Mr. Speaker, I will admit to my colleagues we worked hard on this bill. It is a bipartisan effort. It was one that employed a lot of people with a lot of thoughts and ideas. We worked with the Senate, we worked with the administration, a lot of work, but what we have is a package that we worked together to make sure that in a bipartisan fashion this was addressed, and I am pleased and proud today to say that this is a threat-based bill, based upon what the experts tell us is facing the United States today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight the retirement of a very important person in the administration. He is a former commissioner of U.S. Customs, and under Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Judge Robert Bonner from Los Angeles, California, who has served this great Nation for a number of years as a Federal judge and once again in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Judge Bonner will be leaving in just about a month from his service to the administration; and Judge Bonner has been a man of not only substance and vision but a person who has offered Members of Congress his best advice on how best to deal with the threats against this Nation.

So I would like to highlight not only the service to the country that the Members of Congress have done in this appropriations bill but also working with the administration, with such fine people as Judge Bonner.

Mr. Speaker, I will confess to my colleagues that this bill that we have here today is aimed at averting and stopping the terrorist attacks that come aimed at this country. I hope that we have the best minds to this and that we are prepared.

I am prepared to tell my colleagues right now I support this rule and the underlying legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I will ultimately support the underlying legislation under the Conference Report, but I recognize that it has many shortfalls that will affect this nation’s ability to respond to a new and substantial set of circumstances—namely the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. I speak not only from the standpoint of a Representative of an area that experienced compound effects of both Katrina and Rita, but I speak as mother, wife, and a person who understands the pains and costs.

A restrictive rule in a situation such as this will only limit the effectiveness of this legislation. Hurricane Katrina has been a natural disaster of unprecedented proportions. The effects of Katrina, now compounded with the effects of hurricane Rita, have been difficult to predict and even more difficult to prevent. Thousands of people are displaced, hungry, and without hope. Authorities at every level of government are virtually writing the book on how to respond to a disaster of this proportion and scope. In my district alone, there are 15,000 displaced children who need homes, schooling, food, jobs, and subsistence items. New information is coming in by the hour on damage that was done to our infrastructure, the numbers of displaced people, and the priority must now be to address.

I applaud the Conferees for giving agencies such as ICE an appropriation of $3.175 billion—which was a $216 million increase over the FY05 level of $2.95 billion. Furthermore, of the $4.6 billion appropriated to TSA, $2.54 billion is allocated to cover passenger and baggage screener workforce. The number of TSA screeners is capped at 45,000—which will constrain our efforts to compensate for the effects of the two hurricanes. Within this account, privatized screening operations are funded at $140 million. The conferees also extended liability protection to airports with privatized screening operations.

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

The previous question was ordered. The resolution was agreed to. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 276, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 510]

YEAS—415

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, my vote on rollcall No. 510 was not recorded. I would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted no.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOBIONDO). The previous vote on rollcall No. 510 is declared not recorded. The roll is ordered to be read a second time.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.