

Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inlee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)

Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Loeb
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowe
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCreery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam

Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)

Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)

Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn

Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—25

Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Capps
Cubin
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Hastings (FL)
Honda
Hooley

Jefferson
Jindal
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kucinich
McNulty
Miller, Gary
Neal (MA)
Ortiz

Pastor
Paul
Rangel
Saxton
Thompson (CA)
Weller
Wexler
Woolsey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1636

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:

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 1185, I inserted my card to vote but did not check it. Apparently it did not register my vote. Had my card worked, I would have voted "yea."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1201

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1201.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE, AND A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution:

S. CON. RES. 61

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate adjourns on any day from Tuesday, December 18, 2007, through Monday, December 31, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution; and that when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Tuesday, December 18, 2007, through Saturday, December 22, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned sine die, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution.

SEC. 2. When the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, January 3, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it shall stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or

until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, January 3, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it shall stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 3. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify Members of the Senate and the House, respectively, to reassemble at such a place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. OBEY:

Page 1, line 2, strike "adjourns" and insert in lieu thereof "recesses or adjourns".

Page 1, line 6, strike "or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution" and insert in lieu thereof "or until such day and time as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 3 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first".

The amendment was agreed to.

The Senate concurrent resolution, as amended, was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES TO HAVE UNTIL NOON, JANUARY 3, 2008 TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 3524, HOPE VI IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee On Financial Services have until noon on January 3, 2008, to file a report on H.R. 3524.

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

There was no objection.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008 (CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008)

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 893, I call up the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment to House amendment to Senate amendment:

Page 1431, line 15, of the House engrossed amendments to the Senate amendment to the text of the bill, strike division L and insert:

DIVISION L—SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS, DEFENSE
TITLE I—MILITARY PERSONNEL
MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Army”, \$782,500,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Navy”, \$95,624,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$56,050,000.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Air Force”, \$138,037,000.

TITLE II—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, \$35,152,370,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, \$3,664,000,000: Provided, That up to \$110,000,000 shall be transferred to the Coast Guard “Operating Expenses” account.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, \$3,965,638,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, \$4,778,000,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, \$2,116,950,000, of which up to \$300,000,000, to remain available until expended, may be used for payments to reimburse Pakistan, Jordan, and other key cooperating nations, for logistical, military, and other support provided, or to be provided, to United States military operations, notwithstanding any other provision of law: Provided, That such payments may be made in such amounts as the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may determine, in his discretion, based on documentation determined by the Secretary of Defense to adequately account for the support provided, and such determination is final and conclusive upon the accounting officers of the United States, and 15 days following notification to the appropriate congressional committees: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees on the use of funds provided in this paragraph.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve”, \$77,736,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy Reserve”, \$41,657,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS
RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps Reserve”, \$46,153,000.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE
RESERVE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force Reserve”, \$12,133,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard”, \$327,000,000.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR NATIONAL
GUARD

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard”, \$51,634,000.

IRAQ FREEDOM FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Iraq Freedom Fund”, \$3,747,327,000, to remain available for transfer until September 30, 2009, only to support operations in Iraq or Afghanistan: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer the funds provided herein to appropriations for military personnel; operation and maintenance; Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid; procurement; research, development, test and evaluation; and working capital funds: Provided further, That funds transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: Provided further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 5 days prior to making transfers from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer: Provided further, That the Secretary shall submit a report no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter to the congressional defense committees summarizing the details of the transfer of funds from this appropriation.

AFGHANISTAN SECURITY FORCES FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund”, \$1,350,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009: Provided, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of allowing the Commander, Office of Security Cooperation–Afghanistan, or the Secretary’s designee, to provide assistance, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to the security forces of Afghanistan, including the provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, facility and infrastructure repair, renovation, and construction, and funding: Provided further, That the authority to provide assistance under this heading is in addition to any other authority to provide assistance to foreign nations: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer such funds to appropriations for military personnel; operation and maintenance; Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid; procurement; research, development, test and evaluation; and defense working capital funds to accomplish the purposes provided herein: Provided further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds so transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That contributions of funds for the purposes provided herein from any person, foreign government, or international organization may be credited to this Fund, and used for such purposes: Provided further, That the

Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing upon the receipt and upon the transfer of any contribution delineating the sources and amounts of the funds received and the specific use of such contributions: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than five days prior to making transfers from this appropriation account, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer: Provided further, That the Secretary shall submit a report no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter to the congressional defense committees summarizing the details of the transfer of funds from this appropriation.

IRAQ SECURITY FORCES FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the “Iraq Security Forces Fund”, \$1,500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009: Provided, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of allowing the Commander, Multi-National Security Transition Command–Iraq, or the Secretary’s designee, to provide assistance, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to the security forces of Iraq, including the provision of equipment, supplies, services, training, facility and infrastructure repair, renovation, and construction, and funding: Provided further, That the authority to provide assistance under this heading is in addition to any other authority to provide assistance to foreign nations: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer such funds to appropriations for military personnel; operation and maintenance; Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid; procurement; research, development, test and evaluation; and defense working capital funds to accomplish the purposes provided herein: Provided further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds so transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That contributions of funds for the purposes provided herein from any person, foreign government, or international organization may be credited to this Fund, and used for such purposes: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees in writing upon the receipt and upon the transfer of any contribution delineating the sources and amounts of the funds received and the specific use of such contributions: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than five days prior to making transfers from this appropriation account, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer: Provided further, That the Secretary shall submit a report no later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter to the congressional defense committees summarizing the details of the transfer of funds from this appropriation.

JOINT IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DEFEAT
FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the “Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund”, \$4,269,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2010: Provided, That such funds shall be available to the Secretary of Defense, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of allowing the Director of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization to investigate, develop and provide equipment, supplies, services, training, facilities, personnel and funds to assist United States forces in the defeat of improvised explosive devices: Provided further, That within 60 days of the enactment of this Act, a plan for the intended management and use of the Fund is provided to the congressional defense committees:

Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter to the congressional defense committees providing assessments of the evolving threats, individual service requirements to counter the threats, the current strategy for predeployment training of members of the Armed Forces on improvised explosive devices, and details on the execution of this Fund: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer funds provided herein to appropriations for military personnel; operation and maintenance; procurement; research, development, test and evaluation; and defense working capital funds to accomplish the purpose provided herein: Provided further, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: Provided further, That upon determination that all or part of the funds so transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purpose provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: Provided further, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not fewer than 5 days prior to making transfers from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of the details of any such transfer.

TITLE III—PROCUREMENT

PROCUREMENT

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Army”, \$943,600,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

PROCUREMENT OF WEAPONS AND TRACKED COMBAT VEHICLES, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Weapons and Tracked Combat Vehicles, Army”, \$1,429,445,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Army”, \$154,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Army”, \$2,027,800,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Navy”, \$48,500,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$304,945,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Navy”, \$91,481,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Marine Corps”, \$703,250,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Aircraft Procurement, Air Force”, \$51,400,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Air Force”, \$30,725,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Defense-Wide”, \$274,743,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

TITLE IV—REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS

REVOLVING AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS

For an additional amount of “Defense Working Capital Funds”, \$1,000,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2010.

TITLE V—OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “Defense Health Program”, \$575,701,000 for Operation and maintenance.

DRUG INTERDICTION AND COUNTER-DRUG ACTIVITIES, DEFENSE

For an additional amount for “Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense”, \$192,601,000.

TITLE VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 601. Appropriations provided in this division are available for obligation until September 30, 2008, unless otherwise so provided in this division.

SEC. 602. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of this division, funds made available in this division are in addition to amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2008.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 603. Upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may transfer between appropriations up to \$4,000,000,000 of the funds made available to the Department of Defense in this division: Provided, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this section: Provided further, That the authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense.

SEC. 604. Funds appropriated in this division, or made available by the transfer of funds in or pursuant to this division, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414).

SEC. 605. None of the funds provided in this division may be used to finance programs or activities denied by Congress in fiscal years 2007 or 2008 appropriations to the Department of Defense or to initiate a procurement or research, development, test and evaluation new start program without prior written notification to the congressional defense committees.

SEC. 606. (a) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CERP.—From funds made available in this division to the Department of Defense, not to exceed \$500,000,000 may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to fund the Commander's Emergency Response Program, for the purpose of enabling military commanders in Iraq to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility by carrying out programs that will immediately assist the Iraqi people, and to fund a similar program to assist the people of Afghanistan.

(b) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 15 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter (beginning with the first quarter of fiscal year 2008), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report regarding the source of funds and the allocation and use of funds during that quarter that were made available pursuant to the authority provided in this section or under any other provision of law for the purposes of the programs under subsection (a).

SEC. 607. During the current fiscal year, funds available to the Department of Defense for oper-

ation and maintenance may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to provide supplies, services, transportation, including airlift and sealift, and other logistical support to coalition forces supporting military and stability operations in Iraq and Afghanistan: Provided, That the Secretary of Defense shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees regarding support provided under this section.

SEC. 608. During fiscal year 2008, supervision and administration costs associated with projects carried out with funds appropriated to “Afghanistan Security Forces Fund” or “Iraq Security Forces Fund” in this division may be obligated at the time a construction contract is awarded: Provided, That for the purpose of this section, supervision and administration costs include all in-house Government costs.

SEC. 609. (a) REPORTS ON PROGRESS TOWARD STABILITY IN IRAQ.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter through the end of fiscal year 2008, the Secretary of Defense shall set forth in a report to Congress a comprehensive set of performance indicators and measures for progress toward military and political stability in Iraq.

(b) SCOPE OF REPORTS.—Each report shall include performance standards and goals for security, economic, and security force training objectives in Iraq together with a notional timetable for achieving these goals.

(c) SPECIFIC ELEMENTS.—In specific, each report shall require, at a minimum, the following:

(1) With respect to stability and security in Iraq, the following:

(A) Key measures of political stability, including the important political milestones that must be achieved over the next several years.

(B) The primary indicators of a stable security environment in Iraq, such as number of engagements per day, numbers of trained Iraqi forces, and trends relating to numbers and types of ethnic and religious-based hostile encounters.

(C) An assessment of the estimated strength of the insurgency in Iraq and the extent to which it is composed of non-Iraqi fighters.

(D) A description of all militias operating in Iraq, including the number, size, equipment strength, military effectiveness, sources of support, legal status, and efforts to disarm or reintegrate each militia.

(E) Key indicators of economic activity that should be considered the most important for determining the prospects of stability in Iraq, including—

(i) unemployment levels;

(ii) electricity, water, and oil production rates; and

(iii) hunger and poverty levels.

(F) The criteria the Administration will use to determine when it is safe to begin withdrawing United States forces from Iraq.

(2) With respect to the training and performance of security forces in Iraq, the following:

(A) The training provided Iraqi military and other Ministry of Defense forces and the equipment used by such forces.

(B) Key criteria for assessing the capabilities and readiness of the Iraqi military and other Ministry of Defense forces, goals for achieving certain capability and readiness levels (as well as for recruiting, training, and equipping these forces), and the milestones and notional timetable for achieving these goals.

(C) The operational readiness status of the Iraqi military forces, including the type, number, size, and organizational structure of Iraqi battalions that are—

(i) capable of conducting counterinsurgency operations independently;

(ii) capable of conducting counterinsurgency operations with the support of United States or coalition forces; or

(iii) not ready to conduct counterinsurgency operations.

(D) The rates of absenteeism in the Iraqi military forces and the extent to which insurgents have infiltrated such forces.

(E) The training provided Iraqi police and other Ministry of Interior forces and the equipment used by such forces.

(F) Key criteria for assessing the capabilities and readiness of the Iraqi police and other Ministry of Interior forces, goals for achieving certain capability and readiness levels (as well as for recruiting, training, and equipping), and the milestones and notional timetable for achieving these goals, including—

(i) the number of police recruits that have received classroom training and the duration of such instruction;

(ii) the number of veteran police officers who have received classroom instruction and the duration of such instruction;

(iii) the number of police candidates screened by the Iraqi Police Screening Service, the number of candidates derived from other entry procedures, and the success rates of those groups of candidates;

(iv) the number of Iraqi police forces who have received field training by international police trainers and the duration of such instruction; and

(v) attrition rates and measures of absenteeism and infiltration by insurgents.

(G) The estimated total number of Iraqi battalions needed for the Iraqi security forces to perform duties now being undertaken by coalition forces, including defending the borders of Iraq and providing adequate levels of law and order throughout Iraq.

(H) The effectiveness of the Iraqi military and police officer cadres and the chain of command.

(I) The number of United States and coalition advisors needed to support the Iraqi security forces and associated ministries.

(J) An assessment, in a classified annex if necessary, of United States military requirements, including planned force rotations, through the end of calendar year 2008.

SEC. 610. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available in this division is designated as an emergency requirement and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 611. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division may be obligated or expended to provide award fees to any defense contractor for performance that does not meet the requirements of the contract.

SEC. 612. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division may be used by the Government of the United States to enter into an agreement with the Government of Iraq that would subject members of the Armed Forces of the United States to the jurisdiction of Iraq criminal courts or punishment under Iraq law.

SEC. 613. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Army may reimburse a member for expenses incurred by the member or family member when such expenses are otherwise not reimbursable under law: Provided, That such expenses must have been incurred in good faith as a direct consequence of reasonable preparation for, or execution of, military orders: Provided further, That reimbursement under this section shall be allowed only in situations wherein other authorities are insufficient to remedy a hardship determined by the Secretary, and only when the Secretary determines that reimbursement of the expense is in the best interest of the member and the United States.

SEC. 614. In this division, the term "congressional defense committees" means—

(1) the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 615. This division may be cited as the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, 2008".

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 893, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Obey moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2764.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 893, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the pending legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, before I get to the matter at hand, I would like to, as the minority leader did just a moment ago, I would like to take special note of the fact that the Appropriations Committee in the House is losing a highly valuable member of our staff.

David Morrison has served the Appropriations Committee and the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee with distinction for a number of years. I know I have certainly come to rely on him for many things, and I know the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, has certainly heavily relied on him as well. I hesitate to point out that before he served the Appropriations Committee in the House, he had an errant career. He spent part of that career at the Office of Management and Budget, and he spent another portion of that career in the other body. Despite that fact, he has recovered very well, and he has served us extremely well in the House. We hate to see him leave, and I think we all owe him a round of applause.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to take much time. I know people want to leave. Let me explain the procedure that is being followed. I have a ministerial duty to call up this Senate amendment, even though I intend to vote against it.

As the House I think understands, yesterday the House considered an omnibus appropriation bill, and what we did was to consider two amendments; one amendment related to the domestic funding for the bill, and the other amendment related to funding for Afghanistan and for certain force protection items. We sent those two amendments over to the Senate, and the Senate has amended the product in one respect. They have substituted for the \$30 billion that we sent to the Senate for Afghanistan and for force protection items, they have substituted \$70 billion, and sent it back to the House.

I have an obligation to allow the House to work its will on this matter, even though I suspect I am going to disagree with the result of this action.

□ 1645

In my view, when we sent legislation over to the Senate 3 weeks ago, that legislation provided for \$50 billion for the purpose of helping to shut down the war by establishing a timeline, by requiring that all agencies of the Federal Government adhere to the U.S. Army Manual with respect to torture, and would also require that every unit be militarily ready to perform its duties. That is still sitting in the Senate. In my view, all that we had to do to deal with the so-called shortfall that the White House has been talking about is for the President to sign that bill with those conditions. The White House has blocked that legislation in the Senate, and so we have come to this.

Members will vote however they choose. I intend to vote "no," but this is an individual vote of conscience.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, in the last several days we have said all that we perhaps need to say about the omnibus. We have discussed every inch of it. We all know about the amendment on the Senate side. And, because of that, I am going to give up my 20-minute speech.

I would like to take just a moment nonetheless to ask the Members to join me in paying a very special tribute to one of the most beloved and respected staffers on Capitol Hill.

After 3 years as my staff director, Frank Cushing is leaving the committee at the end of the year to pursue other opportunities. With more than 25 years of Capitol Hill experience, Frank leaves behind a record of integrity and service that few can match.

I got to know Frank in 1995 when he served as my clerk on the House VA-HUD subcommittee of appropriations, a position he held until 2003. In very little time, I saw that Frank was one of those rare staffers who not only loves and respects this institution, but he in turn is respected and trusted by Members on both sides of the aisle.

Prior to his service in the House, Frank held numerous positions in the Senate, including staff director, both majority and minority, of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and clerk of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. More than one professional on both sides of the aisle have said to me, and I would quote them, "You are fortunate if you have been trained in this business by Frank Cushing."

Frank, we are going to miss you. We want you to know that, as we express our love for you and for Amy, the entire body wishes you well and wishes your family Godspeed. Thanks, Frank.

Mr. Speaker, we are now just 6 days away from the Christmas holidays. I know the Members and staff are eager to get home to their families so I intend to be very brief in my remarks today.

The House is considering a yearend omnibus spending package that, I must confess, is a much better product than what we considered Monday evening. I reluctantly opposed

both amendments passed by the House 2 days ago because they failed to provide for our troops in harm's way in Iraq. Fortunately, the Senate has now addressed this oversight. The Omnibus returns to the House a much better and complete bill.

Because this spending package adheres to the President's top line on spending, and it contains funding for our men and women in uniform in both Iraq and Afghanistan, I intend to support this legislation. And, I'm pleased to say that all indications are that the President will sign it.

Before concluding my remarks, I want to thank Chairman OBEY and the fine committee staff for their tireless efforts this year. Few people realize the tremendous amount of work that goes into the appropriations process each year.

The Appropriations Committee is the workhorse committee. Chairman OBEY and our staff have worked very long hours to produce this legislation, and they deserve our gratitude. DAVID, it is time for you to go home to Wisconsin and for me to go to California for a few weeks. It's time to let the staff catch up on some long overdue family time for the holidays.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to take almost no more time except to recognize a couple of my colleagues for unanimous-consent requests.

I first recognize the gentleman from Florida, my chairman of the Appropriations Committee, BILL YOUNG.

(Mr. YOUNG of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the amendment to provide funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These funds should have been provided much earlier this year. They are vital if we are to ensure that our troops have the support they need until enactment of a full-year supplemental appropriations bill for the Global War on Terror.

As I've said before, engaging in a debate on war policy is a legitimate and proper role for the Congress. However, we should never put ourselves in the position of threatening funding for our troops in the field. They deserve our full, unrestricted support.

With passage of this amendment, both the Army and the Marine Corps will have the funds they need to continue war operations for the first half of fiscal year 2008. However, we need to move quickly next year to provide full funding for our soldiers and marines, and for all our men and women in uniform. Let's not hold them hostage to Congressional debates ever again.

In conclusion, I strongly support this amendment and urge that it be adopted by the House. Then we can truly wish all our military a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) for a unanimous-consent request.

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in strong support of the amendment, thanking my subcommittee chairman, Mr. EDWARDS, for his kind remarks

about me 2 days ago and about the staff, expressing regret that we couldn't have done the MilCon-VA bill earlier.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to say a word or two about the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs portion of this omnibus bill. When the legislation was before the House earlier this week, Chairman EDWARDS was generous in his praise of our majority and minority staff members of the subcommittee. I wholeheartedly echo that sentiment. We have been blessed with a capable and hard-working staff.

Chairman EDWARDS was also kind enough to acknowledge that he and I have worked in partnership on this bill from day one. I want to take this opportunity to return that salute. Mr. EDWARDS sought my input throughout the process, and I am grateful that together with our subcommittee members we have been able to put together a bipartisan product that provides historic increases for our veterans, for our troops, and for the quality of life of current military families. These funds come on top of substantial increases for these accounts during the 12 years when Republicans were in the majority.

I would also gently remind my colleagues that this vital funding has been unnecessarily delayed. We could have moved to conference quickly on this type of funding—in a bipartisan and unifying way. Instead, powers above Mr. EDWARDS' and my pay grades decided to attach the bill to a much more controversial Labor-HHS-Education measure, and there it has sat, now some 80 days into the new fiscal year.

In an attempt to break the logjam, I introduced legislation identical in every respect to the Milcon-VA conference agreement, and every Republican member of this body co-sponsored that bill. We could have had funding in the pipeline for family housing, childcare centers, veterans and military construction early on. But the bill was held hostage as leverage for an additional \$22 billion in completely unrelated areas.

In the end the ploy did not work. Thankfully we are passing an omnibus bill at roughly the President's level, and the veterans and troops are finally getting a bill. I would simply urge my fellow Members to resist these types of maneuvers in the future. Let's not hold up Milcon and VA spending in an effort to spend more elsewhere.

Having made that point as cordially and charitably as I can and in the spirit of the Christmas season, I again thank and commend my Chairman for allowing me to participate in an excellent bipartisan achievement.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Let me thank the gentleman for his leadership and for yielding.

Here we go again, another payment on a war that should not have been fought and an occupation that keeps our young men and women in harm's way. By forcing Congress to tie the fate of spending for critical domestic programs to Iraq funding, this President held these programs hostage just to prop up his failed policy. This is not only shameful, it is unacceptable. The

American people want our troops and our contractors home.

A recent CNN poll found that 69 percent of respondents favored withdrawing all of our troops from Iraq. Nearly half believe that our troops should be home in under 1 year.

The only funds that we should be giving this President today should be to protect our troops and our contractors and to bring them home in a safe and timely and orderly fashion, in other words, what we tried to do several weeks ago, and, that is, fully fund the redeployment of our troops and military contractors from Iraq. And we should be using this opportunity to shore up vital programs such as our poverty elimination efforts, vital HIV/AIDS programs, both domestic and international, and providing health care for all, which we tried to do in the Appropriations Committee under Chairman OBEY but which the President, unfortunately, threatened to veto. Now, Congress, this body, once again is complicit in the President's games. And these are war games that he is playing.

Why in the world are we going to put another payment down on this war that should have ended? Actually, it should have never started. So let's vote "no" on this. His inflexibility, the President's inflexibility, this House, this body's inflexibility has already cost America too much in terms of lives, in terms of treasure, in terms of our standing in the world, and in terms of our national security.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I would like to commend those who have worked so hard for so long to try and right the wrong of our occupation in Iraq. I would like to thank the leadership for all the attempts that they have made to try and engage people on the opposite side of the aisle and those who don't have enough courage to do the right thing.

We find ourselves here at a moment with an omnibus bill that we have had to support, and many people have many things in the bill that they would like to have back home. I understand that. But in the final analysis, we are never going to end this war until we stop feeding this war with the taxpayers' dollars after they have told us to bring our soldiers home.

I stand here today in support of our soldiers. I support them coming home. Young men and women are dying in Iraq, the victims of IEDs, not even knowing how to protect themselves. And they come home, and we have to struggle to make sure that they are taken care of, that their health care needs are met.

When are we going to come to our senses? We are fighting a war that we never should have been in in the first place. We are fighting a war where we

were told there were weapons of mass destruction and there were none. We are fighting a war where we have contractors who are abusing civilians in Iraq. We have contractors who are stealing the taxpayers' money in Iraq. And yet we continue to nuance this debacle. We continue to say, I didn't understand. I didn't know. Well, let me make it perfectly clear.

There is \$70 billion in this bill for Iraq and Afghanistan, and it is fungible. We don't know how much of it is going to be spent where. But don't go away saying, I didn't understand, I didn't know, that is not what I intended to do. There is \$70 billion here. If you don't want to continue this war, don't vote for this bill.

Mr. OBEY. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. I thank the very distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the very distinguished chairman of the Defense appropriations subcommittee. Because, over the last 2 years, six times this body has passed responsible limits on the conduct of this war. Six times we have tried to make sense and pass legislation.

What we are about to do now is to give the President a blank check to continue this war until the end of his term, to continue what has gone down in history as the worst foreign policy fiasco in American history. Nobody in their right mind can argue that this war was thoughtfully planned or responsibly executed, and yet we are going to give him a blank check. We will look back on this day and people will ask, why?

Well, I want to thank Mr. OBEY, I want to thank Mr. MURTHA, the Out of Iraq Caucus, and the majority of my colleagues. We did the right thing. History will record that. But this is a very sad day for us. When you think that 4,000 young men and women have given up their lives, tens of thousands seriously wounded. For what? For a nation that will wind up far more loyal to Iran than it will be to the United States, to a nation that in fact is allowing young people to roam the streets with guns and forcing school girls going to school having to wear their veils. A repressive society, what will become a Shiite theocracy.

Sure, there is less violence. But that is because we have ethically cleansed most of Baghdad. There is less violence because the Sunni warlords have taken time off from shooting American soldiers to ridding themselves of al Qaeda in Iraq because Muqtada al-Sadr has decided to take a 6-month hiatus from shooting us. But all of this is going to come back. We see no end in sight. This is a very bad day, and we ought to vote "no." It is the responsible thing to do.

Mr. OBEY. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman OBEY, my good friend, for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are a lot of good things in this bill, but there is one bad thing. Billions of dollars, more billions of dollars to fund the war in Iraq.

The best present, the best gift we could give to our young men and women in the military during this season of peace and goodwill would be to bring this madness to an end and bring our young people home, and bring them home now. This war was ill-conceived from the beginning. It is a war of choice and not a war of necessity. The time is long overdue. Now is the time to bring this madness to an end.

I said it before and I will say it again. In good conscience, I will not vote for one dollar or one dime to continue this war. The American people are sick and tired of this war and I am tired and sick of this war. It is time to give peace a chance.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I think that probably no bill that the House will consider this year more aptly demonstrates the divided nature of this Congress and this government than does the bill that is before us right now. People often say there is not a dime's worth of difference between the two political parties. My response, at least on this occasion, is you are absolutely right. At least with respect to this legislation, there is a \$40 billion difference between the two parties. Because when you take into account what this Congress did in January when it passed the continuing resolution in January, and if you take into account the money that has been moved from the President's priorities into congressional priorities in this bill, you will see that that amounts to almost \$40 billion. It is not as much as I would like, but it certainly is worth the fight.

□ 1700

So I think there is a very big difference between a Congress run by our friends on the other side of the aisle and a Congress run by the now-majority Democratic Party.

But I think there is another significant difference, and that is the way the two parties have approached the war in Iraq. We have tried every way known to man to bring this war to a conclusion. Mr. MURTHA has produced out of his subcommittee time and time again language trying to produce a policy change, and on each occasion, that language has either been vetoed by the President or it has been blocked by the President through the use of his friends in the other body.

So I think it is clear that if the Nation wants a change in direction with respect to this war, it has only two options: Number one is to elect more progressive voices in the United States Senate; second is to elect a President who has a different set of priorities domestically and a different vision for

America's involvement in the Middle East and especially in Iraq.

This, in my view, is a conscience vote. As it comes down to us at this point, we have disposed of all of the domestic issues and we have this one remaining issue with respect to Iraq. I would simply say that I think we have provided more than enough money for that war.

I would note that earlier today, just a few moments ago, we had some 64 Members of this House vote against the alternative minimum tax fix because it was not paid for, and it added \$50 billion to the debt. I would point out that the document before us will add \$70 billion to that debt. And so I would hope that persons who felt it necessary to express their concern about the debt a few moments ago would be willing to do so on this occasion as well.

I would also point out that Mr. MURTHA, Mr. MCGOVERN and I have offered this Congress a way to avoid adding to that debt because we believe that if this war is such a hot idea, then we ought to at least pay for it so we don't shovel yet another bill off on our kids.

It is apparent that this House does not have the will to do that. And so not only do I think this is an unnecessary war, it is also an unnecessary add-on to the national debt.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. As we are closing this down, I would like to join you and use this moment to express my deep appreciation for the fine work in our committee of David Morrison. Thank you.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman, and I would simply say that I am not going to advise anyone how to vote. This is a conscience vote, in my view.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that 80 days into the fiscal year, the House has passed a budget that remains within the spending limits set by the President and contains essential funding for our soldiers serving in Iraq. Furthermore, I am glad several projects within the Fourth Congressional District are included in the final version of the bill. These projects are important to the people within my district, and will provide essential funding for new highway infrastructures, wastewater treatment facilities, and law enforcement upgrades, as well as other important projects. In addition, I am pleased at what this bill does not contain; harmful policy riders that would have opened the door for American tax dollars to be spent on abortions for citizens of foreign nations, and those that would tie the hands of our military leaders in Iraq.

However, I could not support this legislation due to the harm it causes to the completion of the border fence, which was authorized by Congress in the passage of the Secure Fence Act of 2006. Congress sent a clear message that a border fence should be constructed when it passed the Secure Fence Act. Specifically, it mandated the construction of 700 miles of fence along our southwestern border. Instead of building on this legislation, provisions in the omnibus increase bureaucratic

roadblocks, create new restrictions for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and repeal important measures that were signed into law in the 2006 bill.

In particular, a provision in the omnibus gives DHS the discretion on whether or not to build a fence, essentially eliminating the central tenet of the Secure Fence Act, which specifies locations where a fence shall be built. I am also deeply concerned that restrictions included in the omnibus, such as eliminating the authority of DHS to identify additional areas for fencing at the end of 2008 and requiring an onerous analysis of each 15 miles of planned fencing, will essentially end the project before the fence will be completed.

In addition to this harmful language, a provision in the omnibus requires that in locations where a border fence will be constructed, DHS must abide by excessive consultation and reporting requirements, thereby placing further bureaucratic roadblocks in front of an already delayed process. This language will require DHS to consult with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, Indian tribes, and landowners to minimize the impact on the environment, culture, commerce, and quality of life near where the fence will be constructed. However, while requiring this excessive consultation to be completed, this provision gives no guidance as to when the consultation can be determined to be completed and construction can begin.

Americans should not have to sacrifice border security for the passage of the fiscal budget. It is my hope that Congress will readdress this issue when it reconvenes in January and correct these provisions to ensure a border fence will be completed.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Senate amendment to the omnibus appropriations bill for an unconditional \$70 billion for the war in Iraq. This amendment gives the President a blank check to continue a flawed strategy that has no end in sight. It does nothing to bring home our brave men and women of the armed forces serving faithfully in Iraq, many of them on their third tour of duty in that country, at considerable sacrifice and strain to them and their families. Nor does this amendment place any conditions on the Iraqi government, which has continually failed to pursue political reconciliation. Our intelligence community has publicly concluded that the political situation Iraq is getting worse, not better. Moreover, the indefinite presence of American forces has sadly contributed to Iraq's political stagnation because it has allowed the different factions there to postpone making the difficult compromises necessary to achieve stability and reconciliation. Meanwhile, our men and women of the armed services continue to die every day in Iraq's ongoing civil war. A strategy of more of the same is no strategy at all.

I have and will continue to vote to ensure that our troops in Iraq receive the support and equipment that they need. That is why in November I voted in support of the House measure to provide our troops in Iraq with an additional \$50 billion. At the same time, this House legislation required the safe and responsible redeployment of our troops in Iraq. That legislation aimed to transition the U.S. military mission in Iraq. It would redeploy our combat forces out of Iraq by a target date of December 15, 2008. The House proposal, modeled after the approach recommended by the bipar-

tisan Baker-Hamilton Commission of the Iraq Study Group, would focus the remaining forces on the more limited missions of training Iraqi security forces, providing logistical and intelligence support for Iraqi security forces, and engaging in targeted counter-terrorist operations against Al-Qaeda and affiliated groups. The House bill also called for a "comprehensive diplomatic, political, and economic strategy that includes sustained engagement with Iraq's neighbors and the international community for the purpose of working collectively to bring stability to Iraq."

Instead of supporting the sensible approach passed by the House, the Senate Republicans, taking their cue from the White House, threatened to filibuster it. Now these same political elements have collaborated in sending us an amendment for more war funding with no accountability and no plan to redeploy our combat forces. This irresponsible approach will have the effect of prolonging the war, not bringing it to an end.

While I am opposed to another blank check for war funding in Iraq, I support continued military operations and reconstruction activities in Afghanistan. Moreover, my opposition to the Senate amendment does not extend to the underlying Omnibus, which—while far from perfect—was at the end of the day the best that we could do this year.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives today is faced with a regrettable decision on the eve of the adjournment of the first session of the 110th Congress. With the appropriations bills that fund the routine operations of all of the departments and agencies of the Federal Government now approved by both Houses of Congress, we are once again being asked to provide additional funding for the ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The House has already expressed its view on this question when we voted on November 14th to approve \$50 billion in supplemental defense funding with three very clear and very reasonable conditions: that our troops should be properly trained; that our forces will not use torture when conducting interrogations of enemy combatants; and, that we should establish a goal of redeploying all offensive troops from Iraq by the end of 2008. It would have been easy—and appropriate—for the President to sign the bill that was approved by a majority of the Members of this House and supported by a majority of Americans, rendering the debate we are having today unnecessary. The President has remained stubbornly determined to continue our involvement in Iraq without clearly defining a plan for the eventual re-deployment of our troops, and he has stated his intention to veto any legislation that attempts to change the course he has set.

After more than 4½ years, it is clear that our Nation's involvement in Iraq has cost far too much. It has cost the lives of nearly 3,900 men and women in our military and it has affected the lives of many thousand more who have been seriously wounded—both physically and psychologically. It has cost at least \$450 billion in national debt to date, with hundreds of billions more in future costs that will be incurred no matter how quickly we are able to extricate ourselves. It has also seriously diminished our military readiness and our ability to respond to other national security threats. And finally, our initial invasion and our protracted involvement in Iraq has diminished our inter-

national prestige and made it more difficult for the United States to exert leadership and influence around the globe.

It is against this backdrop that we in Congress have been working toward a strategy of timely redeployment of our troops that I believe is both militarily appropriate and necessary for encouraging the Iraqi government to assume greater control of the security of the Iraqi people. It was discouraging to me on our visit to Iraq last month led by the Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Congressman JACK MURTHA, that the Iraqi government has clearly not taken advantage of the improved security climate, brought about largely by the increased numbers of U.S. troops in Iraq during this past year. President Maliki and his government have not taken the steps they pledged to take in national reconciliation, in the distribution of the oil revenues or in several other key benchmarks that were established as indicators of progress.

On the face of it, the provision that has been sent to us by the Senate appears to be strictly about providing funds for the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is true that these funds would ensure that the soldiers, marines, sailors and airmen in harm's way are protected and continue to have the equipment, the supplies, the fuel, and the transportation resources that keeps them fed, repairs their equipment, treats their medical needs, and allows them to continue to operate. The reality, however, is that these funds will necessarily have an impact on our entire military. Because of the immediate need to protect troops in wartime conditions, all of the men and women in uniform—as well as the civilian workforce of the Defense Department—are caught in the position of having to curtail important operations that underpin the very readiness of our forces, not just for Iraq, but for all aspects of our nation's defense.

The Army is on the leading edge of these impacts with installations across the country already having been notified to prepare for curtailing operations in the middle of February. The Army can keep going that long only by accelerating spending regular operations funds intended to last for the entire year, and by reprogramming other funds to the maximum allowed in law. If no further action is taken on this funding, the Army intends to furlough as many as 100,000 civilian employees and a comparable number of contractor personnel. In addition, it will sharply reduce travel, training, maintenance and child care and other day-to-day activities at installations across the Nation. And we know that the Marine Corps is close behind the timing of the Army in experiencing these impacts, all of which will exacerbate the level of readiness already diminished by our long involvement in Iraq.

So it is frustrating for me and for many Members of this House to be presented with the Hobson's choice that we have before us today: whether to impose a terribly chaotic situation on the entire U.S. military or whether to approve another substantial increment of funding for the Iraq war without any clear and well-articulated strategy for the eventual re-deployment of American troops. We are presented with this choice by a President who is unwilling to consider any change whatsoever in our strategy in Iraq and who has clearly not listened to the will of the American people or the views of their representatives here in Congress.

I have reluctantly concluded at this point that a vote to deny these funds now could potentially harm the troops in theater and could seriously diminish the condition of all of our military forces who still face other threats around the globe. Out of a responsibility to the men and women in uniform, to their families, to the civilian workforce in DOD and to our Nation's overall security, I intend to vote in favor of this resolution.

At the same time, it is my intention to continue working with what I believe is a growing majority here in Congress and a solid majority in the country to advocate for a major change in the direction of our policy in Iraq, and for the prompt re-deployment of the U.S. troops currently stationed in Iraq.

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, today this body did something that it failed to do last year under the previous majority by passing legislation to direct the spending of our Federal Government.

I am disappointed that the choice of the President and the minority to engage in confrontation and obstruction instead of cooperation and progress prevented us from more fully meeting America's needs in this bill. Despite their intransigence, we were able to pass a bill that began to reinvest in critical national priorities that had been neglected for too long. Priorities like life saving medical research, law enforcement, border and homeland security, K-12 education, college aid, needed infrastructure improvements, renewable energy, and energy efficiency. In addition to those steps, this bill lived up to the commitment of this Congress to keep our promises to America's veterans by providing \$3.7 billion over the President's request for veterans' medical care, claims processing, and facility improvements.

I indicated when the House considered this legislation earlier this week that I believed this is not a perfect bill. However, I believe that the spending bill we approved on December 17, 2007, does a tremendous amount of good by funding key programs that will make America more secure and more prosperous. It makes necessary investments in America's future, and that is why I voted for it.

Unfortunately, the Senate has added funding for the war in Iraq without placing a time line for withdrawal. For that reason, I could not support the Senate version of the bill and voted against it.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. It has been a long process, and this bill is far from perfect, but I enthusiastically support this measure as an important first step in a long-overdue effort to provide for the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and begin to invest in priority items here at home to build a brighter future for America.

As a member of the House Budget Committee, I believe that budget-making is about more than just numbers on a ledger or a spreadsheet. Budgets reflect our Nation's priorities, and Congress has a solemn duty to pass a funding that honors the values of the American people. I have worked with the leadership of this new Democratic Congress to reverse the misguided budget course of the current administration that has neglected America's domestic needs and created massive annual deficits and record national debt. I am pleased that the New Direction Congress has rejected the President's misguided budget cuts

for critical American priorities like education, medical research and energy independence. This responsible legislation fulfills Congress's obligation to govern and charts a better course for the American people.

I especially want to thank the House Democratic Leadership for including \$600 million for disaster assistance for victims of the record drought in North Carolina and throughout the southeastern United States. My farmers are hurting, and this disaster assistance will provide real relief and some measure of hope for the future. I have been proud to lead the fight for this funding, and I want to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, Majority Whip CLYBURN, Appropriations Committee Chairman OBEY and Agriculture Committee Chairman PETERSON for their leadership on this priority item.

Beyond disaster assistance, I support this omnibus appropriations bill because it invests in:

K-12 Education: \$767 million above the President's request with targeted increases to Title I, Special Education, Teacher Quality Grants, After-School Initiatives and Head Start.

Student Aid: \$1.7 billion above the President's request for Pell Grants and other student aid.

Vocational Education: \$575 million above the President's request for technical training at high schools and community colleges.

State and Local Law Enforcement: \$1.2 billion above the President's request to help local communities across the country.

Homeland Security Grants: \$1.8 billion above the President's request, recognizing that homeland security begins with hometown security.

Medical Research: \$607 million above the President's request to study diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes.

Health Care Access: \$1 billion above the President's request, making targeted increases to efforts like Community Health Centers to provide 280,000 more uninsured Americans with access to health care and High Risk Insurance Pools to help 200,000 more people afford health insurance.

Rural Health Care: \$147 million above the President's request to help 1,200 small rural hospitals.

Veterans: \$3.7 billion more than the President's request for VA health care, medical and prosthetic research, medical services for injured and ill veterans, and the construction of new VA medical facilities.

Highway Infrastructure: Meets the guaranteed levels set in the authorization bill and provides a \$1 billion initiative to repair our bridges.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency: \$486 million above the President's request for critical investments in Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Biofuels, and Energy Efficiency, with a careful blend of new scientific investments and conservation efforts.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill contains funding the President requested for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, to support our troops and avoid any risk that Defense Department employees could be subject to furlough notices this holiday season. I regret that the stubborn opposition of the President and his allies in Congress to investing more in America's priorities prevent us from making more progress. But I strongly support this

compromise legislation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago, this body passed an omnibus appropriations bill that, while limited in its priority only to the most basic domestic needs in this country due to the stubbornness of the President and Republicans in the Senate, funded over a half a trillion dollars for important programs that will help all Americans. Now, however, we are being asked to attach to that bill \$70 billion in unchecked, unconditional, and unqualified spending for the war in Iraq. It is absolutely unacceptable that we continue to provide the President with funding without providing explicit requirements that he redeploy our troops from Iraq, bolster our diplomatic efforts throughout the Middle East, and engage other countries in the region in a political solution. For those reasons, I will be voting against this funding.

Our soldiers have acted with unquestionable bravery and patriotism in Afghanistan and Iraq. They have given their time, their devotion, and in some cases their lives. And it is time for them to come home. Yet, their military accomplishments are not being complemented with political or diplomatic accomplishments. The Iraqi government refuses to step up to the plate, move toward reconciliation, and unite the Iraqi people.

As we prepare to start a new year, it is expected for people to reflect on what has transpired from the past, learn from their mistakes and decide how they can improve in the future. This does not hold true for the President, who instead is blindly demanding unfettered war funds without demonstrating any plans for removing our troops from harm's way and turning Iraq over to the Iraqi people. We cannot and must not continue on this path.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Committee has spoken and the result is positive. I appreciate the words of the Committee in the Statement of the managers accompanying the Omnibus Appropriations legislation specifically regarding the USAID and hunting conservation programs in Africa and around the world.

The initial problem that came to light earlier this year was language that denied USAID funding of recreational, sport and trophy hunting in its assistance programs in Africa. The language in the Statement of the Managers to accompany the Omnibus legislation offers out the opportunity for the USAID conservation projects to continue and states that they need to come before the Committee and explain these important conservation programs. I support this effort and commend the Committee on this language.

These USAID projects are very important tools in the effort to promote conservation. Tourist hunting in foreign lands has proven to be vital and critical to community-based natural resource management programs such as the CAMPFIRE Program in Zimbabwe and the LIFE Plus Project in Namibia. The CAMPFIRE and the LIFE Plus Projects in Africa are just two examples of working conservation programs that involve controlled, regulated sport and trophy hunting. These programs literally support the entire tribal system in many areas of Africa. Without them, literally millions of acres that are properly managed now would fall prey to poachers and the land would prove to have no economic value. Animals in this environment would be killed for food, over-

hunted and poached. None of us want that result.

These programs provide conservation and social benefits like growth, revenue, poverty reduction, improved livelihoods and empowerment—all of which alleviate human suffering.

The facts are in: in twenty-three African countries that allow licensed, regulated hunting, approximately 18,500 hunters generate over \$200 million annually in remote rural areas. The USAID programs are extremely important to the survival of many species worldwide and I thank the Appropriations Committee for recognizing the flaw in the House Report language and speaking to it appropriately in the Statement of the Managers that accompanies the Omnibus legislation.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great reluctance to support final passage of the FY2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act. I am voting in favor of this legislation because it rightfully supplies our men and women on the battlefields of Afghanistan and Iraq with the resources they need to continue their mission, while also supporting the Global War on Terror. These brave men and women deserve our support and I will never waiver from this responsibility.

However, despite my vote in favor of this legislation, I remain adamantly opposed to the underlying Omnibus legislation that effectively guts the Secure Fence Act passed during the 109th Congress. Securing the border of the United States is one of the most important responsibilities of the federal government. The Republican-led Congress last year did the right thing by passing the Secure Fence Act that mandated the construction of 854-mile double layered border fence along our Southwest border. Unfortunately, one of the few acts actually accomplished by this first session of the 110th Congress will be to remove that mandate and ensure that our southern border remains one of our weakest links in the effort to secure our homeland. Frankly, this is unacceptable.

I will be working with my colleagues during the second session of this Congress to address this travesty, however, I will not hold back the needed resources from our brave men and women in uniform because of this irresponsible move by this Congress. Therefore, I reluctantly support this Omnibus package.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, when the House considered this measure earlier this week, I voted for it even though I was far from enthusiastic about doing so.

Now that it is before us again—because the Senate changed it—I am even less enthusiastic about it, but I have reluctantly concluded that bad as it is, it needs to be passed. And so I will vote for it again.

Earlier, I said that one of its worst shortcomings, ironically, was that it was too long—rolling into one massive measure provisions from no fewer than 11 regular appropriations bills that the House passed earlier this year.

And now it is even longer, because the Senate has added an additional \$39 billion, all for military activities in Iraq.

There is no mystery about why that happened. It happened for two reasons.

The first reason is that President Bush has insisted that he will not sign the bill unless these funds were added—just as he has insisted he will veto it if it provided more funding than he has requested for domestic purposes.

The second reason is that our Republican colleagues, both here and in the Senate, have made clear they will support any such veto.

And the result of the president's stubborn insistence and our Republican colleagues stubborn loyalty is that of the nearly \$190 billion the president requested for Iraq and Afghanistan, this bill includes \$39 billion for Iraq, to be available without conditions or significant restrictions.

This essentially unconditional funding approach is very different from the war funding bill I supported and the House passed last month, which would have provided targeted funding toward an "immediate and orderly" redeployment of U.S. troops from Iraq.

I agree with those who say there are clear signs of progress on the security front in Iraq. But when he announced the "surge" of additional troops to Iraq, President Bush promised us more than progress on the security front. We sent more troops to Iraq to provide "breathing space" for the Iraqi government to move toward political reconciliation, and that hasn't even begun to happen.

I think that in the long term, there is no sustainable role for large numbers of U.S. troops to remain in Iraq—whether refereeing a civil war or waiting for the Iraqi government to decide to act within the "breathing space" our brave troops have provided and our taxpayers are paying for at \$9 billion per month.

So I regret that this bill sends the wrong message by including no Congressional direction on how the funds for Iraq should be spent.

At the same time, we all understand that this bill includes no "strings" on Iraq funding because the Senate simply doesn't have the votes to pass such a bill and that Republican support for a veto would prevent it from becoming law if it should be passed.

What we need is consensus here at home on a path forward in Iraq.

I believe consensus can be found around the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, which I introduced as legislation earlier this year, including supporting a course of escalating economic development, empowerment of local government, the provision of basic services, a "surge" in regional and international diplomatic efforts, and lightening the American footprint in Iraq.

If legislation along those lines had been agreed to, we would not find ourselves making the difficult choice presented by this bill now before us.

Only Democrats and Republicans working together can find the best path out of Iraq. I will continue to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle on further steps we can take to change our broader Iraq policy.

And today, I will vote for this omnibus bill because despite its shortcomings, I will not vote to deny funding for the body armor and other supplies our troops require and because in terms of funding for domestic programs, it still is a better bill than would have resulted if we had simply rubber-stamped the president's budget requests—and it includes provisions that will directly benefit Colorado and the nation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of 2764, which provides, among other things, \$500 million for the Commanders Emergency Response Program (CERP). Our continued support for this program is vital for winning the war on terror and ensuring stability in Iraq and Afghanistan. General Petraeus himself recently described it as "a critical tool with which to prosecute the counterinsurgency campaign."

Our continued support for CERP will be especially important for achieving long term success in Iraq. The Iraqi people must be convinced that their lives are getting better and that their future is one of peace and prosperity, rather than violence and sectarian strife. As David Ignatius pointed out this morning in the Washington Post, "the success of the U.S. troop surge seems to be bolstering, ever so slightly, the advocates of conciliation and weakening the partisans of sectarian war." However, "[t]he recent progress in Iraq has resulted from bottom-up efforts to build trust, neighborhood by neighborhood." CERP has proven to be one of the key tools in this effort.

CERP allows our military commanders and civil affairs officers on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility by carrying out programs that will immediately assist the indigenous population. The funding is allocated to brigade commanders to support a wide variety of small-scale relief and reconstruction projects, including reconstruction of water and sanitation facilities, school repair, restoring power stations, lines and generators, providing humanitarian relief, renovating cultural centers, museums and libraries, and repairing telecommunications infrastructure.

Most importantly, CERP grants can be dispensed quickly and applied directly to local needs, rather than slowed down by the bureaucratic process in Washington and watered down by foreign contractors and subcontractors. As Secretary Gates recently explained in his testimony before Congress, ". . . by building trust and confidence in Coalition forces, these CERP projects increase the flow of intelligence to commanders in the field and help turn local Iraqis and Afghans against insurgents and terrorists."

CERP could also serve to be a key component in helping to normalize the more than 2 million internally displaced Iraqis and provide a stable environment for the more than 2 million externally displaced in neighboring countries to return home.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Organization (IRCO), for example, has recently proposed a one-year plan to normalize up to 600,000 internally displaced residents of Baghdad into 120 self sustaining neighborhood units. The IRCO Neighborhood Reconstruction Program (NRP) could help provide unemployed IDPs with the opportunity to construct and service approximately 100,000 homes, 440 schools, 132 mobile health clinics, 60 water treatment plants, and 44 electrical generators. With the financial support of CERP and the Government of Iraq, this program would be coordinated through IRCO's existing 44 offices in Baghdad and, within a year, these formerly displaced people would have the opportunity live in homes with electricity and water, within neighborhoods that have access to nearby healthcare, schools, and jobs.

We have an obligation to continue funding CERP so that the Iraqi and Afghan people can build peaceful and prosperous societies for themselves. The sooner this occurs, the quicker our troops can come home.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Committee on Appropriations for addressing language contained in the House State, Foreign Operations Committee Report regarding funding of recreational, sport

and trophy hunting in its assistance programs in Africa. The language included in the Manager's Statement accompanying the Omnibus Appropriations Legislation offers USAID the opportunity to come before the Committee and explain the need for these important conservation programs to continue. I support this effort and commend the Committee on this language.

I urge USAID to take advantage of this opportunity to come before the Committee and explain the benefits of these valuable projects as directed by the Manager's Statement. Conservation projects have made great contributions to wildlife management and have a great story to tell. The CAMPFIRE and the LIFE Plus Projects in Africa are just two examples of successful conservation programs involving controlled, regulated sport and trophy hunting that economically supports tribal systems in many areas of Africa. Without programs like these, millions of acres of properly managed conservation areas would fall prey to poachers, eliminating the economic value these lands provide.

Additionally, tourist hunting has proven to be a valuable tool for conserving wildlife and habitat for particularly threatened species such as the African elephant, white and black rhino, leopard, markhor, argali and others. Licensed, regulated tourist hunting provides tens of millions of dollars for the operating budgets of foreign wildlife departments, significantly reduces poaching, and creates incentives for local inhabitants to perpetuate biodiversity on hundreds of millions of acres where it is needed beyond the borders of protected areas. Without these programs, animals in this environment would be killed for food, over-hunted, and poached, placing the continued survival of these species in serious jeopardy.

The facts are that in the twenty-three African countries that allow licensed, regulated hunting, approximately 18,500 hunters generate over \$200 million annually in remote rural areas. These conservation programs are extremely important to African tribal culture, not to mention the survival of the many animal species they protect worldwide. While I cannot support the overall bill, I thank the Appropriations Committee for recognizing this flaw in the Committee Report on H.R. 2764 and speaking to it appropriately in the Omnibus Legislation's accompanying Manager's Statement.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for many years, our government has been involved in the funding of several successful conservation programs that are supported by recreational, sport and trophy hunting programs in Africa. The Committee wisely spoke to these important programs in the Statement of the Managers which accompanies the Omnibus Appropriations legislation. I support the language and welcome the USAID coming before the Appropriations Committee and detailing these important conservation projects.

Initially, the language in the State Foreign Operations Report denied USAID funding of recreational, sport and trophy hunting in its assistance programs in Africa. Again, the language in the Statement of the Managers to accompany the Omnibus legislation offers out the opportunity for the USAID conservation projects to continue and further states that they need to come before the Committee and explain these important conservation programs. I support this effort and commend the Committee on this language.

Tourist hunting in foreign lands has proven to be vital and critical to community-based natural resource management programs such as the CAMPFIRE Program in Zimbabwe and the LIFE Plus Project in Namibia.

These programs provide conservation and social benefits like growth, revenue, poverty reduction, improved livelihoods and empowerment—all of which alleviate human suffering. Isn't that what we are trying to accomplish with these programs? Closer to home, National Geographic News reported in March of 2007 that "trophy hunting is of key importance to conservation in Africa by creating [financial] incentives to promote and retain wildlife as a land use over vast areas..."

As I previously mentioned, the CAMPFIRE and the LIFE Plus Projects in Africa are just two examples of working conservation programs that involve controlled, regulated sport and trophy hunting. These programs literally support the entire tribal system in many areas of Africa. The programs which are funded with matching funds from groups like the World Wildlife Fund and the Dallas Safari Club supply money for drinking water wells and schools for the local population. Without these programs, literally millions of acres that are properly managed now would fall prey to poachers and the land would prove to have no economic value. Animals in this environment would be killed for food, over-hunted and poached. These programs provide conservation and social benefits like growth, revenue, poverty reduction, improved livelihoods and empowerment—all of which alleviate human suffering.

The USAID conservation programs are extremely important to the survival of many species worldwide and I thank the Appropriations Committee for recognizing that the language in the Foreign Operations House Report needed to be revised and I thank the Committee for speaking to it appropriately in the Statement of the Managers that accompanies the Omnibus legislation.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Congress and the President have come together to find common ground on the fiscal year 2008 budget. It is often said that politics is the art of compromise, and the bill we are considering today—H.R. 2764—represents a compromise position that allows the Congressional majority to advance some of its priorities while adhering to the President's overall budgetary constraints.

H.R. 2764 funds a number of programs that are important to the American people, including investments in education, life-saving medical research, law enforcement, border security, veterans' health care, and energy independence initiatives.

H.R. 2764 is especially good for rural America. The bill rejects deep cuts that were proposed by the President in rural health care, housing, economic development, Internet access, and law enforcement programs. At the same time, the bill nearly doubles funds available for renewable energy loans and grants in rural areas, commits significant resources to fix aging bridges, and adds \$1 million to the President's request for rural drinking water and waste water infrastructure projects. Additionally, the measure slashes funding for the Administration's efforts to create a National Animal Identification Program, reducing it by \$23 million.

H.R. 2764 also extends through December 31, 2007, most of the agricultural disaster as-

sistance programs included as part of the emergency supplemental spending bill signed into law earlier this year. These programs allow many American farmers to recoup some losses associated with drought and other natural disasters in 2005, 2006, or in the first two months of 2007. Between February and December of this year, Missouri farmers have seen their fair share of damaging weather events. I am pleased that Congress is extending disaster programs that may be beneficial to qualifying Show-Me State producers.

The measure also funds U.S. military efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq. And, while I would have preferred to send the President war funding legislation that sets a goal of redeploying most American troops from Iraq by next Christmas, H.R. 2764 will provide our service men and women with the resources they need to do their jobs while serving in harm's way and will alleviate any need by the Administration to reallocate funds from domestic military operations.

H.R. 2764 represents a compromise bill that is in the best interest of our Nation. I am pleased to support its passage and urge the President to sign it into law.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations for language in the Manager's Statement accompanying the Omnibus Appropriations bill, regarding USAID and hunting conservation programs in Africa and around the world. This language provides an opportunity for these USAID conservation projects to continue and asks them to come before the Committee and explain how these important conservation programs have seen success in Africa and around the world. I support this effort and commend the Committee on this language.

Earlier this year, language to deny funding for USAID assistance programs in Africa utilizing recreational, sport and trophy hunting was included in the House State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Committee Report. I opposed this language as tourist hunting has proven to be a valuable tool for the conservation of wildlife and habitat. These programs have proven to be particularly useful in the survival of African elephants, white and black rhinos, leopards, markhor, argali, and other threatened and endangered species. To block this revenue would do nothing for the conservation of species and would simply be one step further in a campaign to ban hunting.

I welcome the opportunity for USAID to come before the Committee and explain these valuable and beneficial projects as the language directs. USAID and their conservation projects will have their opportunity to tell their conservation story and how revenue brought in by these hunters benefits the local native communities, encouraging them to conserve and manage wildlife populations responsibly. The CAMPFIRE and the LIFE Plus Projects in Africa are just two examples of working conservation programs that involve controlled, regulated sport and trophy hunting. These programs literally support the entire tribal system in many areas of Africa. Without them, millions of acres that are properly managed now would fall prey to poachers and the land would prove to have no economic value. Animals in this environment would be killed for food, over-hunted and poached. None of us want that result.

Licensed, regulated tourist hunting provides tens of millions of dollars for the operating

budgets of foreign wildlife departments, significantly reduces poaching, and creates incentives for local inhabitants to perpetuate biodiversity on hundreds of millions of acres where it is needed beyond the borders of protected areas. In twenty-three African countries that allow licensed, regulated hunting, approximately 18,500 hunters generate over \$200 million annually in remote rural areas. The USAID programs are extremely important to the survival of many species worldwide and I thank the Appropriations Committee for recognizing the flaw in the House Report language and speaking to it appropriately in the Statement of the Managers that accompanies the Omnibus legislation.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FY08 Consolidated Appropriations Legislation. Although this bill does not accomplish everything that we had wanted for the next fiscal year, the bill will provide critical funding to many programs that for too long have been underfunded.

Among many other important provisions, this legislation will provide \$607 million above the President's request for medical research of diseases including Alzheimer's, cancer, Parkinson's and diabetes. It will make investments in education including K through 12, Pell Grants, and vocational education. It will help make communities across the country safer by providing \$1.2 billion above the President's request for state and local law enforcement. Lastly, it will provide critical homeland security funding at \$1.8 billion above the President's request.

I want to note several other items in this bill that are of particular interest to me and many of my constituents.

The bill provides \$108 million for the health needs of World Trade Center responders, residents, students, and others exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero, to be administered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The legislation also requests that the Administration prepare a plan for a comprehensive program for health screenings, analysis, and medical treatment for the entire exposed community. I want to sincerely thank Chairman OBEY and his incredibly able staff for their continued dedication to the heroes of 9/11.

I commend the Appropriations Committee for including enough baseline funding to continue the invaluable Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) in FY 2008, despite the Bush Administration's initial desire to eliminate the survey. The SIPP provides the most comprehensive data on the economic well-being of American families, and I am glad that the Committee understood its importance.

The legislation before us will provide \$75 million to help Afghan women and girls including funding for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission which does essential work in Afghanistan to combat human rights abuses. Additionally, the bill provides more than \$147,000,000 for processing the backlog of DNA evidence kits as provided by the Debbie Smith Act, legislation I first introduced in 2001.

I want to thank Chairman OBEY and the Appropriations Committee for its work under very difficult conditions, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2764, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. While this is a vastly dif-

ferent package than the 11 stand-alone appropriations bills that the House passed earlier this year, it is a package that for the first time in over eight years focuses on the priorities of the American people.

Without a doubt the budgetary process is never easy. This year, however, the process has been exacerbated by the fact that this Administration has been unwilling to come to the negotiating table to hammer out the details of this legislation, instead barking orders at Congress—the people's representatives—from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Furthermore, this process has been held up by the inability of the Senate to pass these bills as stand-alone measures. As a result, Congress has no choice but to consolidate the remaining appropriations bills in order to complete our budget work.

Like many of my colleagues, I had hoped that this Administration would have worked with Congress to find a compromise that would have reflected the domestic needs of our country and the priorities of our working families. Unfortunately, the budget proposal the Administration sent to Congress earlier this year proposed cuts to many important domestic programs including: Medical research grants at NIH; Grants for low-income schools; Vocational education programs in high schools and community colleges; Homeland Security Grants for police, firefighters and medical personnel; Renewable energy programs; and Community Health Centers.

Yet after proposing cuts to these vital programs, the President had the nerve to request another blank check for the war in Iraq.

The truth of the matter is our troops have the funding they need. Congress passed and the President signed a Defense Appropriations bill last month that contained more than \$450 billion in funding for the military. Moreover, the House passed an Iraq supplemental last month that would provide \$50 billion worth of funding for the war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, that bill has been blocked by Republicans in the Senate because it contains important provisions that would require the President to begin to plan for the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq.

I would note that recently, the Congressional Budget Office has reported that costs related to the Iraq war could reach \$2.4 trillion over the next decade, even if the number of troops is cut by half. Furthermore, we have seen more than a billion dollars gone unaccounted for in Iraq due to fraud and misuse on the part of contractors and poor accounting by our own government.

By threatening to veto any spending bill that does not give him a blank check in Iraq, it is the President who is playing politics—playing politics with our service men and women and their families, and playing politics with critically important domestic programs.

The bill before us today is significantly better than what the President sent us at the beginning of this year. It does, as I mentioned earlier, focus on the priorities of the American people. For example, the bill invests in:

Medical Research: \$607 million above the President's request to study diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, Parkinson's and diabetes.

Healthcare Access: \$1 billion above the President's request, making targeted increases to programs like Community Health Centers to provide 280,000 more underinsured Americans with access to healthcare and High

Risk Insurance Pools to help 200,000 more people afford health insurance.

Rural Healthcare: \$147 million above the President's request to help 1,200 small, rural hospitals.

K-12 Education: \$767 million above the President's request with targeted increases to Title 1, Special Education, Teacher Quality Grants, After School Programs, and Head Start.

Student Aid: \$1.7 billion above the President's request for Pell Grants and other student aid programs.

Vocational Education: \$575 million above the President's request for technical training at high schools and community colleges.

State and Local Law Enforcement: \$1.2 billion above the President's request, to help local communities across the country.

Homeland Security Grants: 41.8 billion above the President's request, recognizing that fighting terror must be a top priority.

Highway Infrastructure: Meets the guaranteed levels set in the authorization bill and provides a \$1 billion initiative for our bridges.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency: \$486 million above the President's request for important investments in Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Biofuels, and Energy Efficiency, with a careful blend of new scientific investments and conservation efforts.

Chairman DAVID OBEY deserves our thanks for plowing through what many of us would consider unworkable circumstances and producing a bill that puts the American people first.

Now, it is unfortunate that Senate Republicans have chosen to give the President the blank check he requested in terms of war funding. I cannot, however, in good conscience, hold the rest of the federal government—and the above investments—hostage to Iraq funding. Instead, I will continue to work with my colleagues in the coming year to bring an end the President's failed Iraq policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is the duty of Congress to pass spending legislation each year, and it is a duty we take very seriously. I would like to take just a moment to remind President Bush that Congress is a co-equal branch of government. Our founding fathers intended that no one branch should set the course for our country, and in fact compromise has long been one of the hallmarks of our government. It is time that the Administration recognizes that a seat at the negotiating table can accomplish much more than the wave of the veto pen.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House amendment to H.R. 2764 to highlight the key elements of division J, the Department of State, foreign operations, export financing, and related programs appropriations act of fiscal year 2008.

This amendment reflects a bipartisan, bicameral process. We worked tirelessly with ranking member WOLF, Senator LEAHY, and Senator GREGG to create a product that addresses our strategic priorities and our national security interests, as well as increases assistance for programs that promote development, reduce poverty, meet humanitarian needs and respond to global health crises.

Despite our bipartisanship, the President's intransigence forced us to make difficult cuts to worthy programs. His unwillingness to compromise with Congress, while spending \$12 billion a month in Iraq, is both fiscally and

morally irresponsible. We have worked to limit the damage of this President's misplaced priorities, and I appreciate Chairman OBEY and Speaker PELOSI's commitment to robust foreign assistance.

Division J includes over \$5.3 billion for State Department operations in the United States and abroad, and exceeds the President's request for worldwide security protection to ensure that our diplomats and development workers remain safe and secure. It also provides \$501 million for educational and cultural exchanges, and \$366 million for public diplomacy.

PROMOTING NATIONAL SECURITY THROUGH SUPPORT FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The bill also provides \$7.5 billion in economic and military assistance for our strategic partners throughout the world, including Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Indonesia among other countries. It fully meets the President's request of \$2.4 billion for Israel and \$1.715 billion for Egypt, excluding the 0.81% across-the-board cut required to reach agreement with the President, and provides assistance to Jordan, including debt relief critical to its economic revitalization.

ADDRESSING GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES AND PROMOTING PEACE

Combating global health threats—including tuberculosis, avian flu, HIV/AIDS, and malaria—is a security imperative as well as a moral responsibility. We are leading the fight against HIV/AIDS and other global health emergencies—providing \$6.5 billion, \$796 million above the President's request and \$1.4 billion over fiscal year 2007, to address these critical needs. Within the total provided for global health, \$5 billion is for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care efforts internationally, \$544 million above the President's request. We have also included, government-wide, \$841 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria.

I must express my great disappointment that President Bush was willing to veto this entire vital bill because it would have allowed the U.S. to send contraceptives to poor men and women around the world. The President's dogmatic adherence to an illogical position diminishes our influence around the world and thwarts one of the most effective strategies for stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS and reducing unintended pregnancies and abortions. This is a fight we cannot win if our policy continues to put ideology ahead of proven results, and I will continue fighting to restore common sense to our international family planning initiatives.

I am pleased that we were able to provide significant funding to promote peace and address humanitarian crises throughout the world. Without the across-the-board cut, we would have provided the full request for the Peace Corps to support 7,749 volunteers in 67 posts serving in 73 countries.

The bill includes over \$1 billion to help displaced people around the world, especially the growing number of Iraqi refugees. Additionally, over \$430 million is provided to avert famines, provide life-saving assistance during natural disasters, and assist internally displaced persons in Iraq, Darfur and elsewhere.

Since declaring the atrocities in Darfur, Sudan, genocide in July, 2003, this committee has appropriated over a billion dollars to support the African Union peacekeeping mission and to provide emergency assistance. We are

hopeful that the long-overdue United Nations mission will finally be able to bring stability to this region, and allow the Darfuri people to rebuild their lives. To that end, this bill provides over \$550 million to support the UN peacekeeping mission in Darfur. We have made a strong commitment to international peacekeeping activities, and this bill includes \$1.6906 billion for ongoing operations in Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Haiti, Timor-Leste, Lebanon, and Kosovo.

I am also pleased that we were able to provide additional funding to meet our commitment to provide critical security sector assistance for Liberia.

INVESTING IN DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD

The bill also increases funding for development programs managed by the U.S. Agency for International Development. These resources will expand our basic education, safe water and environment programs.

Access to basic education has been one of my top priorities for many years because it not only improves an individual's chances for a better, more productive life, it creates a more tolerant and informed citizenry. We have provided a total of \$694 million for basic education programs in this bill, including \$189 million targeted to help developing countries with national education plans meet the international goal of quality education for all children by 2012.

This bill also provides \$510 million for clean energy and biodiversity programs worldwide. This includes funding for the Global Environment Facility and international conservation programs that work with developing nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preserve national parks, and protect wildlife.

There is also \$1.544 billion for the Millennium Challenge Account in this bill. While this funding level is lower than that provided by the House, it is \$344 million above the Senate level, and it will allow the MCC to undertake all its planned compacts and threshold programs through fiscal year 2008.

RESPONDING TO DEVELOPING SITUATIONS

This bill responds to a number of evolving diplomatic needs throughout the world. In addition to providing the strong annual aid package to Israel, we must ensure that our assistance to the Palestinians supports the current movement toward negotiating a peaceful two-state solution between the two parties.

In addition to language on assistance to the Palestinians that has been carried in the Foreign Operations bill for many years, we have included additional accounting conditions on part of any funding provided as cash transfer to the Palestinian Authority. It also ensures that no funding goes to Hamas or to salaries of Palestinian Authority personnel located in Gaza. It is essential that we track every dollar of any cash transfer, and before funding is obligated or expended, I expect the Department of State to take the following steps:

(1) Representatives of the government of the United States and the Palestinian Authority will develop a list of mutually-agreed disbursements. Emphasis will be on funding projects in the West Bank that quickly demonstrate quality of life benefits for the population.

(2) The Palestinian Authority may not obligate or expend any funds on items not mutually-agreed upon and will repay any funds which are used in any way not mutually agreed by the United States and the Palestinian Authority.

(3) The Secretary of State shall certify that none of the funds will be used to support violence or terrorism. All contractors will be investigated through the same United States embassy process that is used to vet implementers of United States-administered assistance programs.

(4) The Palestinian Authority will establish a separate account to hold funds received in the cash transfer. Authorized United States officials will have complete and unfettered access to the records of this account.

(5) The Department of State will report bi-weekly to the Committees on Appropriations on all expenditures, disbursements and balances associated with the cash transfer assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

(6) The Secretary of State shall report to the Committees on Appropriations, in classified form if appropriate, on how much funding the Arab states are providing to the Palestinian Authority, and steps the Palestinian Authority is taking to end incitement.

I look forward to working with the State Department to ensure that these funds are fully accountable and used to support President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad as they work to end corruption and bring needed services to the Palestinian people in the West Bank.

Also related to peace in the Middle East, I remain gravely concerned about the smuggling operation from Egypt to Gaza, and funds in this bill for Egypt are conditioned on steps taken to detect and destroy these tunnels.

The developing situation in Pakistan, which continues to be an important ally of the United States, also demands action in this bill. I appreciate the recent steps towards restoring the constitution and advancing democracy and human rights. However, the actions of the past few months warranted measures in this bill to end cash transfers and condition military assistance on continued progress on political reforms. We remain steadfast in our support of the Pakistani people, and this assistance package maintains the robust development and security assistance that is central to reducing poverty, increasing stability, and fighting Al Qaeda, the Taliban, and other terrorist groups.

Because our efforts to combat narcotics in Colombia have been ineffective for some time, this bill restructures assistance for Colombia. We have shifted greater resources to the development and interdiction programs. We have also increased funding for rule of law and justice efforts in order to strengthen the Government of Colombia's ability to combat and demobilize their criminal paramilitary organizations that fuel the drug war. It is time for the Colombians to take ownership over their eradication and military assistance programs, and restructuring of our assistance package reflects that position.

ADVANCING OUR PRIORITIES AT HOME

In addition to the many steps we have taken in this bill to advance international stability and security here at home, this bill also addresses many of our most important domestic priorities from education funding to worker training to biomedical research to public health activities.

It provides relief for families that desperately need child care and afterschool programs; for first responders in need of training and equipment that will help keep our communities safe; for teachers anxious to receive classroom training or professional development; for students who won't be able to attend college

without an increase in the maximum Pell Grant; and for the elderly who depend on LIHEAP to help pay for the rising cost of home heating oil.

Initiatives funded in this bill literally make a life-or-death difference in the lives of countless individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. While we could have done much more with the cooperation of the President, the work that we have accomplished together in this final product will help make America more secure and will improve the lives of millions throughout the world.

In closing, I would like to thank our staff for their tireless work, and their many sleepless nights as they put together this final product. Nisha Desai, and her new baby Safya, Craig Higgins, Michele Sumilas, Steve Marchese, Lucy Heenan, Celia Alvarado, and our minority staff Christine Kojac, Rob Blair and Molly Miller. Lastly, I would like to thank Cherith Norman, as she prepares the leave the State Department, for her years of outstanding work with this Committee.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 893, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 272, nays 142, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 1186]

YEAS—272

Aderholt	Brown-Waite,	Dicks
Akin	Ginny	Dingell
Alexander	Buchanan	Donnelly
Altmire	Burgess	Doolittle
Bachmann	Burton (IN)	Drake
Bachus	Buyer	Dreier
Baird	Calvert	Edwards
Baker	Camp (MI)	Ehlers
Barrett (SC)	Campbell (CA)	Ellsworth
Barrow	Cannon	Emanuel
Bartlett (MD)	Cantor	Emerson
Barton (TX)	Capito	English (PA)
Bean	Carney	Etheridge
Berkley	Carter	Everett
Berman	Castle	Fallin
Berry	Chabot	Feeney
Biggert	Chandler	Ferguson
Bilbray	Clyburn	Flake
Bilirakis	Coble	Forbes
Bishop (GA)	Cole (OK)	Fortenberry
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Fossella
Blackburn	Cooper	Foxy
Blunt	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Boehner	Cramer	Frelinghuysen
Bonner	Crenshaw	Gallegly
Bono	Cuellar	Garrett (NJ)
Boozman	Culberson	Gerlach
Boren	Davis (AL)	Giffords
Boucher	Davis (CA)	Gillibrand
Boustany	Davis (KY)	Gingrey
Boyd (FL)	Davis, David	Gohmert
Boyd (KS)	Davis, Lincoln	Gonzalez
Brady (TX)	Davis, Tom	Goode
Broun (GA)	Deal (GA)	Goodlatte
Brown (SC)	Dent	Gordon
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, L.	Granger
	Diaz-Balart, M.	Graves

Green, Gene	McCarthy (CA)
Hall (TX)	McCaul (TX)
Hastings (WA)	McCotter
Hayes	McCrery
Heller	McHenry
Hensarling	McHugh
Hergert	McIntyre
Herseth Sandlin	McKeon
Hill	McMorris
Hinojosa	Rodgers
Hobson	Melancon
Hoekstra	Mica
Holden	Miller (FL)
Hoyer	Miller (MD)
Hulshof	Mitchell
Hunter	Mollohan
Inglis (SC)	Moore (KS)
Issa	Moran (KS)
Johnson (IL)	Murphy, Tim
Johnson, Sam	Murtha
Jones (NC)	Musgrave
Jordan	Myrick
Kanjorski	Neugebauer
Keller	Nunes
Kildee	Pearce
Kind	Pence
King (IA)	Peterson (MN)
King (NY)	Peterson (PA)
Kingston	Petri
Kirk	Pickering
Kline (MN)	Pitts
Knollenberg	Platts
Kuhl (NY)	Poe
LaHood	Pomeroy
Lamborn	Porter
Lampson	Price (GA)
Larsen (WA)	Pryce (OH)
Latham	Putnam
LaTourette	Radanovich
Latta	Ramstad
Levin	Regula
Lewis (CA)	Rehberg
Lewis (KY)	Reichert
Linder	Renzi
LoBiondo	Reyes
Lucas	Reynolds
Lungren, Daniel	Rodriguez
E.	Rogers (AL)
Lynch	Rogers (KY)
Mack	Rogers (MI)
Mahoney (FL)	Rohrabacher
Manzullo	Ros-Lehtinen
Marchant	Roskam
Marshall	Ross
Matheson	Royce

NAYS—142

Abercrombie	Frank (MA)
Ackerman	Green, Al
Allen	Grijalva
Andrews	Gutierrez
Arcuri	Hall (NY)
Baca	Hare
Baldwin	Harman
Becerra	Higgins
Burgess	Hinche
Blumenauer	Hirono
Buyer	Hodes
Brady (PA)	Holt
Braley (IA)	Honda
Butterfield	Insole
Capps	Israel
Capuano	Jackson (IL)
Cardoza	Jackson-Lee
Carnahan	(TX)
Castor	Johnson (GA)
Clarke	Jones (OH)
Clay	Kagen
Cleaver	Kaptur
Cohen	Kennedy
Conyers	Kilpatrick
Costello	Klein (FL)
Courtney	Langevin
Crowley	Lantos
Cummings	Larson (CT)
Davis (IL)	Lee
DeFazio	Lewis (GA)
DeGette	Lipinski
Delahunt	Loebsack
DeLauro	Lofgren, Zoe
Doggett	Lowey
Doyle	Maloney (NY)
Duncan	Matsui
Ellison	McCarthy (NY)
Engel	McCollum (MN)
Eshoo	McDermott
Farr	McGovern
Fattah	McNerney
Filner	Meek (FL)

Ruppersberger	Tauscher
Rush	Thompson (MS)
Ryan (WI)	Tierney
Salazar	Towns
Sali	Tsongas
Saxton	Udall (NM)
Schmidt	Van Hollen
Schwartz	
Scott (GA)	
Sensenbrenner	
Sessions	
Sestak	
Shadegg	
Shays	
Shimkus	
Shuler	
Shuster	
Simpson	
Skelton	
Smith (NE)	
Smith (NJ)	
Smith (TX)	
Snyder	
Souder	
Space	
Spratt	
Stearns	
Sullivan	
Tancredo	
Tanner	
Taylor	
Terry	
Thornberry	
Tiahrt	
Tiberi	
Turner	
Udall (CO)	
Upton	
Visclosky	
Walberg	
Walden (OR)	
Walsh (NY)	
Walz (MN)	
Wamp	
Weldon (FL)	
Westmoreland	
Whitfield (KY)	
Wicker	
Wilson (NM)	
Wilson (OH)	
Wilson (SC)	
Wittman (VA)	
Wolf	
Young (AK)	
Young (FL)	

Velázquez	Weiner
Wasserman	Welch (VT)
Schultz	Wu
Waters	Wynn
Watson	Yarmuth
Watt	
Waxman	

NOT VOTING—18

Cubin	Johnson, E. B.	Pastor
Gilchrest	Kucinich	Paul
Hastings (FL)	Markey	Thompson (CA)
Hooley	McNulty	Weller
Jefferson	Miller, Gary	Wexler
Jindal	Ortiz	Woolsey

□ 1726

Mr. WYNN, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. DELAURO and Ms. ESHOO changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. DOOLITTLE changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to personal medical reasons, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on the following rollcall Nos.: 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, and 1186.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker’s reappointment of the following members on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2009:

Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew, District of Columbia

Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler, Great Falls, Virginia

□ 1730

DON'T PLAY POLITICAL GAMES WITH VETERANS FUNDING

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, today we completed work on an omnibus spending bill

Hopefully, by Friday, a full 82 days into the fiscal year, our Nation’s veterans will finally have access to the \$6.7 billion in increased spending, and the new and expanded programs included in the original veterans bill, a bill that passed the House and Senate this summer.