

support. This amendment established a refundable tax credit for contributions to pension plans by low and moderate income workers, and tax credits to small businesses to establish and contribute to pension plans. While not perfect, it at least made an attempt to deal with the problem of access to retirement income for those who can not save due to their low income, or can not save as much as they should. But the House, as I indicated, adopted the narrow approach.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I intend to vote for deficit reduction, and to continue my effort to enact a comprehensive retirement bill that helps all Americans save for retirement, not just the "upper-middle, investor class."

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, today the House is taking up a bill which would ensure that 90 percent of next year's budget surplus goes to paying down debt. With this bill, over \$600 billion of publicly held debt would be paid down by the end of next year. It would be entirely eliminated by 2013. This means lower interest rates on credit cards and home mortgages for millions of Americans. I can't think of a better gift for our children.

Unfortunately, this debt reduction measure has been attached to H.R. 1102, the Retirement Security Act. In my district, constituents have voiced concern over certain pension provisions included in this bill. Some recent pension conversions have been a grave injustice to American workers, especially mid-career and older employees who have planned for retirement based on the benefits built into their original pension plans. While H.R. 1102 provides some much-needed disclosure requirements, we need to be tougher on those companies who have taken advantage of pension conversions to fatten their bottom lines. I will continue to fight for those tougher provisions.

When H.R. 1102 was being considered, I fought to ensure that all vested employees have the choice to remain in their current defined benefit plans. I brought an amendment to the Rules Committee which would have done just that. Unfortunately, I wasn't allowed to bring it to the House floor for consideration. In the end, I cast a protest vote against H.R. 1102 because it lacked this important provision.

Today, there is no opportunity to amend this bill. I wish that these pension reform provisions had not been attached to debt relief, but it has. The importance of this bill in locking in debt reduction and increasing the ability of Americans to save for their own retirement will carry the day for most Members of this House. I will support this bill because it is critical that we offer our children a debt-free future.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5203.

The question was taken.

Mr. SHAW. 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.

This is a 15-minute vote on H.R. 5203 and it will be followed by a 5-minute vote on H.R. 3986.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 401, nays 20, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 479]

YEAS—401

Abercrombie	DeLay	Jefferson
Ackerman	DeMint	Jenkins
Aderholt	Deutsch	John
Allen	Diaz-Balart	Johnson, E. B.
Andrews	Dickey	Johnson, Sam
Archer	Dicks	Jones (NC)
Armey	Dingell	Jones (OH)
Baca	Dixon	Kanjorski
Bachus	Doggett	Kaptur
Baird	Doolittle	Kasich
Baker	Doyle	Kelly
Baldacci	Dreier	Kildee
Baldwin	Duncan	Kilpatrick
Ballenger	Dunn	Kind (WI)
Barcia	Edwards	King (NY)
Barr	Ehlers	Kingston
Barrett (NE)	Ehrlich	Klecza
Barrett (WI)	Emerson	Knollenberg
Bartlett	Engel	Kolbe
Barton	English	Kucinich
Bass	Eshoo	Kuykendall
Becerra	Etheridge	LaHood
Bentsen	Evans	Lampson
Bereuter	Everett	Lantos
Berkley	Ewing	Largent
Berman	Farr	Larson
Berry	Fattah	Latham
Biggert	Fletcher	LaTourette
Blibray	Foley	Leach
Bilirakis	Forbes	Levin
Bishop	Ford	Lewis (CA)
Blagojevich	Fossella	Lewis (GA)
Bliley	Fowler	Lewis (KY)
Blumenauer	Frelinghuysen	Linder
Blunt	Frost	Lipinski
Boehlert	Galleghy	LoBiondo
Boehner	Ganske	Lofgren
Bonilla	Gejdenson	Lowey
Bonior	Gekas	Lucas (KY)
Bono	Gephardt	Lucas (OK)
Borski	Gibbons	Luther
Boswell	Gilchrest	Maloney (CT)
Boucher	Gillmor	Maloney (NY)
Boyd	Gilman	Manzullo
Brady (PA)	Gonzalez	Markey
Brady (TX)	Goode	Martinez
Brown (FL)	Goodlatte	Mascara
Brown (OH)	Goodling	McCarthy (MO)
Bryant	Gordon	McCarthy (NY)
Burr	Goss	McCrery
Burton	Graham	McGovern
Buyer	Granger	McHugh
Callahan	Green (TX)	McInnis
Calvert	Green (WI)	McIntyre
Camp	Greenwood	McKeon
Canady	Gutierrez	McKinney
Cannon	Gutknecht	Meehan
Capps	Hall (OH)	Meek (FL)
Capuano	Hall (TX)	Meeks (NY)
Cardin	Hansen	Menendez
Carson	Hastert	Metcalf
Castle	Hastings (FL)	Mica
Chabot	Hastings (WA)	Millender-
Chambliss	Hayes	McDonald
Chenoweth-Hage	Hayworth	Miller (FL)
Clayton	Hefley	Miller, Gary
Clement	Herger	Miller, George
Clyburn	Hill (IN)	Minge
Coble	Hill (MT)	Mink
Coburn	Hilleary	Moakley
Collins	Hilliard	Moore
Combest	Hinchey	Moran (KS)
Condit	Hinojosa	Moran (VA)
Cook	Hobson	Morella
Cooksey	Hoeffel	Murtha
Costello	Hoekstra	Myrick
Cox	Holden	Napolitano
Coyne	Holt	Neal
Cramer	Hooley	Ney
Crane	Horn	Northup
Crowley	Hostettler	Norwood
Cubin	Houghton	Nussle
Cummings	Hoyer	Oberstar
Cunningham	Hulshof	Obey
Danner	Hunter	Ortiz
Davis (FL)	Hutchinson	Ose
Davis (VA)	Hyde	Owens
Deal	Inslee	Oxley
DeFazio	Isakson	Packard
DeGette	Istook	Pallone
DeLaunt	Jackson-Lee	Pascrell
DeLauro	(TX)	Pastor

Paul	Scarborough	Terry
Pease	Schaffer	Thomas
Pelosi	Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)
Peterson (MN)	Scott	Thompson (MS)
Peterson (PA)	Sensenbrenner	Thornberry
Petri	Serrano	Thune
Phelps	Sessions	Thurman
Pickering	Shadegg	Tiahrt
Pickett	Shaw	Tierney
Pitts	Shays	Toomey
Pombo	Sherman	Towns
Pomeroy	Sherwood	Trafficant
Porter	Shimkus	Turner
Portman	Shows	Udall (CO)
Price (NC)	Shuster	Udall (NM)
Pryce (OH)	Simpson	Upton
Quinn	Sisisky	Velazquez
Radanovich	Skeen	Visclosky
Rahall	Skelton	Vitter
Ramstad	Slaughter	Walden
Regula	Smith (MI)	Walsh
Reyes	Smith (NJ)	Wamp
Reynolds	Smith (TX)	Waters
Riley	Smith (WA)	Watt (NC)
Rivers	Snyder	Watts (OK)
Rodriguez	Souder	Waxman
Roemer	Spence	Weiner
Rogan	Spratt	Weldon (FL)
Rogers	Stabenow	Weldon (PA)
Rohrabacher	Stearns	Weller
Ros-Lehtinen	Stenholm	Wexler
Rothman	Strickland	Weygand
Roukema	Stump	Whitfield
Royce	Stupak	Wicker
Rush	Sununu	Wilson
Ryan (WI)	Sweeney	Wolf
Ryun (KS)	Talent	Woolsey
Salmon	Tancredo	Wu
Sanchez	Tanner	Wynn
Sandlin	Tauscher	Young (AK)
Sanford	Tauzin	Young (FL)
Sawyer	Taylor (MS)	
Saxton	Taylor (NC)	

NAYS—20

Clay	LaFalce	Payne
Conyers	Lee	Rangel
Davis (IL)	Matsui	Roybal-Allard
Filner	McDermott	Sabo
Frank (MA)	Mollohan	Sanders
Jackson (IL)	Nadler	Stark
Kennedy	Olver	

NOT VOTING—13

Campbell	Lazio	Vento
Dooley	McCollum	Watkins
Franks (NJ)	McIntosh	Wise
Johnson (CT)	McNulty	
Klink	Nethercutt	

□ 1517

Messrs. JACKSON of Illinois, FILLNER, and NADLER changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 479 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCARBOROUGH). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on the additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

CHANDLER PUMPING PLANT
WATER EXCHANGE FEASIBILITY
STUDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3986, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3986, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 201, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 480]

YEAS—218

Aderholt	Gillmor	Packard
Archer	Gilman	Pease
Armey	Goode	Peterson (PA)
Bachus	Goodlatte	Petri
Baird	Goodling	Pickering
Baker	Goss	Pitts
Ballenger	Graham	Pombo
Barr	Granger	Porter
Barrett (NE)	Green (WI)	Portman
Bartlett	Greenwood	Pryce (OH)
Barton	Gutknecht	Quinn
Bass	Hall (OH)	Radanovich
Bereuter	Hansen	Ramstad
Biggett	Hastings (WA)	Regula
Bilbray	Hayes	Reynolds
Bilirakis	Hayworth	Riley
Bliley	Hefley	Rogan
Blunt	Hergert	Rogers
Boehlert	Hill (MT)	Rohrabacher
Boehner	Hilleary	Ros-Lehtinen
Bonilla	Hobson	Roukema
Bono	Hoekstra	Royce
Boswell	Horn	Ryan (WI)
Brady (TX)	Hostettler	Ryun (KS)
Bryant	Hulshof	Salmon
Burr	Hunter	Sanford
Burton	Hutchinson	Saxton
Callahan	Hyde	Scarborough
Calvert	Inslee	Schaffer
Camp	Isakson	Sensenbrenner
Canady	Istook	Sessions
Cannon	Jenkins	Shadegg
Castle	Johnson (CT)	Shaw
Chabot	Johnson, Sam	Shays
Chambliss	Jones (NC)	Sherwood
Chenoweth-Hage	Kasich	Shimkus
Coburn	Kelly	Shuster
Collins	King (NY)	Simpson
Combest	Kingston	Skeen
Cook	Knollenberg	Smith (MI)
Cooksey	Kolbe	Smith (NJ)
Cox	Kuykendall	Smith (TX)
Crane	LaHood	Souder
Cubin	Largent	Spence
Cunningham	Latham	Stearns
Davis (VA)	LaTourette	Stump
Deal	Leach	Sununu
DeLay	Lewis (CA)	Sweeney
DeMint	Lewis (KY)	Talent
Diaz-Balart	Linder	Tancredo
Dickey	LoBiondo	Tauzin
Dicks	Lucas (OK)	Taylor (NC)
Doolittle	Manzullo	Terry
Dreier	Martinez	Thomas
Duncan	McCrery	Thompson (CA)
Dunn	McHugh	Thornberry
Ehlers	McInnis	Thune
Ehrlich	McKeon	Tiahrt
Emerson	Metcalf	Toomey
English	Mica	Trafficant
Everett	Miller (FL)	Upton
Ewing	Miller, Gary	Vitter
Fletcher	Moran (KS)	Walden
Foley	Morella	Walsh
Fossella	Myrick	Wamp
Fowler	Ney	Watkins
Frelinghuysen	Northup	Watts (OK)
Galleghy	Norwood	Weldon (FL)
Ganske	Nussle	Weldon (PA)
Gibbons	Ose	Weller
Gilchrest	Oxley	

Whitfield
Wicker

Wilson
Wolf

Young (AK)
Young (FL)

GAO PERSONNEL FLEXIBILITY
ACT OF 2000

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4642) to make certain personnel flexibilities available with respect to the General Accounting Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4642

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

SECTION 1. VOLUNTARY EARLY RETIREMENT AUTHORITY.

(a) CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Effective for purposes of the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2003, paragraph (2) of section 8336(d) of title 5, United States Code, shall, with respect to officers and employees of the General Accounting Office, be applied as if it had been amended to read as follows:

“(2)(A) has been employed continuously by the General Accounting Office for at least the 31-day period immediately preceding the start of the period referred to in subparagraph (D);

“(B) is serving under an appointment that is not time limited;

“(C) has not received a notice of involuntary separation, for misconduct or unacceptable performance, with respect to which final action remains pending; and

“(D) is separated from the service voluntarily during a period with respect to which the Comptroller General determines that the application of this subsection is necessary and appropriate for the purpose of—

“(i) realigning the General Accounting Office's workforce in order to meet budgetary constraints or mission needs;

“(ii) correcting skill imbalances; or

“(iii) reducing high-grade, managerial, or supervisory positions;”.

(b) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.—Effective for purposes of the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2003, subparagraph (B) of section 8414(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, shall, with respect to officers and employees of the General Accounting Office, be applied as if it had been amended to read as follows:

“(B)(i) has been employed continuously by the General Accounting Office for at least the 31-day period immediately preceding the start of the period referred to in clause (iv);

“(ii) is serving under an appointment that is not time limited;

“(iii) has not received a notice of involuntary separation, for misconduct or unacceptable performance, with respect to which final action remains pending; and

“(iv) is separated from the service voluntarily during a period with respect to which the Comptroller General determines that the application of this subsection is necessary and appropriate for the purpose of—

“(I) realigning the General Accounting Office's workforce in order to meet budgetary constraints or mission needs;

“(II) correcting skill imbalances; or

“(III) reducing high-grade, managerial, or supervisory positions;”.

(c) NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—Not to exceed 10 percent of the General Accounting Office's workforce (as of the start of a fiscal year) shall be permitted to take voluntary early retirement in such fiscal year pursuant to this section.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Comptroller General shall prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this section, including

NAYS—201

Ackerman	Green (TX)	Oberstar
Allen	Gutierrez	Obey
Andrews	Hall (TX)	Olver
Baca	Hastings (FL)	Ortiz
Baldacci	Hill (IN)	Owens
Baldwin	Hilliard	Pallone
Barcia	Hinchey	Pascarell
Barrett (WI)	Hinojosa	Pastor
Becerra	Hoeffel	Paul
Bentsen	Holden	Payne
Berkley	Holt	Pelosi
Berman	Hooley	Peterson (MN)
Berry	Hoyer	Phelps
Bishop	Jackson (IL)	Pickett
Blagojevich	Jackson-Lee	Pomeroy
Blumenauer	(TX)	Price (NC)
Boniior	Jefferson	Rahall
Borski	John	Rangel
Boucher	Johnson, E.B.	Reyes
Boyd	Jones (OH)	Rivers
Brady (PA)	Kanjorski	Rodriguez
Brown (FL)	Kaptur	Roemer
Brown (OH)	Kennedy	Rothman
Capps	Kildee	Roybal-Allard
Capuano	Kilpatrick	Rush
Cardin	Kind (WI)	Sabo
Carson	Kleckza	Sanchez
Clay	Kucinich	Sanders
Clayton	LaFalce	Sandlin
Clement	Lampson	Sawyer
Clyburn	Lantos	Schakowsky
Coble	Larson	Scott
Condit	Lee	Serrano
Conyers	Levin	Sherman
Costello	Lewis (GA)	Shows
Coyne	Lipinski	Sisisky
Cramer	Lofgren	Skelton
Crowley	Lowey	Slaughter
Cummings	Lucas (KY)	Smith (WA)
Danner	Luther	Snyder
Davis (FL)	Maloney (CT)	Spratt
Davis (IL)	Maloney (NY)	Stabenow
DeFazio	Markay	Stark
DeGette	Mascara	Stenholm
Delahunt	Matsui	Strickland
DeLauro	McCarthy (MO)	Stupak
Deutsch	McCarthy (NY)	Tanner
Dingell	McDermott	Tauscher
Dixon	McGovern	Taylor (MS)
Doggett	McIntyre	Thompson (MS)
Doyle	McKinney	Thurman
Edwards	Meehan	Tierney
Engel	Meek (FL)	Towns
Eshoo	Meeks (NY)	Turner
Etheridge	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Evans	Millender	Udall (NM)
Farr	McDonald	Velazquez
Fattah	Miller, George	Visclosky
Filner	Minge	Waters
Forbes	Mink	Watt (NC)
Ford	Moakley	Waxman
Frank (MA)	Mollohan	Weiner
Frast	Moore	Wexler
Gejdenson	Moran (VA)	Weygand
Gekas	Murtha	Woolsey
Gephardt	Nadler	Wu
Gonzalez	Napolitano	Wynn
Gordon	Neal	

NOT VOTING—14

Abercrombie	Houghton	McNulty
Buyer	Klink	Nethercutt
Campbell	Lazio	Vento
Dooley	McCollum	Wise
Franks (NJ)	McIntosh	

□ 1526

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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

So (two-thirds not having voted in favor thereof) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.