

a young age, learning from his grandfather, a Korean War Veteran, the value of placing duty to country above self. Immediately after graduating from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 2007, because eighteen years was long enough for him to wait to serve. In 2008, Mr. Wangler deployed to Iraq where he completed more than 200 combat patrols throughout the Al-Anbar province. The following year he deployed to Afghanistan where he led mortar missions as the adjusting gun squad leader and commanded a six-man vehicle checkpoint that implemented security measures and registered local population. Because of his service and leadership, he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, as well as numerous other medals.

After returning to civilian life, he redirected his commitment to the college classroom at Collin College. Recognizing the difficulty of transitioning from military to civilian life, Mr. Wangler became an officer of the Student Veterans of America (SVA) organization where he currently helps other student veterans navigate through the GI Bill. He also volunteers as a mentor in the new Veterans Welcome and Resource Center on campus. Additionally, he is one of only three student veteran advisors, which plans and hosts events to honor the sacrifice of our service members. Mr. Wangler truly represents the best of our young generation. We need more young people like him who will give their time, energy, and efforts to make this community a better place.

Lance Corporal John Wangler, let me both thank and congratulate you on your exceptional service to our country and community both past and present. It is my pleasure to award you the 2013 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST
RESEARCH ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill, the so called Kids First Research Act.

The bill that we are considering here today has been brought up under the pretense of providing funding for pediatric research at the National Institutes of Health by redirecting the funds from the Presidential Election Campaign Fund to the amount of \$12.6 million per year.

As I am sure my colleagues know, I have always been a strong supporter of research at the NIH.

But the legislation before us is nothing more than a duplicitous attempt by Republicans to act as if they are providing support to the NIH. Yet in reality, NIH has seen its budget attacked and slashed in recent years. In 2011, the Republican budget proposed a \$1.6 billion cut to the NIH in a single year. I wonder where the compassion for children was then.

This very day the Republicans are bringing forward a budget agreement they want us to support that cuts \$172 billion in discretionary spending from levels President Obama and Democrats proposed in 2011. This so called

compromise will maintain a majority of cuts imposed by sequestration.

When sequestration went into effect, the NIH saw a \$1.55 billion cut to its budget. Of that, sequestration cut \$255 million from the NIH's cancer institute and \$66 million from the child health institute. Where was the outrage when those cuts went into effect?

If we truly cared about research at the NIH, we would not be proposing a \$12.6 million dollar increase in funding, we would be talking about restoring the \$1.55 billion cut by sequestration and then some.

The Kids First Research Act has a nice name and a noble intent, but no substance, and thus I cannot support this sad pretense.

JONATHAN SEROTA YALE MODEL
CONGRESS SPEECH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, for 408 hours, the government of the United States of America shut down its facilities and closed its doors. Over the course of that tumultuous time, national parks, museums, and public grounds were barred to visitors. 800,000 Federal workers were sent home from their jobs, and many more were forced to work with delayed pay. Veterans, and active duty military personnel and their families were kept in a constant state of fear, worried about making ends meet. This period of panic was not caused by some foreign aggressor, some archenemy of state, or some ruthless tyrant. No, the crisis that shook the very faith that the American people had in their government, was caused by that very body itself. So who is to blame for the government shutdown? Shall we point fingers at Republicans? How about the Democrats? It must be someone's fault right? That is what our political system has taught us isn't it? Well, it appears that recently, that is just what it has done. As the ominous clouds descended upon the capital in the early hours of October the 1st, the government shutdown that took place in the District of Columbia, and all across the country, had effects that will continue to be impactful for years to come.

Model Congress. The word 'model' implies a want or desire to replicate, to recreate and imitate. For years now, thousands of students have come to Yale and other conferences alike, and taken pride in acting as Senators, Representatives, Cabinet Members, and Presidents. We have touted our accomplishments on our resumes, shined our gavels and framed our certificates. My question to you tonight is: Do we really, want to model Congress? The body which we have all gathered here tonight to replicate has, over the past several years, produced a stalemate and inefficiency that has rarely been seen in the long and arduous history of both man and this nation. Complete ideological division, refusal to compromise, and the inability to put national interest above self interest has weakened our country, as well as its image both at home and abroad. Why is it as teenagers, we are able to sit down, talk, work out our problems, and come to productive agreements, but as adults, we put our fingers in our ears and stomp our feet on the ground until we get

what we want? The roles seem to be backwards if you ask me.

People would like to have you believe that we are naive, we are inexperienced, and we know too little about the world to make decisions on our own. Well I argue the contrary. I think that they are too rigid, they are too closed minded, and they are too pleased with pushing the blame onto others, that they fail to see that the problem is caused by no one else but themselves.

Is this what America is about? Surely the land of the free and the home of the brave is not just some idealistic nonsense that we were told about in second grade, and then by the cruel hand of fate, forced to rule out as anything but true. The American ideal that we all hold dear to our hearts, the feeling of honor that sweeps over our senses and rushes down our spine when we publicly declare, "I am proud to be an American!" is only true because our government is about us, the people. We, the people, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. We are that posterity.

We have come to this conference to argue for things which we are passionate about, and argue against those which we are passionately not about. We have come to this conference to test each other, and our ability to work together to shape both foreign and domestic policy. We have come to this conference to gain experience, to gain knowledge, and to make progress not only for ourselves, but also for those who feel that their opinion doesn't matter. While most of us came here tonight with distinct political agendas, we have always been able to open our minds, challenge our beliefs, and move together in the hope that we may one day truly create what Ronald Reagan famously described as, "that shining city on a hill".

I love what we do here at Model Congress. If you ask me, I don't think we imitate Congress, we act better than it. We don't aspire to be like them, we aspire to be better than them. Here, at this conference, we have come together to act like the body of government that the founders intended. There are no special interest groups, no superpacs, no shady campaign deals, and no political parties. There is only the work we have set out to do, and the goals which we wish to achieve.

As I sat to write this speech, I decided that I wanted to talk about something that really mattered to us, the youth of America. Now, I could have simply gotten up here, shouted a couple of phrases like "legalize marijuana", "Make the playing field fairer", "lower taxes", "feed the hungry" and "help the poor." And while I'm sure that I would have gotten a couple of apathetic rounds of applause, I thought that it would be more prudent to get up here, and as I have, talk about something that we, both as citizens and as young adults, are frustrated with in the hopes of bringing about change.

If elected I vow to each and every one of you, that I will help us take those first frightening steps into the obscure and unsure future. I will do my best to lead this conference in a way so that Congressmen, Senators, Governors, and Presidents alike know that we won't accept anything less than that second grade idealistic dream, so that our peers both