforts that secured the release of two of my constituents, Sarah Shourd and Shane Bauer, along with their friend and fellow U.C. Berkeley alumnus Josh Fattal, who were detained for years in Iran after being arrested while hiking near Iran's border with Northern Iraq. Furthermore, not only is it unclear how restricting negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program would advance our security interests, it should be clear that taking this option off the table is counterproductive in addressing the very real threats that Iran presents.

It is my hope that my colleagues will address these issues in conference and return a bill for final passage that considers what it takes to effectively undertake national security strategy execution. It is time for us to stop posturing and to understand that far from a reward to withhold, diplomacy is a critical tool for protecting United States national security interests.

IN HONOR OF ALBERT CASWELL AND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR NATION'S ARMED SERVICES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert "Bert" Caswell.

Bert has worked as a United States Capitol tour guide for over twenty-five years. He is known throughout the Capitol for his extraordinary work and selfless attitude. After hours, Bert volunteers his time offering Capitol tours to wounded veterans and participants of the Make-A-Wish foundation. He also visits and writes poems for wounded soldiers at local hospitals to lift their spirits and celebrate their heroic nature.

Mr. Speaker, I submit before you a poem, authored by Albert, reflecting on the extraordinary sacrifices and courage of the men and women of our Nation's Armed Services.

CHRISTMAS TEARS

This Christmas season, as you awake. . . .
Please, so take the time to so take. . . .
To remember in this December, all of those families whose hearts now quake. . . .
For they are so separated, so far across the shores . . . by such dark and most evil war. . . .
All in fear, not knowing . . . if but their loved ones may live but one day more. . . .
So say a prayer. . . .
Because, there will be tears across this nation. . . . Christmas Tears. . . .
And as you so see the smiles upon your children's faces. . . .
Remember, there are such men and women of honor, fighting all in such dark places. . . .
Giving all of their treasure, oh yes That Last Full Measure . . . so you may live in peace. . . .
So say a prayer and shed a tear, for all of them and all of these so here . . . Our Patriots of Peace!
And all of the ones, who now so in hospitals, who have so just begun their new battles in this new year. So shed a tear. . . .
For the ones who now so live without arms and legs, and holes in all places . . . teaching us all what faith is!
For them all so shed a tear!
And for all of those most magnificent ones, as Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven now in the ground . . . for freedom won! Shed a tear. . . .
For all those little boys and girls, who have just lost their best friends in the world. . . .
Its so sad now, shed a tear. . . .
And as you so sing your songs of joy, remember all of these little girls and boys in your hearts so very loud! And shed a tear. . . .
And in this evening as you break your bread, remember to say a prayer for all those whom have bled!
All so you can be free and live in peace. . . .
Please shed a tear, and say a prayer for all of these. . . .
A child is born. . . .
As we remember on this golden morn. . . .
Remember all of their Christian Acts, for their courage does not lack. . . .
So for all of our Armed Forces, shed a tear. . . .
Say a prayer, that they will all be home one day . . . safe and sound in the coming years. . . .
And on this Christmas night as you so lay yourself down to sleep. . . .
All in your hearts, so very deep. . . . Say a prayer. . . .
That our Lord will so watch over all of these. . . .
And say a prayer for peace . . . do so please. . . .
Now, on this night from high above. . . .
But comes a gentle rain, soft falling snow flakes from our Lord all in his love. . . .
All for their selfless sacrifice, all of these fine men and women who now must fight. . . .
Are but our Lord's tears, for all these and their families on this night. . . .
So say a prayer and shed a tear, and so pray that they will all be back next year. . . .
But, with their loved ones, on Christmas night. . . .
Lord God, Bless Them. . . . Bless Them All! Thank Them All. . . .
And say a prayer and shed a tear for all those most magnificent families and heroes who answer the call!
Thank them all and shed a tear.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, 2011, I inadvertently cast "yea" votes on the final passage of H.R. 1905 and H.R. 2105. I am opposed to both bills.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNIE B. BOOKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Johnnie B. Booker on the occasion of her retirement from the Coca-Cola Company. Ms. Booker's career has been marked by an extraordinary record of success as a corporate executive, national expert on workforce and supplier diversity, and senior federal government official.

Ms. Booker has served as Global Director of Supplier Diversity for the Coca-Cola Company since 2001. In this capacity, she has been responsible for developing and implementing the company's supplier diversity program and initiatives to assure equal contracting opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses. During her first year with Coca-Cola, contracts with minority- and women-owned businesses increased over the previous year by 50 percent, exceeding the company's goal by 27 percent. Under Ms. Booker's leadership, the company has consistently exceeded its goals for subsequent years, and its supplier diversity profile has grown substantially in actual dollars expended and global recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I might add that this is Ms. Booker's second retirement. Before joining Coca-Cola, she had a successful career in the federal government, culminating in her role as Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), from which she retired in 1996. In 1991, Ms. Booker joined the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) as Vice President, Division of Minority and Women's Programs. While at the RTC, she created unprecedented contracting and investment opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses and law firms. She commissioned the first disparity study by a federal agency and increased contracting fees for minority- and women-owned businesses from 18 percent to over 48 percent and from 3 to 26 percent for minority- and women-owned law firms. Her work at the RTC served as a model for other federal agencies as well as private companies seeking to establish viable minority procurement programs.

Prior to her tenure at the RTC, Ms. Booker served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In this role, she established a new office of affirmative action and equal opportunity and successfully revamped the Department's fragmented approach to discrimination complaint processing and affirmative employment programs. Ms. Booker also served in executive capacities with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the National Urban League.

Active in her community, Ms. Booker serves on the boards of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, Women's Business Enterprise National Council, US Pan Asian Chamber of Commerce, Bronx Community College Foundation, the Ashley Stewart Foundation, National Advisory Board of the Whitney M. Young, Jr., School of Social Work—Clark Atlanta University and the Supplier Diversity Council of The Conference Board. Her civic affiliations include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Dogwood City Chapter of The Links, Inc., Circle-Lets, The National Black Child Development Institute, NAACP, Urban League and Big Bethel AME Church. Ms. Booker has appeared in a myriad of national publications and has received numerous honors and awards for her outstanding professional contributions and accomplishments.

Ms. Booker received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Hampton University and a Master of Social Work Degree from the Atlanta University School of Social Work. She is the proud mother of a son, S. Courtney Booker, III, mother-in-law of Nissa and grandmother of two wonderful grandchildren, Dalyn and Aiden, who bring her special joy. I know that she is looking forward to being able to spend more time with them in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire House join me in congratulating Ms. Johnnie B. Booker on this well deserved retirement. I wish her good health and Godspeed.

HONORING SARAH SMIERCIAK, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Smierciak, a graduate of my alma mater, Northwestern University, who was recently awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Ms. Smierciak hails from Lemont and majored in History and in Middle East Language and Civilization. She studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo and Damascus University. She is also an accomplished triathlete and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Established in 1903, Rhodes Scholarships are awarded to outstanding well-rounded students to attend Oxford University for postgraduate study. The selection committee identifies young men and women of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service. Over 830 of our nation's top students applied and Sarah was awarded one of only 83 Rhodes Scholarships.

Ms. Smierciak's work and experiences demonstrate that she is a very deserving choice for this prestigious scholarship. She has published articles on social justice and published her photography, and serves as a docent on Egyptian art at The Field Museum.

Fluent in Arabic, she currently resides in Egypt, where she is promoting the value of education by assisting orphans in the aftermath of the Egyptian Revolution. Through her work with the international charity, FACE for Children in Need, she is working to develop a teaching curriculum for the street children of Egypt and Sudan. She remains tireless in her devotion to helping these young boys appreciate the need for education.

Ms. Smierciak plans to use her Rhodes Scholarship to pursue developmental studies at Oxford University. She aspires to one day be an advisor at the United Nations.

I ask you to join me in honoring Ms. Sarah Smierciak, a member of the Rhodes Scholarship Class of 2012, and may she have success in all her endeavors to promote the value of education throughout the United States and the world.

RECOGNIZING RADM MICHAEL A. BROWN

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Rear Admiral Michael A. Brown for his distinguished service to the Government of the United States as the Director, Cybersecurity Coordination, National Protection and Programs Directorate, and Senior Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Representative to the National Security Agency and the United States Cyber Command from December 2010 to January 2012.

Rear Admiral Brown is a national level leader on cybersecurity, a matter of highest importance to the nation's national security, homeland defense and economic competitiveness. Since the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security each bring different authorities, capabilities and cultures to this national challenge, the nation needed an astute solution provider and consensus builder in each of these areas. Handpicked to bridge the two leading Departments in this mission space, he quickly earned the respect of each due to his intellect, skill and determination for national-level solutions and brought the Departments closer together.

Rear Admiral Brown's sound advice routinely developed and informed policy and operations positions taken by senior decision makers at the national level, thereby advancing national and international cybersecurity policy and critical legislative proposals needed to change the nation's antiquated cybersecurity-related laws. Few people had a bigger role at increasing the understanding and appreciation of the complexity and relationship between policy, technology and operations required to secure our nation's public and private infrastructure.

Rear Admiral Brown's leadership was crucial in the execution of a first-of-its-kind government-wide boundary cyber defense system to which the U.S.'s foreign intelligence system would be connected, to setting the course to transform DHS's cyber operational centers into national assets, to creating the public-private partnerships necessary to jointly operate to mitigate extraordinarily pressing nation state, crime, and hacktivist cyber threats.

The National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center was another of his notable achievements providing the vision and execution to make it operational. Both a warrior and innovative thinker, he seamlessly worked with government and private sector counterparts to strengthen and support operational partnerships.

During a perilous time for our nation, in which our adversaries' ability and will to steal and control our national assets through cyberspace often far outpaces our posture to stop it, Rear Admiral Brown helped set the necessary strategic direction by unifying the Federal Executive branch, state and local government, the U.S. critical infrastructure community, and the private sector. His leadership culminated in a White House-supported effort that defined a national plan for unified public and private response to malicious activity under the National Cyber Incident Response Plan.

Our thanks also go to his wife, Therese L. Brown and his children Michael R. Brown, Meghan T. Brown and Lauren M. Brown. Their support and sacrifice on behalf of our Nation should be recognized along with Rear Admiral Brown's tremendous hard work.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANAAN GALILEE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 60th Anniversary of Canaan Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Madison, Illinois.

In 1951, Mother Georgia Jones accepted her calling to help organize a new church in the Eagle Park area of Madison, Illinois. Word of Mother Jones' efforts reached Rev. C. D. McClinton, the former pastor of Southern Tabernacle Church in nearby Lovejoy. These two, along with a small group of dedicated pioneers, met for several weeks before forming a Mission which would become Canaan Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, with Rev. McClinton as the first Pastor.

Early meetings of the new church were held in the Jones' home. Soon, a lot was purchased and the first church structure was constructed through the labors of the church members. A fire destroyed the first church building on Good Friday, 1966, and temporary facilities were required, including a tent where services were held during the summer and fall of 1966. Work was ongoing for a permanent replacement which would be completed in stages as resources were available. The physical church structure continued to develop as the church congregation grew and a new edifice was recently dedicated.

Canaan Galilee Missionary Baptist Church has grown and expanded since its humble beginnings. A number of ministries have been instituted to serve not only the church congregation but also the Eagle Park community. The current and seventh pastor, Rev. Don Sanford, has been a driving force for expanding the church involvement in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 60th Anniversary of Canaan Galilee Missionary Baptist Church and to wish them the best for many years to come.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012. The conference report provisions regarding the treatment of terrorism detainees in U.S. custody contained in the bill simply do not go far enough to ensure that counterterrorism officials have the ability to effectively deal with the threats our country faces, while upholding our constitutional values.

These detainee provisions put into law the authority of the military to indefinitely detain without trial individuals determined to be members or substantial supporters of terrorist organizations. But the bill does not define in clear terms those who are subject to this provision and leaves open the possibility that even American citizens arrested on U.S. soil could be detained indefinitely.

I fully support many provisions in this bill, including those that provide our service members with the pay and equipment they need and deserve. I also strongly support provisions that make much-needed improvements to the sexual assault and harassment policies of the Defense Department, and ensure that victims have access to a military lawyer and maintain their option of confidential reporting even if they seek legal counsel.

But, the language regarding detainees contained in this bill threatens the rights and liberties of American citizens. We must state unequivocally that no American may be arrested on U.S. soil and detained indefinitely without trial. This bill fails that test and compromises our most basic constitutional values.

That is why I vigorously oppose H.R. 1540 and urge my colleagues to join me in a strong "no" vote.

DIVISION E OF THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, the Statement of Managers language contained in Division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 regarding the Boiler MACT rule is not intended in any way to convey an endorsement by the conferees of any Boiler MACT rulemaking proposal.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MR. FRANK CASTELLI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Frank Castelli's retirement as the Service Director for the City of Middleburg Heights after 25 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Frank Castelli was born in Jefferson, Ohio and graduated from Geneva High School. He later continued his education by attending Cleveland State University. Mr. Castelli and his wife, Delia, have been married for 45 years and have one daughter, Claudia, and two sons, Marc and Matt. Frank also has two grandchildren, Marcella and Pete.

Mr. Castelli is a veteran of the United States Army and served in Germany during 1955 and 1956. Following his service in the Army, Mr. Castelli worked in the insurance industry for nearly 30 years as a claim adjuster and commercial insurance agent. He also spent 16 years as the co-owner and operator of Trans Ohio Insurance Agency with his brother, Ron. In 1986, Frank became the Service Director for the City of Middleburg Heights, Ohio.

In addition to his careers serving his country, fellow Ohioans and residents of Middleburg Heights, Mr. Castelli has been a leader in the community. Since 1976 he has served as the president of the Misty Lake Condominium Association and at one time served as a member of the Planning Commission. From 1976 to 1986 Frank was a councilman for Middleburg Heights, Ward 1. He has also been serving as the president of the Middleburg Heights Democratic Club since 1998 and is an active member of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Executive Committee.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mr. Frank Castelli as he celebrates his retirement.

HONORING ACTIVIST AND CIVIL RIGHTS HERO KATHLYN GILLIAM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kathlyn Gilliam, a champion of civil rights and the Dallas school district's first African-American female trustee. Ms. Gilliam was 81 years old when she passed away this last Sunday.

There is no shortage of talent and diversity in the 30th District of Texas, and residents like Kathlyn Gilliam are a testament to this fact. An activist and a leader, Ms. Gilliam dedicated her life to achieving higher quality education and living standards for all.

Growing up and working during the days of segregation, Ms. Gilliam's exceptional character helped her to triumph over a unique set of institutional hurdles and staunch resistance from her peers. She bravely attended Lincoln High School before Dallas ISD's desegregation and even went on to become the school district's first Black female trustee.

Ms. Gilliam actively shaped the way South Dallas schools would evolve into some of the magnet schools we understand them to be today. By fiercely advocating for stronger curricula and warding off near-constant opposition from the rest of the school board, Ms. Gilliam enhanced the overall learning experience for thousands of students in the area, the effects of which are still apparent today.

Mr. Speaker, it saddens me and thousands of other Dallas residents to hear of Ms. Gilliam's passing. Her legacy of effectively reshaping the Dallas school district and improving her community is not only immortalized in a school named in her honor, but also in our hearts and memories. Ms. Gilliam's passing comes as a great loss to the 30th District of Texas, and I hope that others will take example by her leadership and exceptional character.

WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise our troops—and our President—as we end our involvement in Iraq.

America's armed forces were called to duty, did everything asked of them and served with distinction. Their valor and dedication in serving our country half a world away has been an inspiration to me and to our nation. And now, as they leave the nation of Iraq, we here at home honor their sacrifice, the sacrifice of their families, and welcome them with open arms and open hearts. As we welcome those who are coming home, we must not forget the nearly 4,500 servicemembers who lost their lives and the more than 30,000 troops who were wounded in this conflict who, along with their families, have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

President Obama deserves much credit for keeping his promise to the American people to withdraw from the Iraq conflict and have our troops home by the holidays. Those of us in the House and the Senate must continue to honor our commitment to our veterans and their families, helping to ensure a future in which they can fulfill their hopes and dreams for themselves and their children.

JOBS ARE OUR HIGHEST PRIORITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to incentives that add to unemployment and decrease tax revenues.

Strong consumer protection laws are the responsibility of each State in our Union and I support efforts to enforce them to protect our constituents. However, no reasonable person would favor an approach so draconian in its effect that it makes innocent employees victims. The impact on our hard-working union members is unfair and unwarranted. Proportionality in these cases is critical. Perverse incentives can be seen when the settlements in these cases are used to pay operating budgets of the agencies that bring the charges, especially if it encourages the targeting of out of state companies for huge settlements. The payments should be enough to compensate for any harm and to push the company to act in an appropriate manner according to law. Only in egregious or criminal circumstances should companies be forced out of business.

It is crucial to enforce strong consumer protection and deceptive advertising laws. In this economy, as we hasten to take measures to protect jobs, we have got to be mindful of incentives that put states revenue needs in competition with each other. Without question, the states must have the power to stop deceptive advertising and unfair competition, but they should not have the authority to abuse that power in ways that decrease other states tax revenues by forcing businesses to add thousands of Americans to the ranks of the unemployed. I would encourage those enforcing our laws to take this into account.

PIPELINE SAFETY, REGULATORY CERTAINTY, AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, in Pennsylvania and across the country, we are moving forward to develop American sources of energy. This development will reduce energy prices for hardworking taxpayers, create jobs for Americans and lessen our dependence on foreign oil. As this important development moves forward, we must remain strongly committed to protecting our environment and ensuring these operations are safe and responsible.

The production of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania is an economic driver for our State but it also presents unique challenges. Thousands of wells have already been drilled in Pennsylvania, and many more and thousands of miles of Marcellus-related pipeline are planned in the Keystone State alone. Most of these facilities are unmanned and spread across rural areas, making monitoring and data communication difficult. Critical failures of these systems can cause untold environmental and economic damage, yet we may not know of these failures until far too much damage has been done. There is an urgent need for better systems to monitor wells and pipelines for leaks, damage and anomalies to protect the environment and the public.

The House has taken a step to address these deficiencies in passing H.R. 2845, the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011. Among other provisions, the bill requires the Secretary of Energy to continue evaluating industry safety standards and readiness to respond to infrastructure failures. In performing these evaluations, I encourage the Secretary to investigate the utility of secured, meshed wireless networks. These meshed networks—multi-antenna, no-root meshed-radio systems—can provide continuous monitoring and then alert operations personnel and first responders to leaks and damage in real-time. They can be expanded as new operations are brought online and added to exploration vehicles like ships and trucks, improving communications potential in the critical first minutes after an incident.

As the Secretary moves forward with his safety review and evaluations pursuant to the bill, I encourage the consideration of secured, meshed wireless networks as a possible means of ensuring both real-time monitoring of remote energy infrastructure and swift, seamless response and communication in the event of leaks or other critical failures.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUNCOAST SEABIRD SANCTUARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, the largest and most successful non-profit wild bird hospital in the United States.

It is a privilege for me to represent the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores and to have seen firsthand the outstanding commitment of its staff that works to rehabilitate the more than 8,000 injured birds it admits each year.

The Sanctuary was founded in 1971 by zoologist Ralph T. Heath and is staffed by highly trained individuals equipped with emergency facilities, a surgical center, recovery areas, and an outdoor wild bird recuperation area. Admitting up to 159 different species per year, the Sanctuary is world renowned for its innovative rehabilitation techniques with over 80 percent of its admitted birds successfully rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

Over the years, the Sanctuary has also become a cherished attraction to Central Florida visitors. Attracting over 100,000 visitors each year, the Sanctuary offers a unique environment for bird watching, and a tremendous opportunity for photographing wildlife on Florida's beautiful Gulf Coast. Admission into the Sanctuary has always been free, giving the general public a great opportunity to visit and learn about Florida's wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, through their hard work and dedication, the staff and volunteers of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary not only give back to Florida's natural world, but also serve as a valued asset to our community. This weekend, many of the Sanctuary's family and friends from the past 40 years will gather to celebrate the history and accomplishments of this valuable facility. It is my hope that my colleagues in the House will join me in saying thank you to all those who have been a part of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary.

DORIS VIRGINIA TRACY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Doris Virginia Tracy, a longtime resident of La Veta, Colorado. Mrs. Tracy was a distinguished World War Two-era pilot and loving wife and mother.

From the earliest days of her childhood in Missouri, Doris dreamed of learning to fly. She took her first ride in a bi-plane at the age of nine, and decided to become an ''aviatrix,'' as female pilots were then known. After entering college with her sister Bernice, Doris was only the second girl to sign up for Civilian Pilot Training. After a long wait, as only one woman was allowed in the program for every nine men, she earned her license.

In order to continue flying and serve her country during World War Two, she applied

with the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), who flew military aircraft in support of the Army Air Forces. After seven months of training, she flew engineering flight tests, co-piloted B-24s, and flew administrative flights in C-45s at bases in Texas, Ohio, Mississippi, and Wyoming.

After the WASP program disbanded, Doris moved to La Veta with her family to start a store. It was there she met Julian Tracy at a local dance. They were married in 1946 and raised two daughters together, Glenna Lee and Julie. In addition to running the store, she was active with the PTA, the Francisco Fort Museum, and the Eastern Star, and enjoyed searching the Colorado hills for artifacts.

In March 2010, Doris was in attendance here in Washington as the WASP were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal for their service to the nation. She passed away at the age of ninety on July 29, 2010, and was survived by her daughters, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Doris Tracy. I rise today to salute this one-of-a-kind woman who is remembered for her smile, warmth, and patriotism.

ON THE WINGS OF LUKE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following poem.

ON THE WINGS OF LUKE

All in . . .
All in those most darkest hours of war . . .
When, most precious life so lies before . . .
All in that balance that which so insures . . .
When, who lives or dies . . .
'Oh but to so see another sunrise . . .
When, a loved one's caress will so shower . . .
Such faith and strength, in all of its great power . . .
As their loved ones encouragement will so flower . . .
Such strength and faith all in these hours . . .
All in these precious moments which above all else so towers . . .
With loved ones at their sides, as against all odds they so reach for the skies . . .
Where, the beginning of hope and healing so lies!
But, comes the very will to live or die!
While, in the coming months and days . . .
As into the year as do they . . .
As upon bended knees so pray . . .
As upon The Wings of Luke their loved ones arrive this day . . .
From all across our Country Tis of Thee, come their loved ones all in tears to provide such relief . . .
I open arms hope we now see!
To provide the strength that they all need!
For all of these great American families our hearts so bleed . . .
Because, the one thing that which but means the most!
I but when loved ones lie all in arms length so very close!
Because hearts of love can lift such souls higher!
To help win all of those battles, all in these times so dire . . .
That in the end but mean the most . . .
So On These Wings of Luke . . .
We give these great America's families what they need most . . .
All in this battle, when recovery and death lies close . . .
For a family's love but means most!
From on The Wings of Luke comes hope . . .

TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER FRIEDMAN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to express my gratitude to Dr. Peter Friedman who served as my Congressional Fellow this year. Pete served as my point person on energy issues with the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and was responsible for all nuclear and defense related issues in my office.

Pete's background as chairman of an engineering department, a naval officer, and engineering background, provided me with unique technical knowledge of nuclear power and defense issues. His expertise came to the forefront during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor accident. Pete provided me with data-driven, measured advice on the crisis which was both forward-looking and justifiable. It was an important year for nuclear energy and it was good to have Pete on my staff.

In the appropriations process, Pete developed well-researched and insightful positions, which properly prioritized the spending on energy projects based on their potential impact. His astute political insights and his willingness and ability to learn the legislative process served me very well.

I benefited greatly from Pete's advice, knowledge and work ethic over the past year. I want to thank him, and commend him, for a job well done. I also want to thank his wife, Sylvia, and daughter, Helen, for allowing us to have Pete for the year. I know it wasn't easy for them to have him away for such a long period. I am sure they will be glad to have him back and that he will be glad to resume his position as Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

Finally, I want to thank the American Society of Mechanical Engineers for sponsoring Pete as a Congressional Fellow. At a time when the world is becoming increasingly technical and competitive, Congress benefits from the advice of experienced and educated experts.

URGING TURKEY TO SAFEGUARD ITS CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 306 that the House passed earlier this week.

Wherever we see repression, wherever we see atrocities being swept under the rug, we have a moral duty to speak out. Members of NATO are no exception.

Today in Turkey, beautiful and historic Armenian churches, monuments and monasteries lie in ruins—broken not by the sands of time, but by desecration, theft and dynamite.

For too long, the U.S. has allowed Turkey to elude responsibility for the destruction of Armenian churches. With this resolution, Congress sends a stern message to Turkey's Prime Minister, Recep Erdogan—the United States will not tolerate Turkish assaults on Armenian heritage and religious freedom.

The passage of House Resolution 306 earlier this week was an important step towards justice for the Armenian people, but our work is unfinished. Until the U.S. and Turkey officially recognize the Armenian Genocide for what it was, I will continue to fight to correct the staggering injustice of soft-peddling the murder of 1.5 million men, women and children.

HONORING DAVID MONTGOMERY

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of David Montgomery, after a long and well-lived life.

David Montgomery had many roles in his life: machinist, union activist, educator, author and, most importantly, father and husband.

Dr. Montgomery came to my state of Connecticut in 1979, where he had a distinguished research, writing and teaching career. It was there that he wrote his most notable work, "Fall of the House of Labor: The Workplace, the State and American Labor Activism, 1865–1925," which was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1989.

More than an author though, Dr. Montgomery was an activist who started his career not in academia, but on the shop floor. In the 1950s, after graduating from college, he went to work as a machinist, where he began to organize workers to join the International Association of Machinists. He was black-listed and fired from his first job in Minneapolis as a result of his organizing efforts, as he was repeatedly throughout his career. Yet, instead of ceding his cause, he continued to fight for his values. He then made a remarkable transition: he earned his doctorate and began a career in teaching. Dr. Montgomery taught at several colleges, eventually becoming the Farnum Professor of History at Yale.

But whatever job he had, he never stopped being an activist. Dr. Montgomery helped strengthen the resolve of workers and activists while teaching in New Haven. His research and teaching informed his students about the history of working people, and he inspired generations of students to study that history as they sought to change the nation. He knew that by valuing the dignity of work and recognizing workers' struggle for justice in their workplace and country, we could help build a more just society.

A former student of his, Jennifer Klein, captured his essence when she said in a press account that Dr. Montgomery was not only "the model of the scholar-activist but also the activist-scholar."

My heartfelt condolences to Dr. Montgomery's wife, Martel, his sons Claude and Edward, his five grandchildren, his brother Daniel and sister Virginia.

Dr. Montgomery led the kind of full and committed life to which all of us should aspire. He will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

CONGRATULATING THE CHINESE AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL FOR CELEBRATING ITS 7TH YEAR

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Chinese American Film Festival, which was held in Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, for celebrating its 7th successful year.

This year, the opening ceremonies were held on October 27, 2011 at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles, and on October 30, 2011 at the Marina Theatre in San Francisco. With over 10 workshops and seminars, and over 200 officially selected films that were screened in Hollywood, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, the Festival has once again demonstrated how effectively the Chinese and American cultures can join together through the medium of film to create unique and outstanding work.

Many of those in the Chinese industry have been recognized by the American film industry, but for many others this was the first time these films had ever been screened in North America. The films chosen for the Festival were audiences' favorites in the Chinese and American film markets.

With the support of the Consulate General of China in Los Angeles, and the Motion Picture Association of America, the Chinese American Film Festival has become a grand annual event of cultural exchange and communication between the two film industries.

As one of the major annual cultural events in Hollywood, this festival demonstrates that creativity has no boundaries of race, color, language, or traditions. Through the window of film, people see each other, hear each other and understand each other. As described by James Su, Founder and current Chairman of the Festival, "The Chinese American Film Festival continues to showcase the dynamic power of creations it produces when East meets with West and when hands are joined together."

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Su and the Chinese American Film Festival for another successful year and for showing tremendous dedication to cultural exchange while opening communication between the Chinese and American film industries. Welcome to California, and welcome to the United States.

2010 CAFF Golden Angel Award Films: The Seal of Love; My Kingdom; Color Me Love; 72 Heroes; Detective D; Always Be With You; An Eternal Lamb; Love You You; A Simple Life; Snow Flower and the Secret Fan.

Best Documentary Film: The Day of Noah 2: Apocalypse.

Best Independent Film: Dali.

Best Asian American Film: Wedding Palace.

Best Short Film: A Petal Onto the Sea.

Best Children's Feature Film: Close to Me.

Charity Film: My Girlhood.

Outstanding Chinese Culture Promoter: Dedication.

Outstanding Chinese Film Promoter: Macau Film Association.

Chinese Film Promoter Mayor Award: Xin Hua City Mayor.

Outstanding Newcomer Actor: Joshua Hannum—Leading Actor of "Once Upon a Time in Tibet."

Outstanding Newcomer Actress: Zhou Yang—Leading Actress of "Love You You."

Outstanding Newcomer Director: Chen Miao—Director of "Son of the Stars."

Outstanding Newcomer Producer: Wang Bin, Yang Yue—The Producers of "Time Flies Soundlessly."

Best Actor of the Year: Wang Qianyuan—Leading Actor of "The Piano in a Factory."

Best Actress of the Year: Ni Ping—Leading Actress of "The Sun."

Best Director of the Year: Yang Yazhou—The Director of "The Sun."

Outstanding Achievement Award: Tang Guo Qiang.

CHIEF GERALD WHITMAN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Chief Gerald Whitman of the Denver Police Department. Chief Whitman has served capably and honorably in this position for over eleven years.

Chief Whitman's distinguished career with the Department began in 1982. After excelling as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Sergeant, and Lieutenant, he was promoted to the rank of Captain in 1995. During this time he was responsible for the protection of the newly-formed District 6, including Capitol Hill and Downtown Denver. Three years later, he was again promoted to Division Chief of Patrol, where he oversaw uniformed patrol operations.

Mayor Wellington Webb named Gerald Whitman as Denver's 68th Chief of Police in 2000. Under his leadership, major crime rates have dropped despite an economic recession and fewer officers per capita on patrol. The Department has gained a reputation for innovative ideas, the effective use of technology, and an emphasis on community and victim outreach. Its forensics lab and cold case unit have received wide acclaim, and serve as a model for departments nationwide.

Gerry Whitman holds a Bachelors Degree in Law Enforcement Administration and a Masters in Criminal Justice from the University of Colorado at Denver. Despite having a longer tenure than any of his predecessors, he intends to return to the rank of Captain after stepping down as Chief of Police.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Chief Gerald Whitman. I rise today to thank him for his continuing devotion to the City of Denver and its citizens.

H.R. 1254

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011 because it will do little, if anything, to curb abuse of synthetic marijuana. It will, however, unnecessarily burden the criminal justice system and inhibit important scientific research on synthetic substances. It will also impose further unnecessary costs onto taxpayers as the federal criminal code is expanded.

Evidence suggests that criminalizing substances, as this bill envisions, does not change demand or prevent health harms that stem from their use. The deaths and injuries that result from abuse of any substance and the destruction that drug abuse inflicts on our families and communities is heartbreaking. I support comprehensive drug education programs which promote clear information for children and adults about how to recognize drug abuse and the risk factors that promote it. It is important to recognize that drug abuse proliferates differently depending on the socioeconomic conditions that exist in a given community, which makes it all the more important for the federal government to assist state and local governments in addressing this public health problem. This bill does nothing to boost real public health and education awareness campaigns which must be a part of addressing substance abuse.

Instead, H.R. 1254 would place a number of synthetic substances under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. As Schedule I is the most restrictive, placing substances on it makes research on these substances vastly more difficult. Scientific researchers have warned Congress that this legislation will impede research on treatments for a range of diseases and disorders, including Parkinson's disease. In addition, the Drug Enforcement Agency already has the power to place substances on the Schedule I list.

Finally, criminalization of another group of drugs will engender an expansion of the criminal justice regime. Our present system of criminal justice already places a far too large and disproportionate burden onto poor and minority communities. Marijuana arrests in the United States cost on average $10,000 per individual from arrest to adjudication, according to public policy researcher John B. Gettman at the George Mason University School of Public Policy. The prosecution and prison terms that will necessarily arise from enforcement of this bill will impose enormous costs on taxpayers at a time when resources are scant. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation.

MASON PUNCHERS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mason Punchers football

team on an outstanding 2011 season. Yesterday, the Punchers won the Class 1A, Division I Texas state championship and ended their season with a perfect record, 15–0.

I want to congratulate the team on their dedication and hard work. It takes determination and focus to win a state championship, and the focus must be all the greater to do it on top of a perfect season. I applaud the perseverance of the team.

Coach Kade Burns, as well as all the young men on this team, deserves recognition for the accomplishment. The 15–0 season was all the greater considering this was Coach Burns' first season as head coach at Mason.

I know that many years from now, these young men from Mason will look back on this day with fond memories. I encourage them to enjoy this achievement to the utmost, as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

It is my honor to represent the student and families Mason and their state championship football team. Again, I congratulate the Mason Punchers on a perfect season and a state championship!

HONORING THE LIFE OF AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUDGE HOSEA T. ''H.T.'' LOCKARD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Judge H.T. Lockard, born Hosea T. Lockard on June 24, 1920. Judge Lockard was a civil rights leader, hero and pioneer who fought alongside giants to bring racial equality to Memphis, Tennessee and the surrounding area. He grew up on a small farm near Henning, Tennessee before deciding to attend LeMoyne College in Memphis in 1940.

Prior to completing his studies at LeMoyne College, Mr. Lockard chose to postpone his education to serve his country in the Army Medical Corps during World War II which included three and half years in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany. After his discharge in 1945, he continued his studies at Sorbonne University in Paris before returning to LeMoyne where he attained his bachelor's degree in 1947. After finishing at LeMoyne, H.T. Lockard was not allowed to attend a Tennessee law school due to segregation. Undeterred by challenges he faced in Tennessee, he pursued his Juris Doctorate by attending Lincoln University Law School in St. Louis, Missouri where he graduated in 1950. While in law school, H.T. Lockard observed that conditions for African-Americans in St. Louis were far better than those in Tennessee. After much debate, he made the tough decision to move back to Memphis where he began practicing law and working with the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, to improve race relations in Memphis.

Mr. Lockard once recalled how at a NAACP meeting, the topics of police brutality and segregation in public facilities were like music to his ears. He said, ''. . . Good music, because that's what I wanted to get involved in and help bring about the change . . . I was ready to roll up my sleeves and go and ready to tackle anything that needed to be tackled.'' In 1955, he assumed the presidency of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP and served in that position until 1958. H.T. Lockard headed up their legal committee and contributed to national efforts. During this time, H.T. Lockard was joined by Russell Sugarmon, Vasco and Maxine Smith, Jesse Turner, Billy Kyles and the late Benjamin Hooks and A.W. Willis. Together, these stalwarts of the civil rights movement fought for and won many victories including desegregating Memphis Street Railway Co., public buildings, restaurants and the University of Memphis, formerly Memphis State University.

H.T. Lockard broke significant barriers and paved the way for future African-American politicians in Memphis. In 1964, Mr. Lockard became the first African-American to hold elective office in Shelby County by being elected to the Shelby County Quarterly Court, now known as the County Commission. He then became active in local African-American political clubs and played a key role behind the scenes as an advisor on civil rights issues to President Lyndon B. Johnson. H.T. Lockard was appointed to serve as Administrative Assistant to Tennessee Governor Buford Ellington from 1967–1971 thereby becoming the first African-American cabinet member in the State of Tennessee. In 1975, H.T. Lockard became a Criminal Court judge and served until 1994.

Judge Lockard later served as a board member of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis from 1989–1999. He gave much of his time to the Memphis Charter Commission, a non-partisan group that reviewed the city Charter and made recommendations for changes to be presented to the citizens of Memphis through voter referendums. Mr. Lockard was awarded the Benjamin L. Hooks Award by the Memphis Bar Foundation in 2010 in recognition of his lifelong commitment to social justice and his prominence on the national stage.

Some of his closest colleagues and friends recounted his dedication to the civil rights movement while he was a lawyer and president of the NAACP. The late Vasco Smith, a former Shelby County Commissioner, said ''. . . Lockard was pretty much the whole show. He did an outstanding job, and he probably laid the foundation for a lot of things that happened later on.'' His wife, Maxine Smith, a former executive secretary of the Memphis Branch of the NAACP described him as the inner circle of the civil rights movement in Memphis. Former General Sessions Court Judge Russell Sugarmon commented on H.T. Lockard saying ''When he put his mind to something, he was a plow. He dug in and dug in and wouldn't let up . . . If Lockard was on the other side, you'd better be prepared.''

Judge Lockard was an exceptional judge, leader and gentleman. I had the pleasure of meeting him in 1970 when he and I supported Senator Stan Snodgrass for Tennessee governor. In addition to the legacy he leaves behind, I will remember Judge Lockard for his service to the community and his dedication to the bench. As an admirer of classic cars, I will also remember his convertible Thunderbird.

Judge Hosea T. ''H.T.'' Lockard passed away on December 12, 2011 at 91 years of age. He leaves to memory his wife of 49 years, Ida Walker Lockard; three brothers, Emmitt Lockard, Albert Lockard Jr. and Lorenza Lockard; and one sister, Lydia Morgan. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Judge H.T. Lockard. Judge H.T. Lockard will be remembered by many. His was a life well lived.

CONGRATULATING SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Silver Cross Hospital, which is located in my district, for expanding its facilities to New Lenox, IL. In this new facility, the wonderful caregivers of Silver Cross will be better able to serve the many residents of Will County. Each and every day, healthcare professionals across the country provide life saving and sustaining help to those most in need. The professionals at Silver Cross exemplify the best qualities we have come to expect from our healthcare professionals. Their distinguished history provides a tremendous example for others to follow.

I would like to highlight just a couple of their accolades as they continue construction of their new state-of-the-art 289-bed hospital. First, Silver Cross Hospital has been named a 100 Top Hospital Award recipient for seven consecutive years by Thomson Reuters Healthcare, a leading provider of information and solutions to improve the quality and cost of healthcare. Only four hospitals in the nation have won the award for the last seven consecutive years. Secondly, new programs including an enhanced partnership with Children's Memorial Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and University of Chicago Medical Center will bring new services to patients and improve the health of the community.

It is a true pleasure to represent Silver Cross Hospital. This new facility will allow the Silver Cross family to better fulfill their vision, which is ''We, the Silver Cross Family, are committed to our culture of excellence, and will deliver an unrivaled healthcare experience for our patients, their families and the community.''

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JOHN SULLIVAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Sullivan on his retirement after 40 years in public service, including 38 with the Social Security Administration.

John Sullivan began his career in public service in 1972 when he joined NASA as a Budget Specialist. Two years later, Mr. Sullivan transferred to the Social Security Administration, where he would spend the next 38 years. Mr. Sullivan started in the Social Security Administration as Mail Clerk, quickly rising through the ranks to positions including Claims Representative, Quality Review Specialist, Supervisory Resident Representative, Branch Manager, Project Manager, and District Manager.

Mr. Sullivan is an assiduous worker, and his professionalism, dedication, outstanding initiative and resourcefulness have been recognized on multiple occasions. He has been awarded more than 30 performance awards, including the Social Security Administration Regional Commissioners Citation, the Social Security Commissioner's Team Award and Biltmore's Who's Who of American Empowering Executives and Professionals.

In addition to his tireless work with the Social Security Administration, Mr. Sullivan is actively involved in his Church and local community. He has served on the St. Anne's Catholic Church Parish Council, as well as its Finance Council. Mr. Sullivan has also volunteered for more than 25 years with the Boy Scouts of America, where he is currently the Vice President of Programs Gulf Coast Council, and numerous scouts in his troop, including three of his sons, have gone on to become Eagle Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress it is my honor to recognize Mr. John Sullivan for his dedicated career as a public servant and thank him for his service to Northwest Florida. My wife Vicki and I wish Mr. Sullivan, his wife Jennie, and his sons—Richard, John, Matthew, Michael and Taylor—all the best.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of a close friend, I was absent from the House on Thursday, December 15th and Friday, December 16th. Had I been present, I would have recorded the following votes:

Rollcall 933—aye;
Rollcall 934—aye;
Rollcall 935—aye;
Rollcall 936—aye;
Rollcall 937—aye;
Rollcall 938—aye;
Rollcall 939—aye;
Rollcall 940—aye;
Rollcall 941—aye;
Rollcall 942—aye;
Rollcall 943—no.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter on December 15, 2011, I was absent from votes. As such, I am submitting these remarks to indicate how I would have voted if I were here: I would have voted No on the Journal Vote, and Yes on H.R. 886, H.R. 2719, and H.R. 443.

RECOGNIZING THE WEST SPRINGFIELD DANCE TEAM ON THEIR TREMENDOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Springfield Dance Team for their incredible run on the nationally televised show, "America's Got Talent". The West Springfield Dance Team progressed to the semi-finals with their professional grade choreography, distinct style, and superb dancing talents.

Under the tutelage of their coaches, renowned choreographers Tara Perez and Jason King, and with the full support of the West Springfield High School community, including principal Mark Greenfelder and Director of Student Activities Andy Muir, the West Springfield Dance Team has received numerous awards and recognitions including back-to-back Championship titles from the National Dance Alliance, including the "Innovative Choreography" and "Best in Category" awards. West Springfield Dance Team has distinguished itself as the dominant team in local and national competitive dance, and it is now a national celebrity for its run on "America's Got Talent" and a recent appearance on "The View" Halloween episode.

Their eye-popping performances were a delight to watch, and these young people served as tremendous ambassadors not only on behalf of their dance team, but also their school, their families and our community. They and their families should be proud of these accomplishments. I know we are, and I want to congratulate the following members of the West Springfield Dance Team for their many successes in the area of competitive dance, their achievements on "America's Got Talent", and recent appearance on "The View":

WS Dance Team 2010–2011 (performers on "America's Got Talent"): Chelsea Kopf and Julian Asuncion

WS Dance Team 2010–2011 and 2011–2012 (performers on "America's Got Talent", and "The View"): Emily Barnes, Dori Shapiro, Katie Lee, Riley O'Rourke, Nicole Mobley, Breezy Thompson, Sarah Thompson, Kristen Toler, Natalie Wawrzeniak, Jordan Penrod, Hannah Ernst, Jordan Dey, Nicky Ditnoy, and May Ditnoy

WS Dance Team 2011–2012 (performers on "The View"): Ellen Abood, Madeline Diez, Victoria Diez, Brianna Burns, Lauren Rader, Danny Lora, and Collin Hensley

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the West Springfield Dance Team on their many accomplishments and awards and for making it into the semi-finals of "America's Got Talent." I thank the team's coaches, Tara Perez and Jason King, Principal Mark Greenfelder, Director of Student Activities Andy Muir, and the entire West Springfield High School community for their robust support of these exceptional students.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. HOUSE SERGEANT AT ARMS WILSON "BILL" LIVINGOOD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a man who may not be a household name in most American towns and cities but who, over the past two decades, has become an integral part of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Wilson "Bill" Livingood, our outstanding Sergeant at Arms, who will be retiring next month.

Known around the Capitol as the "protector" and "keeper of the House," Bill Livingood has etched his name in the history books for serving the third longest term as Sergeant at Arms of the U.S. House of Representatives. To most Americans, he is the man—and the voice—who for 15 seconds every year announces at the beginning of the annual State of the Union address, "Mr. Speaker, The President of the United States."

Bill was first sworn in as House Sergeant at Arms by Speaker Newt Gingrich on January 4, 1995. He is only the thirty-sixth person to hold this post since the House of Representatives first met in New York City in 1789.

Bill Livingood's remarkable record of public service is even more noteworthy because of the unique experience he brought to the position. He was the first House Sergeant at Arms to possess considerable expertise in law enforcement, an asset that has served the House well during his tenure.

Prior to his appointment, he was Senior Advisor to the Director of the U.S. Secret Service from 1989 to 1995, and a Special Agent with the Secret Service for a total of 33 years. His background includes service on then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson's security detail, as well as spending more than a decade aboard Air Force One.

As an elected officer of the House of Representatives, the Sergeant at Arms is the chief law enforcement and protocol officer of the body, and is responsible for maintaining order on the House side of the United States Capitol complex.

The Sergeant at Arms reviews and implements all issues relating to the safety and security of Members of Congress and the Capitol complex. The Sergeant at Arms also coordinates extensively with the U.S. Capitol Police and various intelligence agencies to assess threats against Members of Congress and the Capitol complex.

Every visitor to the U.S. Capitol, whether it be the President of the United States, a foreign head of state or one of our youngest citizens, can roam safely around the vast Capitol complex because of Bill Livingood's professionalism, his dedication to duty and his considerable experience.

When this most recent chapter of American history is written, it will be noted that Bill served the House during some of the most challenging times in its history, including the 1998 shootings of two U.S. Capitol Police officers, the 9/11 attacks on our country, as well as the anthrax threats to Congress that came in the wake of the 2001 terror attacks. Make no mistake, House security has undergone significant improvements over the last decade

and Bill Livingood's contributions are evident in what is, today, a much safer environment for lawmakers, staff and the public here on Capitol Hill.

As an added tribute to his good stewardship of this important job, Bill served under four speakers, both Democrat and Republican, starting with Speaker Gingrich, then Speaker Dennis Hastert, Speaker NANCY PELOSI and our current Speaker, JOHN BOEHNER. He and his office have been completely above reproach and non-partisan. To say that Bill Livingood is a consummate professional with a sterling reputation for honesty, integrity and class would be a fair way of describing the respect every Member of this House has for Bill.

Mr. Speaker, we are all indebted to Bill Livingood's stewardship and watchful eye over this historic chamber. As he prepares to leave the House in the coming weeks, I join my colleagues and the American people in offering him a hearty "job well done" and wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR ITS TRIBUTE TO OUR FALLEN HEROES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee for his efforts to honor fallen military heroes from the Tampa Bay area. At the direction of Sheriff Gee, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has instituted a program to conduct honor escorts for every fallen hero from Tampa Bay who returns to Hillsborough County. To date, Sheriff Gee and the Hillsborough County Sheriffs have conducted 12 honor escorts for fallen heroes since the escorts were implemented in 2009. While that is 12 honor escorts too many, I am proud to represent a community with an institution as respectful and dignified as the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

At the direction of Sheriff Gee, and with the permission of the fallen hero's family, any fallen hero that arrives in Hillsborough County is escorted to any destination. These escorts involve multiple motorcycle deputies, patrol cruisers, and other Sheriff's vehicles, including members of the Sheriff's aviation unit, as the hearse and the family's vehicles are led through the county. Each family is given a copy of a DVD and photo album commemorating the escort to help them heal, remember, and recall that their loved one was a real American hero.

Many of us recall the unfortunate response that many of our veterans received upon their return from Vietnam. One of the great lessons of that tragedy was to always remember the sacrifices of the service member. As Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I constantly find myself in awe of the sacrifices and efforts that have been made on behalf of our great country by the men and women who have worn the uniform of our Armed Services. Regardless of the politics of the conflicts that our country has engaged in over the course of the last decade, I am proud of and appreciative of the efforts that Sheriff Gee and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office have taken to honor and respect our fallen heroes. Mr. Speaker, I salute the efforts of not only our brave men and women in uniform, but also that of Sheriff Gee and the Hillsborough County Sheriffs to honor their brothers and sisters in arms and to protect the safety and security of the citizens of Hillsborough County.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. PIERRE BEJJANI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Pierre Bejjani, the president of the Northeast Ohio Lebanese American Association, NOLAA, as he is honored by the American Nationalities Movement.

Mr. Bejjani was born in Lebanon and immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio 1981. He attended The Ohio State University where he earned a degree in civil engineering. He returned to Cleveland after graduating and began working as a construction manager. Mr. Bejjani started his own business in 1991. Today, he serves as the managing director/executive editor of Profile News Ohio and is the senior partner for Diversity Advertising Agency.

Mr. Bejjani has served the Cleveland community since the mid-1990s. He organized the first Annual Lebanon Day on November 22, 2011. He currently serves as the president NOLAA and vice president of the Cleveland American Middle East Organization. He is also on the boards of Worldwide Intercultural Network of Cleveland, Global Cleveland Initiative and the Recruiting Battalion of Northern Ohio.

As a result of his dedication to the community, Mr. Bejjani has been received numerous awards. He received NOLAA's Community Recognition Award in 2009. In 2010 he was the recipient of the Census 2010 Partnership Award. Mr. Bejjani was also recognized for his work on the U.S. Army Strength in Diversity Program in April, 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mr. Pierre Bejjani and congratulating him on being this year's American Nationalities Movement's honoree.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RICK CASE AUTOMOTIVE

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and constituent, Rick Case, who will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Rick Case automotive in early 2012.

Rick discovered his true passion at an early age, selling used cars in high school from the front yard of his family home in Akron, Ohio. In 1962, he opened his first dealership, Moxie Motors, in Akron, followed by Sharp Used Cars in Barberton, Ohio in 1963.

Rick Case is as excited today about his business as he was 50 years ago and aggressively seeks opportunities to grow the Rick Case Auto Group which currently encompasses 15 dealerships in Ohio, Georgia and Florida and employs more than 900 people.

Recognized as leaders in the auto industry, Rick and Rita Case have received numerous awards; including National Dealers of the Year by USA Today, Time and Sports Illustrated magazines, the American International Automobile Dealers Association and the National Automobile Dealer Association. Most recently Rick and Rita Case were the 2011 recipients of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Award. Additionally, in 2012, they also became the first couple to ever win the American International Automobile Dealers Association David F. Mungenast National Lifetime Achievement Award.

Beyond running a successful business, Rick and Rita Case founded the Rick Case "Bikes for Kids" program in 1962 and have collected and donated more than 100-thousand bicycles to children in need in their community.

As Rick celebrates this incredible milestone, I am proud to support him here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and am honored to call him a friend.

POVERTY AND THE HALF IN TEN CAMPAIGN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, at this holiday season, it is proper for us to pause and consider the major threat that poverty poses to our nation, and how the path we take to address that challenge will determine whether we succeed in improving America's long-term social, economic, and moral well-being.

Income inequality has risen sharply over the past 30 years. Since 1979, the gap in after-tax income between the wealthiest one percent and middle- and low-income quintiles has more than tripled. Adjusted gross income for working-class families has seen the least growth, and the economic collapse of 2008 put many out of work.

Last year, 49 million Americans—including almost 17 million children—lived in poverty. One in four children in America is considered "food insecure," sometimes going to bed hungry. That number is unconscionable. But poverty is not just a statistic—it impacts our families, neighbors, and communities in many ways.

Shirley G. is a Social Security beneficiary in Harwood Heights, Illinois, who suffers from severe asthma, diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure. On September 1, she learned that due to state budget shortfalls, she would have to pay out-of-pocket for her medications. Shirley elected to pay her basic health insurance, rent, gas, electric and telephone bills and NOT buy food. She signed up for a "meals on wheels" program to provide her with one meal per day and relies on a local food pantry for her remaining food needs. She was also forced to ration her medication. The unpredictability of food and medicine has wreaked havoc on her health and she cannot stabilize her asthma or diabetes.

Jack K. worked for decades as a taxi cab driver, but retired with very little wealth. He

now lives in subsidized housing and depends on soup kitchens and food pantries to stave off hunger.

Yesterday I met with two outstanding young people—Starnica Rodgers and Brandon Dunlap—who have struggled with homelessness their whole lives. During high school, both were what is called ''unaccompanied homeless youth,'' meaning they were underage and without a home.

Against those odds, both Starnica and Brandon are now thriving. Starnica is enrolled in college and is an expectant mother. Brandon is a college graduate with a good job and a bright future. Both are incredible success stories, but they are the exception to the rule—particularly in today's economy. More common are the homeless to whom I passed out sandwiches on a recent cold Chicago night, working with the Night Ministry.

Too many Americans born in poverty don't have the tools to escape it. And too many formerly middle-class Americans are falling into poverty. We must promote and protect affordable housing, nutrition assistance, good schools, and other services to enable everyone to have a chance at the American Dream.

We have a responsibility to reduce poverty so that no one has to make the choice between medication and heat, and so that every child has a place to call home and food to eat. We owe it to our constituents and our country to buffer existing social safety net programs so that Shirley, Jack, Starnica and Brandon can keep a roof over their heads and put food in their stomachs.

I am troubled with the vitriol that many public figures have directed at those struggling with poverty and at the programs that give them a chance to thrive. This is a time when all Americans need to help one another succeed.

The Half in Ten Campaign has set an ambitious but achievable goal of cutting poverty in half in ten years. I am an original cosponsor of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's Half in Ten Act, which would strengthen anti-poverty initiatives by creating a national plan to meet the goal of reducing poverty by 50 percent, eliminating extreme poverty, and eliminating child poverty over the next decade.

This task will be difficult. It will require an honest assessment of the successes and failures of our social safety net programs, and make recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of those programs. It will also seek solutions to the causes of poverty; income inequality, economic instability, lack of living wages, and lack of investment in low-income communities.

Poverty touches every community in America, and we should be able to formulate a robust, bipartisan solution to the crisis. I thank Congresswoman LEE for her leadership on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to come together in support of the Half in Ten Act.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, some have raised concerns about potential ambiguities in section 2207 of the FY2012 National Defense Authorization Act and I wanted to provide clarification on some of these matters. It was asked whether section 2207 restricts the obligation of funds for contract modifications to ongoing projects or awarding minor supporting contracts required to complete projects that have already begun. First, it is not the intent of the bill to restrict the Department of Defense from modifying current contracts or awarding required ancillary contracts in support of active projects because those prior-year funds have already been obligated and therefore are not subject to the restrictions set forth in section 2207. We understand that minor additional obligations may be required to complete those previously authorized projects, and we do not object to such minor obligations as long as they are within the scope of the original authorizations.

Others have asked me, can the Department of Defense use any funding to continue planning and program management activities or begin new studies that will help inform or develop any of the five requirements that are outlined in section 2207 that must be met before further funds are obligated? The language in section 2207 is not indented to restrict the Department of Defense's ability to use prior-year funding to conduct program management activities, planning and further studies or complete ongoing studies that will better inform or allow the Department to complete work on the five requirements that are called out in section 2207 of this bill. This provision is not intended to stop the military buildup, but there are questions that remain outstanding.

I am committed to working with the Gentlelady from Guam to continue to address these issues regarding the stationing of Marine Corps forces on Guam.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. WILLIAM MOBLEY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. William C. Mobley, Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the University of California San Diego. On December 8th, Dr. Mobley was awarded the International Sisley-Jerome Lejeune Prize, in Paris, France, for his therapeutic research on Genetic Intellectual Disabilities.

Dr. Mobley's many contributions in the field of Down Syndrome have been truly valued in the special needs community. His research to identify causes of neurodegenerative disorders has brought new optimism to those afflicted with diseases from Alzheimer's to Down Syndrome.

As the parent of a child with Down Syndrome, I understand first-hand the daily challenges that families are facing. We are the beneficiaries of Dr. Mobley's important research and future generations will be enabled as a result.

Dr. Mobley has used his expertise to serve this Congress. As the expert advisor for the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus, Dr. Mobley has educated Members of Congress on this important issue, raising public awareness while advancing critical research.

This award is a well deserved recognition of his life's work to eradicate debilitative neurological diseases and disorders. I applaud Dr. Mobley on his outstanding commitment to this vital research and look forward to a continuing partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Dr. Mobley. Because of his efforts, I know that those with Down Syndrome, and their families, will see easier days ahead. With Dr. Mobley's work, we will one day see a world free of these devastating neurological disorders.

TRIBUTE TO JANICE ''TEKO'' WISEMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer this tribute to Janice ''Teko'' Wiseman, a native of Mobile, AL, who recently passed away at the age of 83. She spent her life in active service to her community and her family.

Married for 62 years, Teko and her husband, Dr. Hollis Wiseman, originally met as high school sweethearts.

During the 1960's—a decade of turmoil in Alabama—Teko and Hollis set an example of courage and commitment to justice and the city they loved by founding ABLE (Alabamians Behind Local Education), an organization to help peacefully integrate the Mobile County schools. Although opposed by some political leaders at the time, the Wisemans stood fast and eventually saw their goals realized. Their efforts received international attention on a Voice of America broadcast.

In 1983, Teko helped found Keep Mobile Beautiful and worked as its coordinator for ten years. Her energy and creativity resulted in a beautification competition called No More Eyesore, which engaged residents from schoolchildren to bank presidents to clean up and beautify the ugliest eyesores around town. Other projects included planting the intersection of I–65 and I–10 and landscaping the entrance to Bankhead Tunnel. Her impact on the city is visible to this day.

When they retired twenty years ago, Teko and Hollis moved to Fairhope, Alabama. There, Hollis, who had built the University of South Alabama Neonatal Intensive Care Unit named in his honor, became president of the Fairhope Library Board and spearheaded the drive to raise approximately seven million dollars to build the current state of the art library.

Meanwhile, Teko Wiseman turned her attention to the lack of sidewalks along the Bay and conceived a project to building a hike/bike trail beginning at the Battleship on the Causeway and extending along the Eastern Shore to Weeks Bay. The organization she founded in 1995 to realize this dream, the Eastern Shore Trailblazers, has raised over $6.5 million through private donations and grants. The 32 mile trail is only two miles short of completion.

Mr. Speaker, Teko was a treasure to South Alabama and her loss is one that is shared by our entire community.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to her husband, Hollis; her sister, Merrellyn Miller; their six children, Holly Wiseman, Merrell Wiseman, Valery De Laney, Carole Norden, Jay

Wiseman, and David Wiseman; and their six grandchildren and many friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DAVID DAWSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. David Dawson as he retires after 40 years of service at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is a law firm for low-income individuals and provides services in the areas of consumer rights, domestic violence, education, employment, family law, health, housing, foreclosure, immigration, public benefits, utilities and tax. It was founded as a nonprofit in 1905 and until 1966 operated primarily with volunteers. In 1966, staff attorneys were hired and today there are 53 attorneys, 40 staff members and more than 1800 volunteers that serve Cleveland's low-income individuals. Legal Aid's mission is to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and otherwise vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

Mr. Dawson attended Kenyon College where he received a degree in English in 1964. He earned his Juris Doctor in 1971 from Vanderbilt University. He bravely served with the United States Navy between 1964 and 1967. He began working at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in 1971 as a staff attorney in the Hough Neighborhood Office. Throughout the past 40 years Mr. Dawson has also served as an Attorney in Charge, the Civil Director, and today serves as the Deputy Director for the Main Office and Interim Managing Attorney for the Lorain County Office.

Because of his dedication to serving the people of Cleveland and vast expertise in poverty law, Mr. Dawson was honored by the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation in 2010.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. David Dawson as he retires after 40 years of dedicated service to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER KURTZ

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Army Specialist Christopher Kurtz of the 1st Platoon, Apache Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division. This month marks the one year anniversary of an IED blast that nearly took his life and left him without his legs and took from him part of his hand.

As a Lieutenant Colonel in the Ohio Army National Guard, I have had the honor and privilege of witnessing firsthand the heroism, selflessness, and dedication of those who serve in our military. We enjoy unparalleled freedom and opportunity in this country, because brave Americans like Christopher Kurtz have dedicated their entire lives to building and preserving the United States as the greatest nation on earth. I truly am grateful for this opportunity to pay tribute to Christopher Kurtz.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In. . . .
All In That Fight!
Are but all of those courageous brave hearts, who must bring their light!
Whose most magnificent hearts, must somehow reach upward but to the greatest heights!
Who are all Airborne, with but their fine hearts so worn . . .
Who so courageously must ignite!
While, moving all out there into that darkness of war. . . .
Armed, but only with their most courageous of all lights to victory to insure!
To So Find That Courage . . . To So Find That Faith. . . .
All in how their fine hearts have so behaved. . . .
All with such Strength In Honor, so all in place. . . .
To so win that battle, to so win that fight!
As from out of such darkness, they so bring their light!
While, one and all are so willing to face!
That Face of Death!
And not so ask why, while there all of their fine hearts so crest!
Armed but with only your saw gun in hand, as Chris you so heroically went out ahead. . . .
As was heard your most courageous battle cry, all in your stead!
As from out of such darkness as said!
As from out of all of your heartache, as your great heart so led. . . .
With such courage and faith, all in this your most amazing grace. . . .
Excepting this fight!
Because, from hearts of courage full like yours,
America's Sons over darkness have so shown their might!
Because with only such fine men as you Christopher, will we so win that fight!
As on that day, when you so walked through that valley death. . . .
Armed with but only your courage as so left, as with your Brothers In Arms as you had all so pledged!
When, a bomb almost left you for dead!
While, lying there all between life and death!
As you had so died several times, as when you said the Lord came to you and so said!
So said, ''don't give up, I have more work for you to do!''
As from that moment on, you began your new fight as onward you so moved!
So on that next morning as you so awoke, so close to death. . . .
As in that moment, your fine heart so spoke. . . .
So spoke to you about all what you had so left!
As into the future, with all of your courage our nation would so bless!
As you had lost your two strong legs, and part of your hand. . . .
But, somehow your great heart still found the strength to stand!
As we so watched you Chris, so watched you grow. . . .
As you so came back from the dead, and all of that pain and woe!
As what a fine work of art, your life to our world would show!
To So Teach Us All! To So Beseech Us All!
As it was you who so led!
To take us to higher places, with tears upon our faces. . . . with but your heart so pledged!
To places where only hearts of courage, have so sped!
For you will walk again my son, and you will so run!
As you rebuild your life, America's most brilliant of all sons!
For from what you've lost. . . . far much more you've gained!
But, with your iron will, the price you paid. . . .
With your beautiful children and wonderful wife!
Oh yes you are now so winning that fight!
For heroes like you are put upon this earth, to so teach us all what so comes first!
And if ever I have a son, I wish he could but be as brilliant as you this one!
Who All In The Fight, so did what must be done!
And led with his heart of honor, upon battlefields so on!
And came back home, through all of this pain and heartache. . . . as Thy Will Be Done!
Who has taught us even greater things, showing us all to what new heights hearts can run!
And one day for all of your sacrifice, you will shine. . . . all up in Heaven's sun!
For up in Heaven, you need not arms or legs!
And that's where Christopher you are going one day!
All for what you gave! And what you've done!
But your life here on earth, is not finished!
Is not so done, because our Lord has more work for you my son!
All In That Fight!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PHOEBUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise, on behalf of Congressman ROB WITTMAN, Congressman SCOTT RIGELL, and myself, to call attention to a group of young students from Hampton, Virginia, who have, for the fourth year in a row, distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Phoebus High School Phantoms football team had a remarkable season. On December 10, Coach Stan Sexton and the Phantoms won their fourth consecutive Virginia state football championship, defeating South County High School of Lorton 20–10 at Scott Stadium in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After overcoming injuries to finish 8–2, Phoebus High entered the postseason tournament as the number three seed. Led by Coach Stan Sexton, after a series of close games, including a come from behind fourth quarter win in the regional semifinals, and a 27–26 win in the state semifinals, Phoebus High entered the state championship game.

To cap what Coach Sexton could only call ''an unusual season,'' Phoebus High turned to their defense to bring home a championship. The Phantoms forced five turnovers over the course of the game on their way to a 20–10 win, and another state championship. The Phantom's excellence in football is characteristic of the quality of athletics on the

Lower Peninsula area of Virginia. Phoebus High School's championship this year marked the 13th time in the last fifteen years that a Peninsula District team has won a state title in football.

Although very accomplished in football, Phoebus High's legacy of excellence is not limited to the field of athletics. Under the Direction of Principal Robert Johnson, the Phoebus faculty seeks to inspire all students to strive for excellence and achievement in the classroom, in their extracurricular activities and in their communities.

Phoebus has two innovative programs aimed at expanding the learning experience outside of the traditional classroom. One of them involves courses that prepare students for careers in technology. As host of the Hampton School Division's Information Design and Engineering Academy (IDEA), Phoebus offers magnet career classes in pre-engineering, design and information technology, and media technology and design. These courses provide the students a foundation to prepare for college classes and jobs in the technology sector. Phoebus is also home to the Blue Phantom Inn, a student-run restaurant that gives students an opportunity to develop their culinary arts skills. The restaurant program was nationally recognized in Southern Living magazine.

So we would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to Coach Stan Sexton, his coaching staff, the players on the Phoebus High School Phantoms and to all of Phoebus High School students, families, friends and fans, for their continued dedication to excellence in winning the Group AAA Division 5 Virginia High School League state football champions of 2011.

ENDING AMERICA'S WAR IN IRAQ

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, President Obama deserves tremendous credit for ending America's war in Iraq, honoring his commitment to bring all U.S. troops home by the end of 2011. As commander-in-chief he has always set the appropriate course of action in Iraq while always honoring the service and sacrifice of our troops and our military families.

The Iraq War has been a tragedy for far too many American and Iraqi families. The human costs of this war—in deaths, suffering, and permanent loss—cannot be calculated. U.S. troops served and fought with a profound sense of duty to our country. For this, all Americans should be grateful. The family members and loved ones of our brave troops also endured tremendous sacrifices that can never be repaid. Those selfless Americans who sacrificed their lives and bodies in service to our country, must always be remember them and Congress must always fulfill the promises it has made to our veterans and their families.

At home we cannot ignore the war's other costs. The Iraq War directly added $800 billion to the nation's debt—a bill that will be paid by our children and grandchildren. Meeting the long-term health care needs of Iraq war veterans will require hundreds of billions more for decades to come and that's an obligation Congress must never balk at paying.

Over the past nine years, my opposition to this war has been well known. Iraq was a war of political choice, not strategic necessity. While Iraq is no longer ruled by a dictator, the human price the Iraqi people paid in death, destruction, violence, and misery casts a very dark shadow over their country's future.

In the final analysis, America's war in Iraq was a strategic and human tragedy that must never be repeated. Now, as armchair generals in their disgraced neo-conservative pinstripes plot a new misadventure, this time with Iran, the American people must not be deceived, not be driven by fear, and not yield to another expensive and painful war of choice.

Mr. Speaker, I request the attached New York Times editorial regarding the end of America's war in Iraq entitled "A Formal End" be included.

[From the New York Times, Dec. 15, 2011]

A FORMAL END

It is a relief that the American role in the misguided Iraq war is finally over. It came to an official close on Thursday with an appropriately subdued ceremony in Baghdad. We mourn the nearly 4,500 American troops and tens of thousands of Iraqis who lost their lives.

After so much pain and sacrifice, Iraqis now have the responsibility for making their own better future. The fighting is not over, and success is still a long shot. The United States has a major role to play: encouraging, supporting and goading Iraq's leaders to make the long-delayed political compromises that are their only hope for building a stable democracy.

The fact that Saddam Hussein is gone is a genuine cause for celebration. But the list of errors and horrors in this war is inexcusably long, starting with a rush to invasion based on manipulated intelligence.

The Bush administration had no plan for governing the country once Saddam was deposed. The Iraqi economy still bears the scars from the first frenzied days of looting. The decision to disband the Sunni-dominated Iraqi Army helped unleash five years of sectarian strife that has not fully abated. Iraq's political system remains deeply riven by ethnic and religious differences.

America's reputation has yet to fully recover from the horrors of Abu Ghraib. The country is still paying a huge price for President George W. Bush's decision to shortchange the war in Afghanistan. American policy makers, for generations to come, must study these mistakes carefully and ensure that they are not repeated.

As for Iraq today, the authoritarian tendencies of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki are deeply troubling. A member of the Shiite majority that was badly persecuted under Saddam, he has been far more interested in payback than inclusion.

Washington has pushed him over the years—but, often, not hard enough.

The Baghdad government promised jobs to 100,000 members of the Sunni Awakening movement—insurgents whose decision to switch sides helped end the civil war—but only half that have been hired. Parliament still needs to enact a law, called for in the Constitution, that would provide a legal basis for determining who should be prosecuted for supporting Saddam's Baath Party or other extremist ideologies. Iraq's leaders have many more issues to resolve. Incredibly, they have still not decided how to divide the country's oil wealth. There is no agreement on who will control the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, which is claimed by both Baghdad and the semiautonomous Kurdish regional government.

Iraq's oil production still has not rebounded, and basic services like electricity are still woefully inadequate. Iraq needs an impartial justice system. Washington has pressed Baghdad for years to end corruption and build a representative government. It will need to keep pressing.

After investing billions of dollars, the United States has had more success rebuilding Iraq's security forces. But Iraqi and American commanders say these forces are not ready to fully protect the country against insurgents or potentially hostile neighbors. There are critical weaknesses in intelligence, air defenses, artillery and logistics.

The Obama administration was unable to reach a new defense agreement with Baghdad that would have allowed several thousand American troops to stay behind as backup. We hope that the Iraqi Army will do better than expected. The administration must be prepared to offer limited help if the army does get into serious trouble.

President Obama, who first ran for office campaigning against the war, has never wavered on his promise to bring the troops home. The last few thousand will be out of Iraq by year's end. We celebrate their return. But this country must never forget the intolerable costs of a war started on arrogance and lies.

RECOGNIZING CROSSROADS INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, BOSMA INDUSTRIES AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two organizations in Indianapolis, Crossroads Industrial Services and Bosma Enterprises. Both of these organizations are a part of the AbilityOne Program, which has helped more than 47,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment.

Together, these organizations employ 189 people in Indianapolis, jobs made possible by the AbilityOne Program. This critical program harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. It affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life.

This segment of the population has suffered from significant unemployment. Federal opportunities through the AbilityOne Program have played an important role in bringing people with disabilities into the workforce. For example, one of Bosmas Enterprises' employees Kevin Mossberger exemplifies how training and the AbilityOne Program can make a real difference in the life of someone. Kevin, who is in his early twenties obtained a degree in Business Management, but because of a genetic eye disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa was unable to find work in his small, southern Indiana hometown.

His parents suggested he go to Bosma Enterprises' Rehabilitation Center to receive additional training to live independently and to

help find employment. He did so and is now employed at Bosma Enterprises. Kevin says that the instruction he received taught him ''to live on his own and to have a whole new outlook.''

Kevin is not alone, earlier this year I was able to visit Crossroads Industrial Services and see firsthand the impact of the AbilityOne Program on not only its employees, but also the impact it has on our men and women in uniform. Crossroads employees are responsible for producing items that our service members rely on, like ballistic helmet pad sets, combat identification panels, and rocket launcher spare parts. It is with these important contributions that Crossroads, like Bosma, exemplifies the quality of work and determination to enhance the lives of disabled Americans that make the AbilityOne Program so invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment to Jim Vento of Easter Seals Crossroads, Lou Moneymaker of Bosma Industries, and their staffs, for helping individuals who are blind or have a significant disability find employment. The impact of their work and that of each AbilityOne employee has an undeniably positive impact on our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND MARVIN McMICKLE, PH.D.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Marvin McMickle and congratulate him on his retirement after twenty-four years of service as the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Rev. McMickle will become the president at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Rev. McMickle was born in 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. He was ordained as a reverend in New York City in 1973. Rev. McMickle served as the pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Montclair, New Jersey and as the associate pastor for the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City prior to becoming the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio in 1987.

In addition to being a staple in Cleveland's spiritual community, Rev. McMickle is also a major influence in academia and politics. He earned his undergraduate degree from Aurora College, a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctorate in philosophy from Case Western Reserve University. Over the years, Rev. McMickle has taught at several colleges and universities including Ashland Theological Seminary, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Fordham, Princeton and spent a semester as a visiting professor at Yale University.

Rev. McMickle has served as president of Shaker Heights School Board and Montclair Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He has also served on the boards of Greater Cleveland Roundtable, United Pastors in Mission, Urban League of Greater Cleveland, Gateway Economic Development Committee and United Way Services of Greater Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in thanking Rev. Marvin McMickle for more than two decades of leadership and service to the congregation of Antioch Baptist Church and residents of Cleveland. I wish him luck in his new position.

INTRODUCING WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON HAITI ACT OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the White House Conference on Haiti Act of 2011. This important piece of legislation would call on the President of the United States to convene a White House Conference on Haiti within the next calendar year.

As we are all well aware, in January of last year, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the already struggling nation of Haiti. Approximately three million people were affected and 230,000 are estimated to have died. Those who survived continue to face unimaginable conditions with a crumbling infrastructure and recurring Cholera outbreaks.

If there is a silver lining to this unimaginable tragedy, it is that out of this, the Haitian people have been given the incredible opportunity to right the wrongs of the past and rebuild their nation stronger than ever before. Millions of dollars in aid have flooded into the country and thousands of aid organizations are committed to building a sustainable recovery.

Immediately following the earthquake, we all witnessed countless foreign governments and aid organizations pledging to stand with Haiti, and I have been inspired by the countless individuals throughout the globe who have donated their talents and services to the recovery and the many more who are eager to help, but simply don't know how.

We cannot let this opportunity go to waste. However, with the possibility to do good comes the very real possibility of waste, duplication, and inefficiencies in the rebuilding and recovery process.

Under this bill, the major stakeholders in the rebuilding, along with other interested parties, will come together to share their knowledge and best practices and identify gaps in the recovery process. It is my hope that out of this Conference, opportunities for collaboration and coordination in projects big and small will emerge.

The Conference will also highlight innovative ideas for rebuilding and redevelopment in Haiti. From inexpensive hurricane and earthquake proof housing and green building techniques to sustainable economic practices and urban development. There are countless companies and individuals who have developed groundbreaking concepts in response to this tragedy, but they have yet to be connected with those who can put these ideas into practices or with others pursuing similar goals who may be able to improve upon their initiatives. Innovation does not happen in a bubble; great things can happen when great minds come together.

Further, Haitians living abroad are eager to help their brothers and sisters in Haiti, but many simply do not know where to begin. The White House Conference on Haiti will tap the immense resource that is the Haitian Diaspora by bringing their abilities together with those who are in a position to use them.

Most importantly however, the White House Conference on Haiti will help ensure that the challenges facing the Haitian people remain in the public eye and in the minds of all Americans.

While the United States has been instrumental in the recovery and rebuilding from countless natural and man-made disasters throughout the world, few international tragedies have had as deep an impact on the United States, and particularly the State of Florida, as this one.

Helping our Haitian neighbors is not only the right thing to do; it is also in our own nation's best interests. Just a stone's throw from our shores, instability in Haiti impacts our own economy and immigration levels.

Our nation's rapid, comprehensive response, from our government down to everyday Americans, has been commendable, but the President and this administration are in a position to do more. This legislation would not be a costly endeavor, but could stand to save millions of dollars that could be used to improve the lives of the Haitian people for generations to come.

At a time of continued instability and crisis, the United States must do all within its power to help ensure a long-term sustainable recovery for Haiti.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and urge the House Leadership to bring it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

IN HONOR OF RADIO STATION KZRG'S RESPONSE TO THE JOPLIN TORNADO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of the 7th District of Missouri's radio stations, KZRG.

KZRG is an AM radio station broadcasting from Joplin, Missouri that does news broadcasting for Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, or as they call it, ''the four state'' area.

On May 22, 2011, an EF–5 tornado struck Joplin, Missouri, devastating a once quiet Missouri town. On that Sunday evening, Joplin was forever changed. Much was destroyed. Family, friends, neighbors, homes and businesses disappeared in the blink of a tornado's eye. After the winds stilled, over 160 people, 8,000 homes and 500 businesses were lost.

The early days were tough. Shock and disbelief, chaos and devastation, but out of that wreckage came hope and inspiration. We found out there are a lot of heroes in Joplin. During those dark hours they stood up and came to the aid of their community when their neighbors needed them most. There is no better example of that than the associates at KZRG.

Despite the fact that seven KZRG associates lost homes during the tornado, despite

seeing their town in ruins, despite the horror and devastation of one of the most destructive tornados in American history, KZRG continued to broadcast and report, 24 hours a day, on-air and in the field.

The tornado's widespread devastation damaged or destroyed much of Joplin's cell phone towers and phone and electrical lines. This left much of the community powerless and unable to communicate. However, the radio broadcasts of KZRG continued. KZRG remained on air, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, giving folks critical and time-sensitive information as it was happening. KZRG was there, helping the police dispatch their officers, helping loved ones find each other, helping community leaders coordinate disaster recovery efforts. Truly, journalism at its finest.

They also launched a relief collection effort, which collected food, clothing, and toiletry items to listeners in need. In fact, their station became a meeting place of sorts, for emergency personnel and volunteers. They became a symbol of the community getting back on its feet.

Folks in Southwest Missouri should be proud to know that in times of trouble, KZRG was and will always be there. I too am proud and honored to call the associates of KZRG my fellow citizens and neighbors in the 7th Congressional District of Missouri.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I voted against the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (NDAA). While nothing is more important than providing the resources needed to keep America and our men and women in uniform safe, this authorization spends too much and is a missed opportunity for much needed reform.

First, however, I would like to thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH of the House Armed Services Committee for including elements of all three of my amendments in this final conference bill. One amendment lifts the veil on classified immunity for defense contractors, a practice that exposed 36 of our Oregon National Guardsmen to toxic chemicals in Iraq. The other two will help protect our troops on the battlefield and save billions of dollars through energy efficiency initiatives. Their inclusion, however, does not offset the overall authorization which fails to reflect America's priorities or our national security realities.

It is deeply unfortunate that this legislation includes the appalling detention provisions and that the bill continues to tie the President's hands by restricting his ability to transfer detainees to the United States for trial in Federal Court are appalling. Preventing the administration from closing Guantanamo only serves to bolster Al Qaeda and erode America's security. There is no excuse—even in the name of fighting terrorism—for undermining our ideals. Beyond the practical security considerations, terrorism is an assault on those ideals and we should not further erode them in response to that threat.

One thing that most of the Occupy Wall Street and majority of the Tea Party advocates agree upon is that the United States is on an unsustainable path.

The economy is still floundering. We are losing the competition with other countries in the international arena when it comes to rebuilding and renewing America's infrastructure and making advances in education. Even our health care system, improved by the Affordable Care Act, still falls short of the systems in use by most of our major European competitors.

These glaring examples of un-sustainability for our infrastructure, our education system and our health care system are all troubling. None of this, however, compares with the unsustainability of our massive defense and security spending. U.S. defense spending is bloated and not strategically oriented. We cannot continue to spend almost as much as the rest of the world—friend and foe alike—combined. We spend 6 times as much on defense as China, and 12 times that of Russia. Our Navy is larger than the next 13 navies combined.

People who are at the front deserve our best in terms of equipment, and they and their families need to be well-cared for, not just in the field, but when they come home. Our armed forces are stressed and continue to be hobbled by the reckless actions in Iraq and further challenged by the war in Afghanistan, and need to come home. We continue to spend in Afghanistan with no clear plan for withdrawal.

Today we have a reauthorization of the defense bill that fails to lay the foundation for the dramatic changes that are needed. Scaling back our open-ended spending commitments, nuclear weapons systems that we spend more on today than during the Cold War and are far more out of proportion to what we will ever need or use, patterns of deployment, for example, with our Navy, all cry out for reform. Long overdue elements to deal with cost effectiveness and the environmental footprint, energy costs at $400 a gallon for fuel at the frontlines in Afghanistan, and tens of billions of dollars lost to inefficient air conditioning are missing.

The greatest threat to our future is losing control of our ability to make tough decisions that will enable us to sustain our military and, more importantly, to sustain the economy. In short, the NDAA ignores the big picture.

We should reject this blueprint and begin the process now of right-sizing the military, trimming our burdensome nuclear stockpiles and unnecessary programs, eliminating costly weapons programs, ending our misguided mission in Afghanistan, and moving away from a Cold War model of deployment with U.S. military bases all over Europe.

We have the most powerful military in the world and will by far even if we invest substantially less. Our problem is that the American public is being ill-served by government. We're not investing in our future, and our economy will not be able to sustain this ever-increasing military commitment, to say nothing of the demands of investing in our communities and our people, especially the young. This is another missed opportunity to set down a marker for real change, and to lead responsibly.

THANKING BILL HARRIS

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, each Member of this body is assisted by those who serve on our staffs. The roles and responsibilities of a Member of Congress make it impossible for any one individual to do it all. It takes a team.

Today I wish to recognize and express appreciation to a key member of my team as he retires from official public service.

Bill Harris has served as my Chief of Staff and then Senior Counselor since 2004. But his service to the country began in 1968 as a member of U.S. Army Signal Corps and his service to the Congress began in 1972, when he took a job as a staff assistant to Congressman Mike McCormack of Washington State. Earning his law degree from Georgetown, he was Congressman McCormack's Counsel until 1976.

Between his stints with the Congress, Bill worked for the Atomic Industrial Forum, the Committee for Energy Awareness, the U.S. Council for Energy Awareness (which is now the Nuclear Energy Institute), and the University Research Alliance. In each of these positions, Bill's focus was energy and the tremendous possibilities that can come from nuclear research and development.

In 2004, I enticed Bill back into government service to serve as my Chief of Staff. He led my team by helping each staff member develop his or her talents and interests to grow and serve the people of the 13th district. His expertise in energy and in management, as well as his background in the law, were invaluable. But, perhaps most importantly has been his character and strong, steady leadership.

Too few individuals possess the modesty that puts the good of the organization and the mission ahead of any personal considerations. Yet some of the strongest leaders and those with the most to say are those persons of character whose soft-spoken demeanor quiets the noise with intellect, honesty, and sound judgment. Bill is just such a leader.

He has helped ensure that we made decisions based on the concerns of the people in Texas, not how policy in Washington should control the lives of people back home. No matter what the task, my staff and I counted on Bill's guidance and sense of duty to the people we represent.

Of course, Bill's commitment to service goes beyond his profession. He spends his free time engaging with all corners of the community. For example, he is currently a Mission Pilot with the Civil Air Patrol, a long-serving board member of the Harrington Cancer Center of Amarillo, and a member of the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee. But that is just a sampling. Over the years, Bill and wonderful wife Bev have become fixtures in the community when it comes to serving others and the community as a whole. Bill has been on more committees and organizational projects than anyone could count.

President Reagan put a premium on principle-based leadership. He kept a small plaque on his desk in the Oval Office with a quote that read, "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he does not

mind who gets the credit.'' Bill's example of servant leadership is one that has shaped the lives of many individuals and shown that a benevolent heart earns the respect of others.

It is for this spirit of service and dedication to the highest standards of excellence that I am honored to recognize the contributions and to acknowledge the retirement of a man who is a credit to my office, his family, and our country.

As he moves into the next phase of his life, I want to express my gratitude, not only for all of his help with my work in representing the 13th district, but for all he has done so far to make our community and our region a better place to live.

HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF JAMES E. BURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the life of James E. Burch, military veteran, advertising executive and lifelong anti-war and environmental activist. A renaissance man with a passion for leaving the world better than he found it, Jim spent his life acting on the life philosophy passed along to him by his mother, ''I am my brother's keeper.''

Born in Evanston, Illinois on February 27, 1926, Jim served in the United States Infantry in the South Pacific. At age 19, he became the program director of the Armed Forces Radio Service station WVTQ in Osaka, Japan. He was honorably discharged in May 1946. After working in the radio business in Hollywood, he moved to Arizona where he met and married his wife of 61 years, Wileta. In 1951, Jim, Wileta and their two children, Bill and Barbara moved to northern California where Jim began a 23-year career working with the San Francisco-based advertising agency Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn where he created numerous award winning advertisements.

Jim left his professional position and began his second career as a volunteer activist. Instrumental in the beginnings and ongoing work of Sequoia Seminar, Creative Initiative, Project Survival, Beyond War and the Foundation for Global Community, Jim contributed his many talents to groundbreaking projects. Among them were, the beginning of a recycling program in Palo Alto, California that became a model for the Nation, the first space bridge to connect the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War (1984), the first satellite space bridge connecting seven countries on five continents (1985) and the creation of a series of nature documentaries that were featured on PBS. Jim served as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Foundation for Global Community until December of 2010.

Launching yet a third career, Jim was elected to the Palo Alto City Council in 1999. In 2005, at the age of 78, he was elected mayor, the oldest mayor in the city's history. While knowing that the job required a local focus, Jim continued to bring his understanding of global interconnectedness to city government. He observed on more than one occasion that, ''It's one world, it's one Earth, it's one planet; it's one ecosystem. We're either all going to make it or nobody's going to make it.''

Jim is survived by Wileta, his son Bill Burch, (Bill's wife, Kathy), his daughter Barbara Lindsay, (Barbara's husband, Targe) and grandchildren Merrill Burch, David Lindsay, (David's wife, Stephanie), Kristina Lindsay, and his many friends and colleagues whose lives were enriched by his sense of humor, creativity and generosity.

ROBERT GRIFFIN III—BAYLOR HEISMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, each year the Heisman Memorial Trophy is presented to the ''outstanding college football player whose performance best exhibits the pursuit of excellence with integrity.'' The 2011 winner, Baylor University Quarterback Robert Griffin III, or RG3 as he's known to fans, highly deserves American collegiate athletics most celebrated honor.

Robert was born in Okinawa, Japan to two U.S. Army Sergeants. They would eventually settle in football-mad Texas, home of the original Friday Night Lights, but Robert's talents could not be contained to the gridiron. He was a three sport star for Copperas Cove High School, excelling in baseball, football, and track.

Recruiters came from across the nation to bring Robert's talents to their University, but he believed in the message of Head Coach Art Briles and followed him to Baylor, not known as a football powerhouse. In 2008 Robert shined, starting 11 of his 12 games and winning the Big 12 Freshman of the Year honors. The Bears finished 4–8 but their future was bright.

2010 was the breakthrough year for RG3 and the Baylor Bears. They fought to a 7–5 record and played in their first bowl game in over 15 years and also ranked in the national top 25 for the first time in 30 years. Robert dug deep inside himself and vowed to lead the Bears through uncharted waters—football prominence.

The 2011 season started off with a bang. The Bears defeated #14 TCU, the previous year's Rose Bowl winner. Robert would command the Bears to a 9–3 record, their best in over 25 years, including upsets of Texas and, for the first time in school history, then #5 Oklahoma. Griffin was dangerous in the air and on his feet, passing for 3,998 yards and 36 touchdowns while rushing for 644 yards and 9 touchdowns. He lead the nation with a 192.31 passing efficiency, on pace to shatter the all-time record. The success propelled the team into a bowl for the second consecutive year and made Griffin the 77th Heisman Trophy winner and first from Baylor University.

Robert was a leader both on and off the field. The perennial Honor Roll student graduated in three years with his political science degree and will finish his Masters in Communication next spring. He is as known for his faith as he is his football abilities. Upon winning the trophy in New York City, he and his military family immediately headed to the Ground Zero 9/11 memorial for some reflection. Robert never forgot his roots.

Mr. Speaker, it is always refreshing to see good things happen to good people, and Robert Griffin III deserves all the success and more. I am honored to commemorate his accomplishments and proud to call him a Texan.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 15, 2011, I was unable to vote due to an important family event.

Had I been present, I would have voted:

On rollcall No. 933—''yes''—Approval of the Journal.

On rollcall No. 934—''yes''—H.R. 886—U.S. Marshals Service 225th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act.

On rollcall No. 935—''yes''—H.R. 2719, Rattlesnake Mountain Public Access Act.

On rollcall No. 936—''yes''—H.R. 443, To Provide for the conveyance of certain property from the U.S. to the Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue, AK.

RECOGNIZING 16TH ANNIVERSARY OF DAYTON PEACE ACCORDS

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I am glad to recognize the 16th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords.

On December 14, 1995, the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, known as the Dayton Peace Accords, ended a conflict that threatened to destabilize Europe and resulted in the death of approximately 250,000 people, and the displacement of more than 2,000,000 men, women, and children.

Negotiations began on November 1, 1995, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, and concluded there on November 21, 1995, when the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia all agreed to a breakthrough peace settlement that sought to halt conflicts that began in Bosnia and Herzegovina in April 1992.

Previous attempts to negotiate peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina had been unsuccessful; and the negotiations were initiated under intense pressure by many of the world powers, particularly the United States and Russia, prompting the leaders of the three sides to attend the negotiations in Dayton, Ohio.

The United States negotiating team, led by Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, guided peace negotiations endorsed by members of the European Union (EU) and Russian Federation; and 21 days of intense negotiations occurring at the Hope Hotel at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base brought hope and an opportunity for peace.

The negotiations succeeded, against all predictions, due to the visionary leadership, the determination of all involved, the desire for peaceful resolution of the conflict, and the extensive community support. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was chosen as the site of the

negotiations due to its diversity and security, which offered an environment where the warring parties could focus on negotiating peace out of the spotlight of the media and away from distracting geopolitical pressures.

The Dayton community unexpectedly became part of the process as its people became proud to be part of history, holding candlelight vigils, placing 'candles of peace' in their front windows, congratulating and praying for the negotiators, forming a human peace chain around Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and continuing to study peace and human rights based on the community's experiences hosting these historic negotiations.

The negotiators highlighted Ohio's ethnic diversity to show the warring parties that people from disparate ethnic histories could live everyday life in peace; and the Dayton Peace Accords provided a framework and common agreement to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) implementation and stabilization force missions which provided security for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia.

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize, established in 2006, remains the only literary peace prize awarded in the United States, and continues the legacy of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords by honoring authors who write about peace and whose work provides enduring literary value.

The Dayton International Peace Museum in downtown Dayton, a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization, is one of the few community-based institutions with a focus on peace in the United States, and the Museum honors Dayton's history as the host of the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords, offering nonpartisan educational programs and exhibits featuring themes of nonviolent conflict resolution, social justice issues, international relations, and peace.

Mr. Speaker, the Dayton, Ohio, community supported the peace negotiations and worked to create a strong, lasting relationship with Bosnia and Herzegovina by hosting numerous visiting delegations, creating a sister city relationship with Sarajevo, and hosting an international anniversary commemoration. Bosnia and Herzegovina has received a conditional Membership Action Plan to join NATO pending continued progress on reforms. Croatia is progressing on the path to join the EU, became a NATO member in 2009, and has deployed troops around the world, including in Afghanistan, fighting alongside the United States Armed Forces to bring peace, stability, and prosperity to others. The Montenegrin Parliament declared independence from Serbia on June 3, 2006, and thus created a multi-ethnic country with a viable economy, professional military and democratic institutions.

The entire State of Ohio has contributed to stability and prosperity in the Balkan region by fostering an exemplary relationship between the Ohio National Guard and the Serbian Armed Forces; and the Dayton Peace Accords effectively ended the conflict, created a multi-ethnic country in the Balkans, and addressed topics critical to the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including regional stabilization, a constitutional framework, the repatriation of refugees, and internal security.

HONORING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HILL-MURRAY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the students, alumni, parents, faculty and staff of Hill-Murray School in Maplewood, Minnesota on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. This educational institution has a distinguished record on academics, community involvement and athletic success.

Archbishop Murray Memorial high school was founded in 1958 by the Benedictine Sisters as a school for young women. In 1959, just a few blocks down the street, the Christian Brothers founded the Hill High School as a school for boys. Classes officially began in both schools in 1951, and in 1971 the schools merged and the Hill-Murray School was born.

During the past 50 years, Hill-Murray has strived for excellence in all areas. Its mission statement declares the school "is committed to developing creative and responsible leaders for tomorrow's world who will provide effective moral leadership in their local and global communities". This charge is reflected in both the school's design and its results: from its students, 92% of whom enroll in post-high school educational institutions; to its classrooms, where the student-teacher ratio is 14:1; and to its teachers 79% of whom hold advanced degrees and 80% of whom have more than 5 years of experience.

Following the school's mission to prepare students not only for college but for the broader journey of life, Hill-Murray students in grades nine through twelve complete two service requirements per year helping the economically disadvantaged, the physically or mentally impaired, and the elderly. With its emphasis on developing the entire person, 90% of the student body participates in extracurricular activities.

The Hill-Murray athletics department has one of the finest histories in the State of Minnesota. In the past 5 years, Hill-Murray teams and individual athletes advanced to the Minnesota State Tournament in boys and girls basketball, boys and girls track, boys and girls golf, girls tennis, competitive cheerleading, and danceline. The boys Hockey team is regarded as one of the best in the state, and earned its 3rd State Championship in 2008.

Additionally Hill-Murray has produced 6 National Hockey League players, 3 World Hockey Association players, over 70 Division I NCAA players; 2 Major League Baseball players, and 3 Olympians including a member of the gold-medal winning 1980 U.S. Hockey team responsible for the 'Miracle on Ice.'

Mr. Speaker, in honor of all members of the Hill-Murray family, I am pleased to submit this statement for the Congressional Record recognizing the many contributions this school has made to the State of Minnesota and the United States of America during the past 50 years.

THE DECLARATION OF OCCUPY D.C.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

THE DECLARATION OF OCCUPY D.C.

CONSENTED TO BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 30TH, 2011

We have been captives of corrupt economic and political systems for far too long. The concentration of wealth and the purchase of political power stifle the voices of the increasingly disenfranchised 99 percent. Corporate dominance subverts democracy, intentionally sows division, destroys the environment, obstructs the just and equitable pursuit of happiness, and violates the rights and dignity of all life.

Occupy D.C. is an open community of diverse individuals, facing different forms of oppression and impacted by economic exploitation to differing degrees, but united by a shared vision of equality for the common good. The harsh economic conditions that have plagued the poor, working class, and communities of color for generations have begun to affect the previously financially secure. This acute awareness of our common fate has united us in our struggle for a better future. We recognize that inequality and injustice systemically affect every aspect of our society: our communities, homes, and hearts. To build the world we envision, we commit ourselves to overcoming our personal biases so we can successfully challenge systems of oppression in solidarity.

We are peaceably assembled at McPherson Square, practicing direct democracy on the doorstep of K Street, the epicenter of destructive corporate and governmental relationships. Recognizing that the term "occupy" is associated with exploitation, violence, and imperialism, we are reclaiming it to mean the peaceful liberation of public space. In this disenfranchised city, we are insisting that our economic and political systems serve the people's interests. Now is the time to advance and complete the struggles of the many who came before us.

We are assembled because . . .

It is absurd that the 1 percent has taken 40 percent of the nation's wealth through exploiting labor, outsourcing jobs, and manipulating the tax code to their benefit through special capital tax rates and loopholes. The system is rigged in their favor, yet they cry foul when anyone even dares to question their relentless class warfare.

Candidates in our electoral system require huge sums of money to be competitive. These contributions from multi-national corporations and wealthy individuals destroy responsive representative governance. A system of backroom deals, kickbacks, bribes, and dirty politics overrides the will of the people. The rotation of decision makers between the public and private sectors cultivates a network of public officials, lobbyists, and executives whose aligned interests do not serve the American people.

The entrenched two-party system overlooks public interests by pursuing narrow political goals. This climate encourages candidates to polarize voters for individual power and personal gain. Citizens' meaningful input has been compromised by gerrymandering, voter disenfranchisement, and unresponsive politicians. Residents of Washington, D.C., continue to lack autonomy and legislative representation.

The 1 percent benefits from economic, political, and legal structures that oppress

communities long targeted by displacement, denial of sovereignty, slavery, and other injustices. These persecuted but resilient communities continue to suffer through generations of disproportionately higher rates of unemployment, poverty, criminalization, and homelessness. Facets of the 1 percent campaign to blame these groups for these problems while obstructing healing and restoration.

Those with power have divided us from working in solidarity by perpetuating historical prejudices and discrimination based on perceived race, religion, immigrant or indigenous status, income, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability, among other things. These divisions have inhibited our ability to work in solidarity, though today we recognize the power of uniting as the 99 percent.

Financial institutions gambled with our savings, homes, and economy. They collapsed the financial system and needed the public to bail them out of their failures yet deny any responsibility and continue to fight oversight. Corporations loot from those whose labor creates society's prosperity, while the government allows them to privatize profits and socialize risk.

Corporate interests threaten life on Earth by extracting and burning fossil fuels and resisting the necessary transition to renewable energy. Their drilling, mining, clear-cutting, overfishing, and factory farming destroys the land, jeopardizes our food and water, and poisons the soil with near impunity. They privilege polluters over people by subsidizing fossil fuels, blocking investments in clean energy and efficient transportation, and hiding environmental destruction from public oversight.

Private corporations, with the government's support, use common resources and infrastructure for short-term personal profit, while stifling efforts to invest in public goods.

The U.S. government engages in drawn-out, costly conflicts abroad. Numerous acts of conquest have been, and continue to be, pursued to control resources, overthrow foreign governments, and install subservient regimes. These wars destroy the lives of innocent civilians and American soldiers, many of whom suffer adverse effects throughout life. These operations are a blank check to divert money from domestic priorities.

Government authorities cultivate a culture of fear to invade our privacy, limit assembly, restrict speech, and deny due process. They have failed in their duty to protect our rights. Exacerbated by profiteering interests, the criminal justice system has unfairly targeted underprivileged communities and outspoken groups for prosecution rather than protection.

Corporatized culture warps our perception of reality. It cheapens and mocks the beauty of human thought and experience while promoting excessive materialism as the path to happiness. The corporate news media furthers the interests of the very wealthy, distorts and disregards the truth, and confines our imagination of what is possible for ourselves and society.

Leaders are trading our access to basic needs in exchange for handouts to the ultra-wealthy. Our rights to healthcare, education, food, water, and housing are sacrificed to profit-driven market forces. They are attacking unemployment insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, creating an uncertain future for us all.*

A better world is possible.

To all people,

We, the Washington D.C. General Assembly occupying K Street in McPherson Square, urge you to assert your power.

Exercise your right to peaceably assemble and reclaim the commons. Re-conceive ways to build a democratic, just, and sustainable world.

To all who value democracy, we encourage you to collaborate and share available resources.

Join your voice with ours and let it amplify until the heart of the movement booms with our chorus of solidarity.

*These grievances are not all inclusive.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was $4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is $15,098,098,486,788.82. We've added $10,296,693,311,494.54 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is $10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. CLYDE McINTOSH OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an outstanding public servant and dedicated volunteer in Yancey County, North Carolina. Mr. Clyde McIntosh of Burnsville committed his life to service and activism. After graduating from Burnsville High School in 1950, Mr. McIntosh proudly served four years in the United States Navy. Upon completion of his service, he moved back to the mountains of Western North Carolina where he built a successful real estate and development business and operated a dairy farm. During this period, he worked diligently toward the goal of preserving the rural heritage of the area.

Mr. McIntosh assumed public office when he was elected Sheriff of Yancey County in 1986. From 1999 to 2005, he served on the Board of Directors of the Yancey County Department of Social Services, spending a portion of his tenure as Chair. For many years, Mr. McIntosh was an active community volunteer for the Lions Club and Meals on Wheels.

Mr. McIntosh worked for years to educate Yancey County youth on the importance of civic engagement and community involvement. He acted as a mentor for the Young Democrats organization of Yancey County, encouraging young people to be politically active.

I commend his outstanding contributions to the Democratic Party. In April 2001, he was named Mountain Democrat of the Year and also served as the Yancey County Democratic Party Chair. He served as Precinct Chair for both Jacks Creek and Burnsville Townships.

Our mountain community is a better place because of Mr. McIntosh's devotion to activism and service. Mr. McIntosh was an invaluable presence in the lives of the many people he inspired and helped through his work. Though he will be missed, I know this legacy will live on for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the exemplary life of Mr. Clyde McIntosh of Yancey County, North Carolina.

WE MUST GET OUR FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I have made it clear from the beginning that until the Senate leadership can pass a budget, the House should be using the baseline off of the framework included in the House-passed 2012 budget. The Path to Prosperity is a credible and commonsense proposal that would put our nation on the path to balanced budgets and debt reduction.

Unfortunately, the spending levels set forth in today's omnibus appropriations package exceed those numbers established in the Path to Prosperity. For this reason, I had to cast my vote against the legislation considered in the House today.

It is impossible to get our nation's fiscal house in order unless we have a budget framework to work off of. House Republicans have done their job and passed a budget, it is now time for Senate Democrats to do the same.

My constituents sent me to Washington to make the difficult spending decisions, and I'm more than willing to make them. Continuing Resolutions and omnibus packages are not the sort of bold action that the people in Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District expect. I applaud efforts by the House Leadership in which a number of our appropriations bills were considered this year under regular order and under open rules which allowed for debate and amendments. Unfortunately, this process was unable to be completed and many of the bills passed by the House have simply languished in the Senate without consideration.

I am hopeful that United States Congress will restart a process in which budgets are passed and the 12 appropriations bills are considered in an open process. Omnibus bills are unpopular to our constituents. They invite poor legislating and lead to increased spending. Our constituents expect and deserve more.

I have made a commitment to continue the fight for long-term solutions to rein in Washington's out-of-control spending, and I am appreciative of the constituents in the Fourth District of Tennessee who have sent me to Washington to do that very thing.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR PATRICIA GRIFFIN CARDWELL, NCANG, RET.

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Command Sergeant Major Patricia Griffin Cardwell. CSM Cardwell passed away last week on December 7. She was a veteran of the North Carolina Army National Guard (NCANG) and is survived by her mother, two brothers, and her niece and nephew.

CSM Cardwell was the daughter of Betty Nowarah Griffin and the late Reginald Griffin. She was a native of Martin County, a graduate of Williamston High School, and a member of the First Christian Church.

CSM Cardwell began her distinguished 28-year career with the NCANG on December 5, 1979, as a Specialist, and became a full-time member of the Guard in 1984. From 2001–2002, she attended the United States Army Sergeants Major Course at the USA Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas. CSM Cardwell made history on April 1, 2004, when she was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major, becoming the first woman to rise to this rank in the NCANG. She was later laterally appointed as a Command Sergeant Major of the 217th Human Resources Battalion Headquarters, and served in a dual status in both this post and as the Chief, Personnel Services of the Human Resources Section at Joint Forces Headquarters in Raleigh until her retirement on December 31, 2007.

CSM Cardwell served our country for three decades with tremendous character and devotion. She deserves the highest appreciation and commendation. I pray that her family is able to find peace in this difficult time. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring her today.

220TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RATIFICATION OF THE FIRST 10 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION, THE BILL OF RIGHTS

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 220th anniversary of the ratification of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights serves to check the power of government and preserve the freedom of Americans. Our founding fathers realized that even well intentioned governments answerable to the will of the voters can grow to be tyrannical. They recognized that protections were needed to guard against government interference and so they enshrined those protections in the highest law of the land. The Bill of Rights is unique in that it is a document that outlines government power not by what the government can do but by what it CAN'T do. The spirit of our nation is in that distinction. We are a nation built on the idea that private individuals could create private industry with private interests and build a great society without an all knowing bureaucracy telling them how to do it. Times have changed since 1791. Our nation has grown, our government has grown, and today we inhabit a different world. There is no way that Madison and Jefferson and the rest of the founders who fought for a Bill of Rights could have envisioned the country we have become. Over the years we have fought many battles over the interpretation of these amendments and these principles have stood the test of time. The Bill of Rights is a fundamental feature of our country and a beacon to the rest of the world that freedom works, it is to be celebrated, and not repressed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HAROLD L. WILLIAMS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Harold L. Williams as he retires after 35 years of service at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is a law firm for low-income individuals and provides services in the areas of consumer rights, domestic violence, education, employment, family law, health, housing, foreclosure, immigration, public benefits, utilities and tax. It was founded as a nonprofit in 1905 and until 1966 operated primarily with volunteers. In 1966, staff attorneys were hired and today there are 53 attorneys, 40 staff members and more than 1800 volunteers that serve Cleveland's low-income individuals. Legal Aid's mission is to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income and otherwise vulnerable by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

Mr. Williams began working at Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in 1975 in the Law Reform Unit. Since 2003, he has served as the managing attorney of Legal Aid's Consumer Law Unit. Mr. Williams also supervises Legal Aid's law participation in Ohio's Save the Dream foreclosure prevention program. He is the editor and principal author of Ohio Consumer Law.

Because of his dedication to serving the people of Cleveland and his vast expertise in consumer law, Mr. Williams was the recipient of the William J. Brown Consumer Protection Award from the Ohio Attorney General in March 2010.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. Harold L. Williams as he retires after 35 years of dedicated service to the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland.

END OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week America solemnly observes the end of an era. After almost nine years of war in Iraq, our troops are finally coming home, and Iraqis will assume the full responsibilities of self-government. The Obama Administration's leadership and the skill and bravery of our military men and women have made this moment possible. But as we welcome those troops returning home to their families, we must also remember the tens of thousands who came home with wounds both seen and unseen, the more than 1.5 million Americans who served in Iraq, and most of all the nearly 4,500 brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of this day. America's military families have born a heavy burden, and we must continue our commitment to support our troops, veterans, survivors, and families.

Iraq will face significant challenges in the days ahead. But America has an interest in Iraqi security and stability, as with all of our friends and allies in the Middle East. So when Iraq encounters those challenges, it will do so as a sovereign nation, with America as its partner.

HONORING MR. MIKE BUNCH, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE JOINT MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER AT ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the long, successful, and highly dedicated career of Mr. Mike Bunch, the Deputy Commander of the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center, which is located at the Rock Island Arsenal. Mr. Bunch has served our country as an employee of the United States Army for over 34 years. A native of Moline, Illinois and a proud graduate of Upper Iowa University, Mike followed his great-grandfather, grandfather, grandmother, mother, and father to work on the Rock Island Arsenal. His first job on the Island was as a second shift keypunch operator earning $3 an hour. Since then, he has worked on Rock Island Arsenal for all but three years of his adult life, even meeting his wife of 34 years, Julie, on the Island.

During that time, Mike served with the Army Material Command, Information Systems Command, and the Army Corps of Engineers. He has dedicated his career to ensuring that our Soldiers have the equipment they need to safely carry out their missions. I have not met a person more dedicated to our Soldiers, the United States Army, or Rock Island Arsenal than Mike. His expertise has served the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center and our nation exceedingly well, and I have often relied on his years of knowledge and expertise in my work for the Rock Island Arsenal and our Soldiers.

Mike is very humble and most likely would not admit this himself, but, while his retirement is well-deserved, it is also a significant loss to the Rock Island Arsenal. His commitment to the Arsenal and the work of the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center to equip our troops is unparalleled. Whether it was during his time as a tool grinder at the Arsenal or his four years as Deputy Commander, his commitment to producing nothing but top quality

equipment and carrying on the proud tradition of the Rock Island Arsenal has been demonstrated in every position he has held. Under his leadership, production rates at the Arsenal have gone up, prices have been reduced, and the Arsenal was able to meet the needs of our troops more quickly. Fortunately, Mike's retirement is not the end of the family legacy on the Island his—son Ryan began as a pipe fitter at the Arsenal and currently works at Army Contracting Command-Rock Island.

On behalf of all of my constituents, I would like to thank Mike for his years of service to Rock Island Arsenal, the United States Army, and our nation. I know I join his colleagues, friends, and loved ones in wishing him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical issue, I was unable to cast the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 913—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 914—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 915—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 916—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 925—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 926—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 927—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 928—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 929—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 930—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 931—I would have voted "no"
Rollcall vote 932—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 933—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 934—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 935—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 937—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 938—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 939—I would have voted "yes"
Rollcall vote 940—I would have voted "yes"

COMMENDING TIME WARNER CABLE

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Time Warner Cable for its dedication to keeping citizens informed about what is going on in Washington. The better informed our citizens are, the better it is for our democracy. As our founding father Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1789, "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."

At a time when news coverage budgets are being cut, I applaud Time Warner cable for expanding their presence in Washington, DC with the opening of a new bureau.

I have always been a champion for transparency in government. News coverage is one of the ways that sunlight is shined into government operation. This increased presence will lead to a more informed citizenry, and I congratulate Time Warner Cable for making this investment in democracy.

HONORING BILL BUCHANAN OF KSHN IN LIBRARY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with all of you an American success story built on hard work and an overflowing community spirit.

Bill Buchanan is one of the newest members of the Texas Radio Hall of Fame. He got there the old fashioned way—he went to work everyday to keep his community both informed and entertained and his peers honored him for it.

Let me tell you a bit about Bill. He didn't get his start in Texas radio. He started making his way selling appliances in Kentucky and working part-time as a radio sports announcer and writing copy for the Indianapolis Star.

He then packed his bags and headed south landing at KGTN in Georgetown, Texas where he started making a name for himself selling radio commercials.

In 1977, he got the news that would change his life forever. He learned that a radio station was for sale in Liberty. He bought what was then KPXE and put down roots in Liberty. In the last nearly quarter century, he's made the switch to the FM dial and kept providing Liberty County with "music mixed with things that matter."

Engineering publications and even Readers Digest took note of the station's "split-channel" innovations.

Bill remains very hands on at KSHN and many people in Liberty still talk about how his coverage of The John Hebert Distributing Fire was heard around the world and how KSHN has been in lifeline in floods and Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

Bill Buchanan and KSHN are a huge part of the community of Liberty. The Texas Radio Hall of Fame is lucky to have Bill Buchanan because he keeps local radio local by refusing to let his station be simply a jukebox.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN JOHN B. LARSON AND EULOGY DELIVERED BY SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE HONORING THE LIFE OF GOVERNOR BRUCE SUNDLUN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, Bruce Sundlun was a remarkable man and an outstanding public servant. His daughter Kara and son-in-law Dennis and their children are constituents of mine. I was fortunate to be chatting with Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, who was recalling his life. Senator WHITEHOUSE delivered the eulogy for Governor Sundlun, and on behalf of Congressman JIM LANGEVIN and DAVID CICILLINE, it is my honor as Democratic Caucus Chair to submit these thoughtful and poignant remarks for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EULOGY FOR GOVERNOR BRUCE SUNDLUN AS DELIVERED BY U.S. SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE

What a man. What a life.

Bruce Sundlun's accomplishments—as a record-breaking athlete, as a resourceful war hero, as a superb lawyer, as a successful business entrepreneur, and as political leader of our state—would each on their own be significant. You could probably write a book about each. Together, packed all into one energetic life, it makes Bruce Sundlun one of the most accomplished and remarkable men in our state's history.

And that's not even counting five marriages, four children, three unsuccessful runs for governor, two dead raccoons, and one long escape on the loose, behind enemy lines.

There's really just no way to fit it all in.

Let me step into my role as a Sundlun staffer, and ask you to think just of his brief four years as governor. Hit (on Day One of his administration) by an unprecedented bank failure affecting 300,000 Rhode Islanders, AND by the worst budget deficit in state history, AND by an implosion of the state's entire worker's compensation system, AND with the urgent need to restore ethics in government, Bruce was the man for that moment, and swung into his customary decisive action.

The budget was promptly and fairly balanced and the whole budget process improved.

Inventive solutions to repay the depositors and clean up the RISDIC mess were found and implemented, and those at fault were made to pay—over a hundred million dollars.

His worker's compensation reform moved the state from an embarrassment to a model, moving what was then the business community's worst problem completely off the problem list for now going on 20 years.

As a problem solver, he had no peer.

And that alone would be pretty extraordinary. But there was that ethics gap. So Bruce wrote Executive Order 91–One, the ethics executive order that succeeding governors renewed virtually unchanged. He reformed our Ethics Commission. He changed the way we appoint judges, to reduce the politics. He changed the way we fund elections, with a public finance plan and donor limits. Through an intense storm of legal and political opposition, he opened up the pension records; putting an end forever to backroom special pension bills. He got our State Police nationally accredited.

He even cleaned up the Capitol literally!

All that was extraordinary—but still not enough.

In the worst economic times the state had seen since the Depression, with a shrinking budget, he decided to extend universal health care to children—and started the program that became Rite Care. Against immense opposition, he built our new airport terminal. He embarked on the Westin Hotel, the Convention Center, and the Providence Place Mall. He finished the Jamestown Bridge and built the Expressway. And even that's not the end of it.

It was an amazing burst of activity. I will bet that almost every Rhode Islander, almost every day, is somehow touched by something Governor Sundlun did.

And through it all, he drove his staff crazy. He was irrepressible, impatient, imperial, unscriptable, combative, frustrating, willful, constantly threw caution to the winds, impossible to keep up with—he drove us nuts.

And we loved him.

We loved him because he was bold and brave, and was warm-hearted and trusting and generous, and because he was willing to throw caution to the winds to do what was right. We loved him because he never once had us make excuses or try to shift the blame.

That was not his style. "Never complain; never explain."

We all remember his Bruce-isms:

''Always touch base with those concerned before taking action.''

''How fast would you get it done if the Russians were in South Attleboro?''

''When you've won, stop talking, close your briefcase and leave.''

''Message to Garcia.''

''Who, what, where, when; don't bother me with why.''

The phone calls, at all hours, that began with no ''hello'' and ended with dial tone.

The road shows known to his staff as ''Dome on the Roam'', or more precisely, ''Bruce on the Loose.''

And sometimes just that big foxy grin.

We saw that his qualities of friendship and loyalty had an almost physical force; that he had your back even if you made mistakes (no one ever was thrown under the bus); and that he was a better friend the more the chips were down.

Politics is full of fair weather friends; Bruce Sundlun was your stormy weather friend. Politics is full of people who take tiny cautious steps with their finger up constantly testing the winds; Bruce stepped boldly down the path he thought was right, even if that meant stepping right in it.

People wonder what lives on after they die. Well, Bruce, we do. And every one of us has been changed: made better, and stronger, harder-working and more resourceful, by your vibrant elemental force in our lives.

We've gone on to be judges and lawyers, to run state and federal agencies, to become Senators and councilmen and Lieutenant Governors, banking leaders and senior partners in national accounting firms, but none of us ever will be more proud of anything than the simple title: ''I was a Sundlun staffer.''

Soozie and Marjorie, Tracey and Stuart and Peter and Kara: Thank you. Thank you for sharing your husband and father with our state. For those who loved and were changed by him, I thank you. For those who knew and were touched by him, I thank you. And for those who never knew him directly, but whose lives are better today because of what he did, I thank you.

As I close, I want to take you back to a scene from that wonderful movie I saw as a kid, ''To Kill A Mockingbird.'' As you'll recall, Atticus Finch takes on the courageous but unpopular defense of a black man wrongfully accused of rape. At the end of the trial, Atticus's daughter Scout—proper name Jean Louise—is up in the gallery of the courtroom, with the black townspeople, who aren't allowed down on the regular courtroom floor. The courtroom floor empties, but they remain, and slowly stand. As Atticus packs his papers together, closes his bag, and walks out, an elderly man leans down to the little girl and says, ''Stand up, Miss Jean Louise. Your father's passing.''

At the end of this service, as Bruce is taken to his gravesite after 91 years of a life well and fully lived, we will all stand up. And rightly so. A governor will be passing.

FELLOWSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING AND USEFUL RESEARCH IN ENERGY-RELATED SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS FIELDS ACT OF 2011

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the FUTURE STEM Act. This legislation will give undergraduate students opportunities to expand both the breadth and depth of their education in multidisciplinary science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields in real world research settings from National Labs to businesses. An American workforce that is highly skilled in STEM fields is necessary for the United States' economic competitiveness and job creation in innovative industries.

Industries that drive Washington state and our nation's economy, such as health care, biotechnology, information technology, manufacturing, aerospace, transportation, construction, and energy efficiency and clean technology, all need career-ready STEM-trained graduates to remain competitive and cutting-edge. In fact, workforce projections for 2014 by the U.S. Department of Labor show that 15 of the 20 fastest growing occupations require significant science or mathematics training to successfully compete for a job. Yet, despite our high unemployment rate, the U.S. is falling behind in STEM graduates and many of these job openings are not being filled by American workers. The U.S. Department of Education reports that America now ranks 20th internationally in our share of graduate degrees awarded in engineering, computer science, and mathematics.

We need focused programs to ensure that the next generation of high-tech workers is prepared to enter the strongest STEM-related industries in Washington state and across the nation. The FUTURE STEM Act seeks to address these problems by exposing students to STEM fields as undergraduates, getting young people early experience in professional settings.

The FUTURE STEM Act establishes a pilot undergraduate student fellowship program to award competitive grants to partner institutions to provide student work experience that will overall improve education and training in support of STEM fields. Under the grants, students will engage in a 10-week fellowship and be placed in real research settings at community colleges, universities, businesses, National Laboratories, and other research settings. The fellowships will pay $4,500 to the student for a ten-week project, plus up to $2,000 reimbursement for housing and travel expenses. An additional $3,500 per project is reserved for equipment, instrumentation, and other educational and training materials needed for the project; supporting outreach efforts to recruit students; encouraging collaboration between government, industry, and academic partners; and assessing the activities funded under the Act. These allowances are on par with existing fellowship programs.

Industries such as aerospace, solar power, and advanced biofuels would be eligible to compete to host STEM students in the pilot program. In Washington state, students could be employed at Boeing, Washington State University, Everett Community College, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), or at countless other locations. PNNL's Energy and Environment Division currently employs some undergraduate and community college students as interns and I am told that they would be eager to employ more under the program created by this Act.

All of America's students deserve the opportunity to pursue a STEM career. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, STEM fields are expected to add 2.7 million new jobs by 2018, yet women and minorities are vastly underrepresented in those fields. In a survey of female and minority chemists and chemical engineers, 77 percent said significant numbers of women and minorities are missing from the U.S. STEM workforce because ''they were not identified, encouraged or nurtured to pursue STEM studies early on.'' For that reason, this legislation will give preference to students from groups that have been historically underrepresented in STEM fields.

It is crucial that we support, promote, and encourage students to pursue pathways toward careers in STEM fields. The FUTURE STEM Act will facilitate an overall improvement in STEM education and help prepare our nation's students for a high-tech future, while helping to maintain and improve our global excellence in science and technology. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which will help to ensure America has the high-skilled STEM workforce that is necessary to increase our global competitiveness.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING OFFICER PETER FIGOSKI

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor New York Police Officer Peter Figoski, who made the ultimate sacrifice on December 12th. Peter Figoski will be remembered as a man of service to his country. A 12-time decorated NYPD veteran from West Babylon, Officer Figoski was a loving father to four daughters and a respected member of his community. There is no question that he will be greatly missed by the New York police community and by the many others he touched. The 200 officers that lined up outside the Jamaica Hospital Medical Center to salute their fallen colleague is a true testament to that. I am proud that Officer Figoski was my constituent.

As the son of a New York police officer, I understand the selfless and vital role played by our first responders. They put their lives on the line day in and day out to keep us safe. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and loved ones of Officer Figoski. In closing, I would also like to commend his partner, Officer Glenn Estrada, for risking his life to bring the killer to justice. I yield back.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 12, 2010, I requested and received a leave of absence for the rest of the week.

For the information of our colleagues and my constituents, below is how I would have voted on the following vote I missed during this time period.

On rollcall 927, To strengthen Iran sanctions laws for the purpose of compelling Iran to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons and

other threatening activities, and for other purposes, I would have voted ''present.''

On rollcall 928, To provide for the application of measures to foreign persons who transfer to Iran, North Korea, and Syria certain goods, services, or technology, and for other purposes, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 929, To award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 930, To designate the property between the United States Federal Courthouse and the Ed Jones Building located at 109 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the ''M.D. Anderson Plaza'' and to authorize the placement of a historical/identification marker on the grounds recognizing the achievements and philanthropy, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 931, To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 932, To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall 933, On Approving the Journal, I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall 934, To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 935, To ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 936, To provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Maniilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska, I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 937, On Ordering the Previous Question, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies Appropriations for FY 2012; I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall 938, On Agreeing to the Resolution, providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and related agencies Appropriations for FY 2012; I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall 939, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Concur in the Senate Amendment, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012; I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 940, To provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado; I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 941, On Agreeing to the Conference Report, Making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs; I would have voted ''aye.''

On rollcall 942, Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672; I would have voted ''no.''

On rollcall 943, On Passage, Making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012; I would have voted ''aye.''

I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD.

RECOGNIZING KELLY MEARS, ADRIAN PARSONS, SAM JEWLER, AND JOE GRAY WHO ARE ENGAGED IN A HUNGER STRIKE FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOTING RIGHTS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to recognize the extraordinary dedication of four young people who are engaged in a hunger strike for District of Columbia voting rights, budget autonomy and legislative autonomy, an unprecedented step in the District's 210-year struggle for equal citizenship. D.C. residents Kelly Mears, Adrian Parsons, and Sam Jewler, in the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi, began their hunger strike on December 8, and were joined the next day by Joe Gray, a Maryland resident. Unfortunately, this unusual journey ended for one of the strikers, twenty-four-year-old Kelly Mears, who was unable to continue with the three other strikers due to medical complications. The four visited members of Congress during the final days of negotiation on the fiscal year 2012 appropriations bills, and as the District government faced a possible shutdown over a federal spending bill and payroll tax fight. The hunger strikers have written a declaration of grievances. They are asking members of Congress to find ways to show solidarity with them. Representative KEITH ELLISON of Minnesota came to the floor during my special order on the shutdown threat and the spending bill's prohibition on the District's use of its local funds for abortions for low-income women. We are grateful to Representative ELLISON for reading the declaration of the hunger strikers into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and for his decision to abstain from food and water for 24 hours in solidarity with them. Since the fiscal year 2011 spending deal was announced in April 2011, which prohibited the District from spending its local funds on abortion services for low-income women, 72 people, including D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray and D.C. Council members, have been arrested for acts of civil disobedience in protest of the treatment of D.C. residents as second-class citizens. However, the D.C. hunger strikers will always be remembered as a special inspiration and for a special sacrifice. It is a sacrifice we had no right to ask for. Even now, we ask these young people not to endanger their health. They have been heard. We will never forget them. I ask the House to join me in honoring Kelly Mears, Adrian Parsons, Sam Jewler, and Joe Gray.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN JOHN B. LARSON AND EULOGY DELIVERED BY HIS SON, THOMAS S. BRENNAN, HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE JOHN D. BRENNAN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. John Brennan was a venerated citizen of my hometown, East Hartford. He served his country, his state, and his community in several elected, appointed, and volunteer positions; most recently he presided as a Judge where he served until he was 93, and did so with vigor, and a sense of humor. Growing up in East Hartford when you're poor John Brennan, if you were type casting, you'd say he looked like Henry Fonda, and we along with his beautiful wife Mary, raised four children, Susan, Jack, Peter, and Tome, all of who I was fortunate to know, and know how devoted to their father they are. At his funeral service it was his youngest son Tom, who gave the eulogy on behalf of the family, there is so much I could say about John Brennan, he commanded blind respect and rightfully so. Nothing I could say however captures the feeling, the sentiment, the public servant, and the father as Tom Brennan's remarks on his father that follows.

EULOGY HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE JOHN D. BRENNAN

(By Thomas S. Brennan)

First of all I'd like to thank everyone for coming to join our family today. I know how absolutely thrilled my father would be to see all of you here, even though I know also that he was a little disappointed to have only made it to the age of 94, when he was still in his youthful prime with so much left to be done. But in many ways he almost was still in his prime, and I think that said a lot about how he lived his life—he never lost his youthful enthusiasm and he had a genuine appreciation for whatever the moment offered. He was someone who from the beginning was endowed with many gifts and he made use of those gifts in a variety of arenas throughout his life.

My father often described his childhood growing up in East Hartford of the 1920s as an almost idyllic ''Huck Finn'' sort of existence—kids running free playing baseball down in the meadows, riding a rope swing into the Connecticut River or racing carrier pigeons that neighborhood kids would keep in backyard coops. Like many of the Irish back then, his father worked on the trains and would release the carrier pigeons when he was way down the lone toward New York. In that era, those pigeons making their way home might very well have sailed past Yankee Stadium when Babe Ruth was slugging a home run, or over houses where families were gathering around a radio waiting for FDR to speak, before circling down over the farms and tobacco fields that once surrounded this town. It was a simple working class world and he grew up during the Depression, so there wasn't any choice then but to make the most out of whatever you were lucky enough to have.

The arrival of World War II took him far away from the innocent small town life and it became one of the defining experiences of his life. The world was suddenly opened wide and he was thrilled to be riding on the tide of history. And of course, to hear him tell it, it was one giant adventure—we never knew

war could be so much fun. He especially loved to tell us old stories of how he and his Army buddies played pranks on one another all the way across the Pacific but there was one story in particular I always liked: It was right after the war had ended and he was on an island off of South Korea where he had been assigned to accept the transfer of all Japanese back to Japan. It just so happened that there had been a tailor who had worked on the island for the previous 40 years who was originally Japanese and so his family was extremely upset that he was being forced to completely uproot everything. My father had ordered him to bring all his things in a suitcase and be on the dock ready to leave the next morning. When the appointed hour arrived, he saw that practically the whole town had come out to bid goodbye to the old tailor, nearly all of them in tears. So he looked around for a minute, gathered in the scene and then called the tailor forward before the crowd and announced to everyone (in his best gruff military voice): ''You are free to stay'' at which point the entire town erupted in chaotic celebration, they lifted my father up and carried him through the streets on their shoulders. To me, that moment expressed something essential about him—that he felt pretty instinctively that a certain humanity and practicality should determine a decisions, rather than blind adherence to some order from headquarters. And also that though he could have a tough exterior, it wasn't very hard to penetrate beyond it and ultimately he always was guided by a very innate sense of fairness.

After the war, he returned home to East Hartford and remained there for the rest of his life. He practiced law, built a family, became involved in local politics, was elected Mayor and later appointed as a judge in the Connecticut Superior Court. Many of you here today knew him through the variety of activities that evolved out of his many years of public life in town. In East Hartford, he was in his element, he flourished and he never wanted to live anywhere else.

Long before we had Google to research any topic or answer any question, there was John Brennan. And when you spoke to him, you were instantly transported back over a remarkable span of history by someone who could remember all the details and bring the back to life—in fact, you were actually talking to someone who remembered speaking to veterans of the Civil War. He was renowned for his ability to recall little known historical facts and had immediate access to a treasure trove of information that he would eagerly dispense on subjects as diverse as the dates of the major battles of the Boer Wars or the work of some obscure German poet. But despite his ability in this arena, it was always balanced with a pronounced disregard for anything that smacked of ''unnecessary pretense'' or ''excess'', which perhaps explained his lifetime loyalty to Maxwell House coffee, Prell shampoo, and $5 sunglasses. In fact, my sister reminded me yesterday that he was perfectly happy to drive his Buick into the ground, much to the dismay of the salesman down at Dworin Chevrolet, of course. And always, no matter how distinguished his career in the law may have been or how adept he was with the life of the mind, he took a certain pleasure in making fun of himself too, as if he were really just a regular guy. So if I were to say now that he had an ''indefatigable'' spirit, he would feign an innocent look, lean forward helpfully and add ''tireless too''. As if he didn't know what the word meant. It was one of his favorite jokes and in fact I have since stolen it for myself.

He reached mandatory retirement as a Superior Court judge in 1986 and then continued to work for another 24 years—almost a full career for some people. He loved being over at the courthouse in the middle of the action, surrounded by the friends and comforts of his profession and he showed little sign of stopping, right up to the age of 93. So we knew it was trouble when the day finally came that he said he didn't want to go to work anymore.

Yet even near the end of his life, when he was going through radiation treatments, his face could light up at the sight of a simple cup of chowder that my sister might bring over to the hospital for him. Or he would shuffle outside to the hospital parking lot, take a sip out of a flask of bourbon that my brother had smuggled in, look around and say ''Isn't this the life!'' And he really meant it. That was his rare gift—to be able to genuinely appreciate and make the most of whatever the moment held and still find an upside to it. If you asked him how he was feeling, he'd say ''Raring to go!'' and it really wasn't much of an exaggeration. And his amazing work ethic refused to quit. Just a few weeks ago, he woke up from a nap and asked my sister Suzie where he was and what day it was. So she told him, it's Wednesday and you're at home''. He sounded absolutely aghast in his response: ''Home? What am I doing home in the middle of the week—I'm supposed to be at work!'' In a way, he was kind of like one of those characters from an old John Wayne movie that you just couldn't keep down, where even after being hit with 100 rounds from the enemy, he would still somehow stagger back to throw that one decisive final grenade.

So today we lay to final rest an old soldier who embraced battle and celebration with equal relish, who demonstrated that he could not just endure, but do it with ''pizzazz'' and certainly for far longer than we had any right to ask for. It was once said, by the Civil War veteran and Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendall Holmes, that ''to act with enthusiasm and faith is the condition for acting greatly''. To our father and your friend, we can now rightfully say without hesitation: you met that test—mission accomplished. Of course we will miss you greatly, but you had one heck of a run and we're really very grateful and proud of that. And so we promise to pass along your sense of humor, to keep telling our favorite stories about you and to still be toasting you at some cocktail hour far into the future with warm memories to always keep you very much alive in our hearts.

STATEMENT ON THE SCHRADER AMENDMENT TO H.R. 10, THE REINS ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Schrader amendment to H.R. 10, the REINS Act. The REINS Act makes certain regulations that protect American priorities like public health, our economy, and workers' rights, extraordinarily difficult to enact by requiring Congressional approval even though Congress already has the power to disapprove any regulation. The Schrader Act further hobbles regulatory efforts by requiring an additional cost-benefit analysis, which is heavily biased against regulations which protect things that are not usually monetized like clean air, clean water, and public health protections. I could not support it.

HONORING DAVID LONG

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lengthy public service career of David Long, Chief of the Norwich Township Fire Department. David Long has served the Hilliard, Ohio community as a member of its fire department for 36 years, serving more than 7 years as Chief of the department.

Born and raised in the Hilliard area, David joined the Norwich Township Fire Department in 1975 as a part-time firefighter. On September 9, 1976 he earned a full-time position from which he moved up the ranks, becoming a lieutenant on July 1, 1984, Assistant Chief on April 1, 1996, and finally Chief of the department on April 2, 2004. He is a certified paramedic, fire instructor, and fire inspector.

David Long has played a critical role in keeping the Hilliard community safe for more than three and a half decades. He has literally run into burning buildings to protect his neighbors. David's willingness to put his own life at risk in service to others is truly inspiring and exemplifies the courage that makes America great.

As Chief, David has led the department during an important time for the community and has presided over some major departmental milestones, including relocating the department to the Hilliard Joint Safety Services Building. David has been a sound and stable leader, admired both by his firefighters and the community at large.

Chief David Long has touched many lives and inspired others to service at this critical time in our history when we need dedicated public servants the most. I thank David for all that he has done for the Hilliard community and congratulate him on concluding an impressive and inspiring career.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN ERWIN J. KORCZYNSKI

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Captain Erwin J. Korczynski, a Chicago native whose contributions to our country should not be forgotten. Mr. Korczynski passed away in January of 2011, but his impact on the nation and those who knew him will last forever.

Erwin Korczynski was a quintessential American. Born and raised with his twin brother in Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Korczynski's youth was busy: he was an avid boy scout, marched with the Chicago Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps and was a competitive member of his high school's Track and Field team.

After high school he pursued the priesthood, but in 1963, Erwin felt a need to serve his country directly, and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served with the Marine Attack Squadron, VMA 131. While in the Marine Corps, he had moved up the ranks and attained the rank of Sergeant before he was honorably discharged in 1969.

After spending several years of his life in the Marines, Mr. Korczynski became a civilian airline pilot. He flew for a number of different airlines over the years, logging hundreds of hours aloft as he piloted aircraft between six different continents.

In 1990, Captain Korczynski was drawn to again serve his country. He volunteered to serve with the Civil Reserve Air Fleet and was sent to the Persian Gulf. Mr. Korczynski subsequently commanded twenty-five Civil Reserve Air Fleet missions during Operation Desert Storm.

Mr. Korczynski's selfless actions on behalf of this nation make him a true citizen soldier, following in the footsteps of our nation's minutemen. His bravery and self sacrifice have earned him not only my admiration, but the admiration of the American people.

In his later years, Captain Korczynski's passion for flight did not wane. While he was unable to continue flying commercial aircraft after age sixty, Captain Korczynski remained able and active, training future pilots and instilling the knowledge and wisdom earned through his decades of pilot experience.

Captain Erwin Korczynski lived an honorable life, and he contributed much to the common good. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to express our thanks for his life of service.

HONORING LARRY GALLA OF K-STAR IN CONROE

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with America something very good about America—a true blue American success story in a cowboy hat and boots—my friend, Larry Galla, one of the newest members of the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.

When Larry opens up the microphone, you know magic is about to happen. Not the flashy magic of a Vegas stage show, but the magic of listening to an old friend spin yarns and records without skipping a beat. Larry's magic is in making all of us feel right at home.

But, to many stars in the country music scene, praise from Larry is a different kind of magic. It's the kind of magic that turns ordinary records into gold records and musicians into stars.

Larry Galla has been a staple on the Houston area airwaves for nearly four decades making the leap to Houston—a top 10 radio market.

After spending nearly half his career at KIKR, Larry returned to Conroe and his roots at K-Star where he gets to share the microphone with another Hall of Famer, Mary McCoy.

Conroe has celebrated with a Larry Galla Day, but it's time the rest of the country knew Larry's name as well as some of the great legends of country music do.

From Johnny Cash to Ernest Tubb to George Strait and Billy Currington, when Larry plays their songs, people listen. When Larry interviews an artist, we all learn a lot more about the music Texans love to sing along to, because to Larry, it's the sound music makes over the radiowaves that matters the most and his dedication to the music is second to none.

That's why so many musicians have asked him to take the stage with them over the years. Today, the spotlight is all on Larry.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8693–S8743

Measures Introduced: Nineteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2008–2026. **Pages S8733–34**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled ''The 2011 Joint Economic Report''. (S. Rept. No. 112–101)

S. 1134, to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values, with an amendment.

S. 1855, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize various programs under the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S8733**

Measures Passed:

Insular Areas Act: Senate passed S. 2009, to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas. **Pages S8702–03**

Further Continuing Appropriations: Senate passed H.J. Res. 94, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012. **Page S8726**

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, Omnibus Appropriations Bill, and Disaster Relief Appropriations Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at 9 a.m., on Saturday, December 17, 2011, Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3630, to provide incentives for the creation of jobs; that the Majority Leader be recognized to offer a Reid-McConnell substitute amendment agreed to by both Leaders—a two month extension of the payroll tax reduction, doc fix and unemployment insurance; that following the reporting of the amendment, Senate vote on or in relation to the substitute amendment; that there be no amendments in order to the substitute or the bill prior to the vote; that the amendment be subject to a 60 vote threshold; that if the substitute amendment is agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; if the Reid-McConnell substitute amendment is not agreed to, the Majority Leader be recognized; that upon the disposition of H.R. 3630, Senate proceed to consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012; that there be 15 minutes of debate—5 minutes each for Senators Inouye, Cochran and McCain; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the conference report be temporarily set aside and, notwithstanding the lack of receipt of the papers from the House of Representatives with respect to H.R. 3672, making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, Senate proceed to the consideration, en bloc, of the following items: H.R. 3672, and H. Con. Res. 94, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672; that there be no amendments in order to the bill or the concurrent resolution prior to votes on or in relation to those measures; that following the reporting of the bill and the concurrent resolution, Senate vote on the measures in the following order: passage of H.R. 3672; adoption of H. Con. Res. 94; and adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055; that there be two minutes equally divided prior to each vote; that each vote be subject to a 60 affirmative vote threshold; and no motions or points of order be in order prior to the votes other than budget points of order and the applicable motions to waive; provided further, the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3630 be withdrawn; and that the House of Representatives be immediately notified of the Senate's action following the votes. **Pages S8742–43**

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that from Friday, December 16, 2011 through Monday, January 23, 2012, the Majority Leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions. **Page S8743**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

John Thomas Fowlkes, Jr., of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

Kevin McNulty, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Richard B. Berner, of Massachusetts, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, for a term of six years.

Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to India.

16 Air Force nominations in the rank of general. **Page S8743**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Richard Sorian, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, which was sent to the Senate on January 26, 2011. **Page S8743**

Messages from the House: **Page S8731**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S8693, S8731**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S8731**

Executive Communications: **Pages S8731–33**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8734–35**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8735–42**

Additional Statements: **Pages S8730–31**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S8742**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S8742**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:38 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 17, 2011. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8743.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 31 public bills, H.R. 3696–3726; and 3 resolutions, H.J. Res. 94–95; and H. Con. Res. were introduced. **Pages H9925–28**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H9928**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Dold to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H9799**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1892, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 396 yeas to 23 nays, Roll No. 939 and **Pages H9801–10, H9821–22**

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011: Concurred in the Senate amendments to H.R. 2867, to reauthorize the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. **Pages H9810–12**

Suspension:—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on December 14th:

Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District Land Exchange Act of 2011: S. 278, amended, to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, by a ⅔ recorded vote of 413 ayes with none voting "no", Roll No. 940. **Pages H9822–23**

Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012—Conference Report: The House agreed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, by a yea-and-nay vote of 296 yeas to 121 nays, Roll No. 941. **Pages H9812–21, H9823–H9902, H9905–06**

H. Res. 500, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2055), the bill (H.R. 3672), and the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 94), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 252 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 938, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 239 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 937.

Pages H9820–21

Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 94, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672, by a yea-and-nay vote of 255 yeas to 165 nays, Roll No. 942. **Pages H9812–21, H9902–03, H9906**

H. Res. 500, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2055), the bill (H.R. 3672), and the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 94), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 252 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 938, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 239 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 937.

Pages H9820–21

Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2012: The House passed H.R. 3672, making appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, by a yea-and-nay vote of 351 yeas to 67 nays, Roll No. 943. **Pages H9903–05, H9907**

H. Res. 500, the rule providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2055), the bill (H.R. 3672), and the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 94), was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 252 yeas to 164 nays, Roll No. 938, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 239 yeas to 179 nays, Roll No. 937.

Pages H9820–21

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in honor of the men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, their families, and all who serve in the armed forces and their families.

Page H9906

Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012: The House agreed to H.J. Res. 94, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012. **Page H9908**

Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012: The House agreed to H.J. Res. 95, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012. **Page H9908**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 19th. **Page H9923**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H9821 and H9914.

Senate Referrals: S. 1612 was referred to the Committees on the Judiciary and Energy and Commerce and S. 2009 was referred to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, the Judiciary, and Education and the Workforce. **Page H9923**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H9820, H9821, H9821–22, H9822–23, H9905, H9906 and H9907. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CHANGING ENERGY MARKETS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, hearing entitled "Changing Energy Markets and Their Geopolitical Implications." Testimony was heard from Neelesh Nerurkar, Specialist in Energy Policy, Congressional Research Service; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup of H. Res. 496, adjusting the amount provided for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress. The resolution was ordered reported without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee continued markup of H.R. 3261, the "Stop Online Piracy Act."

WHAT THE EURO CRISIS MEANS FOR TAXPAYERS AND THE U.S. ECONOMY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs held a hearing entitled "What the Euro Crisis Means for Taxpayers and the U.S. Economy, Pt. II." Testimony was heard from Steven B. Kamin, Acting Director, Division of International Finance, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Mark Sobel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Monetary and Financial Policy, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT

On Thursday, December 15, 2011, *Conferees* agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Finance: Business meeting to consider the nominations of Mary John Miller, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary, and Alastair M. Fitzpayne, of Maryland, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury, Kathleen Kerrigan, of Massachusetts, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, and Henry J. Aaron, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board, Social Security Administration, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 19 through December 24, 2011

Senate Chamber

The Senate is not expected to be in session.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House Committees

Committee on the Judiciary, December 21, full Committee, continue markup of H.R. 3261, the ''Stop Online Piracy Act'' 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9 a.m., Saturday, December 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Saturday: Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3630, Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, with a vote on or in relation to the Reid-McConnell substitute amendment, and if the substitute amendment is agreed to, the bill as amended, be read a third time and passed; to be followed by a series of votes on passage of H.R. 3672, Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, adoption of H. Con. Res. 94, Enrolling Correction, and adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2055, Omnibus Appropriations bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Monday, December 19

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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