

between the Gettysburg Address and the Kennedy inauguration.

But as so often is the case here on the floor, instead of having 5 or 10 minutes to speak, Chairman GOODLATTE gave me 90 seconds. So I put aside my prepared remarks; and, instead, I spoke from the heart, or from the top of my head.

I said, "Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the amendment from the gentleman from California and to urge support for the underlying bill."

I went on to say, "Now, if I represented pine beetles, I would actually support the gentleman's amendment, because, if I were a pine beetle, I would like it. He would take the money we've put in there and redirect it to a program out in his district in California.

"But I don't represent pine beetles. I represent hardworking men and women who own a few acres and they grow pine trees. And pine beetles are a real threat to a healthy forest."

You know, if I'd only stopped there, I would have made a good first impression. But like so many new politicians who didn't know when to stop, I said, "You know, we have a real problem with incest in south Alabama."

I said, "In fact, I would venture a guess that we have more problems with incest in my district in Alabama than in any other congressional district in America."

Chairman GOODLATTE was going like that, and I thought he was saying preach on, brother, preach on. Instead, he was urging me to shut up.

So I got back to my office, thinking I'd delivered one of the best speeches on insects ever made, and my staff said, "Jo, in about 2 minutes you just reinforced in the minds of all Americans what we have a problem with in south Alabama."

That's the other reason that I don't often speak on the House floor. But, fortunately for me, these wonderful people who work here taking note of every word knew what I meant to say, not what I did say.

I tell that story, Mr. Speaker, in closing, for this one reason: you all laughed at that story, as so many others have over the years. And a little laughter from time to time is good medicine, as the doctor says.

Perhaps our country needs to laugh a little more often, as well, and stop yelling at each other and work closer together.

For sure, our great country has many daunting challenges facing us. Sadly, all across our land, there's anger, there's frustration and concern on both sides of the political spectrum about what's going on or what's not going on.

Public approval of this body which we are all so honored to serve in is at or near an all-time record low.

But if I could say one parting word to the American people, it would be this: the men and women that you've elected to represent you in this, the people's House, have different views and positions on the very issues that you have different views and positions on.

And, by and large, and with rare exception, these are men and women of courage, of integrity, of decency, and they serve, along with many, many men and women, as staff, who work here, oftentimes in the shadows of the spotlight. They serve for the same reason, a common love of country.

Make no mistake. SAM JOHNSON loved America when he was being brutally beaten and held against his will as a prisoner of war for over 7 years in Vietnam, often wondering whether he would ever see his family again.

And JOHN LEWIS loved his country when he was beaten and bloodied, fighting for the civil rights of all Americans as he was crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in the city I was born in, Selma.

And just like Sam and John, every other Member here, Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative, we all work for the American people with the singular goal of making our country a better, more perfect Union, even though sometimes, as humans, we fail to meet your expectations.

This is especially true of our leadership, on both sides of the aisle, who often have one of the toughest jobs, trying to corral the strong will of 435 Members of Congress who come from all parts of America to try to do the right things. To my committee chairmen and ranking members, and all of the people I've served with, I owe you my debt of gratitude.

In closing, I want to express my last expression to the wonderful people of south Alabama for giving me the opportunity to work for you for the last 10½ years as your Congressman.

I came to this job having studied at the feet of two of the most outstanding men I know. Jack Edwards and Sonny Callahan, like me, came to office as a Representative from Alabama, but they left office as statesmen. And anything that my staff or I have ever been able to do for the people of my district, it's been to build on the legacy of those two great men.

Lastly, I would like to say this: the people of my district have afforded me a rare honor in Alabama, one of only 167 people, men and women, to ever serve in this body. The rest of us, only 10,000-plus, men and women, have ever had the privilege of being called a representative of the people.

I would be extremely remiss if I didn't say a special thank you to my wife, Janee, our daughter, Lee, and my son, Robins, who, like they were 10½ years ago, are back home in Alabama listening to your daddy talk about incest.

Thank you for your love and support. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2013

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 the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1897) to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 3, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 435]

YEAS—405

Aderholt	Cramer	Guthrie
Alexander	Crawford	Gutiérrez
Amash	Crenshaw	Hahn
Amodei	Crowley	Hall
Andrews	Cuellar	Hanabusa
Bachmann	Culberson	Hanna
Bachus	Cummings	Harper
Barber	Daines	Harris
Barletta	Davis (CA)	Hartzler
Barr	Davis, Danny	Hastings (FL)
Barrow (GA)	Davis, Rodney	Hastings (WA)
Barton	DeFazio	Heck (NV)
Bass	DeGette	Heck (WA)
Beatty	Delaney	Hensarling
Becerra	DeLauro	Higgins
Benishek	DelBene	Himes
Bentivolio	Denham	Hinojosa
Bera (CA)	Dent	Holding
Billirakis	DeSantis	Honda
Bishop (GA)	DesJarlais	Hoyer
Bishop (NY)	Deutch	Huelskamp
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart	Huffman
Black	Dingell	Huizenga (MI)
Blackburn	Doggett	Hultgren
Blumenauer	Doyle	Hunter
Bonamici	Duckworth	Hurt
Bonner	Duffy	Israel
Boustany	Duncan (SC)	Issa
Brady (PA)	Duncan (TN)	Jackson Lee
Brady (TX)	Edwards	Jeffries
Bralley (IA)	Ellison	Jenkins
Bridenstine	Ellmers	Johnson (GA)
Brooks (AL)	Engel	Johnson (OH)
Brooks (IN)	Enyart	Johnson, E. B.
Brown (FL)	Eshoo	Johnson, Sam
Brownley (CA)	Esty	Jordan
Buchanan	Farenthold	Joyce
Bucshon	Farr	Kaptur
Burgess	Fattah	Keating
Bustos	Fincher	Kelly (IL)
Calvert	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)
Camp	Fleischmann	Kennedy
Cantor	Fleming	Kildee
Capito	Flores	Kilmer
Capps	Forbes	Kind
Capuano	Fortenberry	King (NY)
Cárdenas	Foster	Kingston
Carney	Foxx	Kinzinger (IL)
Carson (IN)	Frankel (FL)	Kirkpatrick
Carter	Franks (AZ)	Kline
Cartwright	Frelinghuysen	Kuster
Cassidy	Fudge	Labrador
Castor (FL)	Gabbard	LaMalfa
Castro (TX)	Gallego	Lamborn
Chabot	Garamendi	Lance
Chaffetz	Garcia	Langevin
Chu	Gardner	Lankford
Ciilline	Gerlach	Larsen (WA)
Clarke	Gibbs	Larson (CT)
Clay	Gibson	Latham
Clyburn	Gingrey (GA)	Latta
Coble	Gohmert	Lee (CA)
Coffman	Gosar	Levin
Cohen	Gowdy	Lipinski
Cole	Granger	LoBiondo
Collins (NY)	Graves (GA)	Loebsock
Conaway	Graves (MO)	Lofgren
Connolly	Grayson	Long
Conyers	Green, Al	Lowenthal
Cook	Green, Gene	Lowe
Cooper	Griffin (AR)	Lucas
Costa	Griffith (VA)	Luetkemeyer
Cotton	Grijalva	Lujan Grisham
Courtney	Grimm	(NM)

Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Petri	Simpson
Lummis	Pingree (ME)	Sinema
Lynch	Pittenger	Sires
Maffei	Pitts	Slaughter
Maloney,	Pocan	Smith (MO)
Carolyn	Poe (TX)	Smith (NE)
Maloney, Sean	Polis	Smith (NJ)
Marchant	Pompeo	Smith (TX)
Marino	Posey	Smith (WA)
Massie	Price (GA)	Southerland
Matheson	Price (NC)	Speier
Matsui	Quigley	Stewart
McCarthy (CA)	Radel	Stivers
McCaul	Rahall	Stockman
McClintock	Rangel	Stutzman
McCollum	Reed	Swalwell (CA)
McDermott	Reichert	Takano
McGovern	Renacci	Terry
McHenry	Ribble	Thompson (CA)
McIntyre	Rice (SC)	Thompson (MS)
McKeon	Rigell	Thompson (PA)
McKinley	Roby	Thornberry
McMorris	Roe (TN)	Tiberi
Rodgers	Rogers (AL)	Tierney
McNerney	Rogers (KY)	Tipton
Meadows	Rohrabacher	Tipton
Meehan	Rokita	Titus
Meng	Rooney	Tonko
Messer	Ros-Lehtinen	Tsongas
Mica	Roskam	Turner
Michaud	Ross	Upton
Miller (MI)	Rothfus	Valadao
Miller, Gary	Roybal-Allard	Van Hollen
Moore	Royce	Vargas
Moran	Ruiz	Veasey
Mullin	Runyan	Vela
Mulvaney	Rush	Velázquez
Murphy (FL)	Ryan (OH)	Visclosky
Murphy (PA)	Ryan (WI)	Wagner
Nadler	Salmon	Walberg
Napolitano	Sánchez, Linda T.	Walden
Neal	Sanchez, Loretta	Walorski
Negrete McLeod	Sanford	Walz
Neugebauer	Sarbanes	Waters
Noem	Scalise	Watt
Nolan	Schakowsky	Weber (TX)
Nugent	Schiff	Webster (FL)
Nunes	Schneider	Welch
Nunnelee	Schock	Wenstrup
O'Rourke	Schrader	Westmoreland
Olson	Schwartz	Whitfield
Palazzo	Schweikert	Williams
Pascrell	Scott (VA)	Wilson (FL)
Pastor (AZ)	Scott, Austin	Wilson (SC)
Paulsen	Scott, David	Wittman
Payne	Serrano	Wolf
Pearce	Sessions	Womack
Perlmutter	Sewell (AL)	Woodall
Perry	Shea-Porter	Yarmuth
Peters (CA)	Sherman	Yoder
Peters (MD)	Shimkus	Yoho
Peterson	Shuster	Young (AK)
		Young (IN)

NAYS—3

Broun (GA)	Jones	Meeks
Butterfield	Hudson	Richmond
Campbell	King (IA)	Rogers (MI)
Cleaver	Lewis	Ruppersberger
Collins (GA)	McCarthy (NY)	Sensenbrenner
Garrett	Miller (FL)	Wasserman
Goodlatte	Miller, George	Schultz
Herrera Beutler	Owens	Waxman
Holt	Pallone	Young (FL)
Horsford	Pelosi	

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MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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.

STOP GOVERNMENT ABUSE ACT

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 322, I call up the bill (H.R. 2879) to provide limitations

on bonuses for Federal employees during sequestration, to provide for investigative leave requirements for members of the Senior Executive Service, to establish certain procedures for conducting in-person or telephonic interactions by Executive branch employees with individuals, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Pursuant to House Resolution 322, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2879

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Stop Government Abuse Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COMMON SENSE IN COMPENSATION

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Limitations.

Sec. 103. Regulations.

TITLE II—GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 201. Suspension for 14 days or less for Senior Executive Service employees.

Sec. 202. Investigative leave and termination authority for Senior Executive Service employees.

Sec. 203. Suspension of Senior Executive Service employees.

Sec. 204. Misappropriation of funds amendments.

TITLE III—CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT

Sec. 301. Amendments.

TITLE I—COMMON SENSE IN COMPENSATION

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this title—

(1) the term “employee” means an employee (as defined by section 2105(a) of title 5, United States Code) holding a position in or under an Executive agency;

(2) the term “Executive agency” has the meaning given such term by section 105 of title 5, United States Code;

(3) the term “discretionary monetary payment” means—

(A) any award or other monetary payment under chapter 45, or section 5753 or 5754, of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) any step-increase under section 5336 of title 5, United States Code;

(4) the term “covered compensation”, as used with respect to an employee in connection with any period, means the sum of—

(A) the basic pay, and

(B) any discretionary monetary payments (excluding basic pay), payable to such employee during such period;

(5) the term “basic pay” means basic pay for service as an employee; and

(6) the term “sequestration period” means a period beginning on the first day of a fiscal year in which a sequestration order with respect to discretionary spending or direct spending is issued under section 251A or section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and ending on the last day of the fiscal year to which the sequestration order applies.

SEC. 102. LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) no discretionary monetary payment may be made to an employee during any sequestration period to the extent that such payment would cause in a fiscal year the total covered compensation of such employee for such fiscal year to exceed 105 percent of the total amount of basic pay payable to such individual (before the application of any step-increase in such fiscal year under section 5336 of title 5, United States Code) for such fiscal year; and

(2) except as provided in subsection (b), during any sequestration period, an agency may not pay a performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code, to the extent that such payment would cause the number of employees in the agency receiving such award during such period to exceed 33 percent of the total number of employees in the agency eligible to receive such award during such period.

(b) WAIVERS.—For the purposes of any sequestration period—

(1) the head of any agency may, subject to approval by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, waive the requirements of subsection (a)(2); and

(2) the head of any agency may waive the requirements of subsection (a)(1) with respect to any employee if the requirements of such subsection would violate the terms of a collective bargaining agreement covering such employee, except that this paragraph shall not apply to any employee covered by a collective bargaining agreement that is renewed on or after the date of enactment of this title.

(c) NOTIFICATION.—In the case of an agency for which the Director of the Office of Personnel Management grants a waiver under subsection (b)(1), the agency shall notify the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of the percentage of career appointees receiving performance awards under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code, and the dollar amount of each performance award.

(d) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to any discretionary monetary payment or performance award under section 5384 of title 5, United States Code, made on or after the date of enactment of this title.

SEC. 103. REGULATIONS.

The Office of Personnel Management may prescribe regulations to carry out this title.

TITLE II—GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. 201. SUSPENSION FOR 14 DAYS OR LESS FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

Paragraph (1) of section 7501 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) ‘employee’ means—

“(A) an individual in the competitive service who is not serving a probationary or trial period under an initial appointment or who has completed 1 year of current continuous employment in the same or similar positions under other than a temporary appointment limited to 1 year or less; or

“(B) a career appointee in the Senior Executive Service who—

“(i) has completed the probationary period prescribed under section 3393(d); or

“(ii) was covered by the provisions of subchapter II of this chapter immediately before appointment to the Senior Executive Service;”.

SEC. 202. INVESTIGATIVE LEAVE AND TERMINATION AUTHORITY FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: