

for all working Americans. And it is. Displaced workers need access to financial assistance as they work to get back on their feet. They have it. They need to be able to maintain their current health coverage without being thrown into the individual insurance market. Under current law, they can keep their same coverage. And for those workers unlikely to make it back to their old jobs, we need to ensure that they have access to adequate training programs. And we have. As the leader knows, due to the bipartisan progress over the years in this Congress, those pledges are secure.

But that does not mean that we should not consider proposals to do even more. The leader and I have discussed ways to address the unique health care needs of these working Americans as they seek employment. The committees of jurisdiction have already been examining proposals to assist in this area. We will take a comprehensive look at the health care needs of these displaced workers and work together to bring an appropriate legislative response to the floor as soon as possible. In the meantime, working Americans should know that the safety net is there, it is strong, and it is working.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Speaker of the House. He has dealt with me through these difficult days in an honorable and very good way. I appreciate it. I know all the Members appreciate it on our side as well.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1266

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1266, the Secret Evidence Repeal Act of 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida? There was no objection.

AIR TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND SYSTEM STABILIZATION ACT

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 244, I call up the bill (H.R. 2926) to preserve the continued viability of the United States air transportation system, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of H.R. 2926 is as follows:

H.R. 2926

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act".

TITLE I—AIRLINE STABILIZATION

SEC. 101. AVIATION DISASTER RELIEF.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President shall take the following actions to compensate air

carriers for losses incurred by the air carriers as a result of the terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001:

(1) Subject to such terms and conditions as the President deems necessary, issue Federal credit instruments to air carriers that do not, in the aggregate, exceed \$10,000,000,000 and provide the subsidy amounts necessary for such instruments in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

(2) Compensate air carriers in an aggregate amount equal to \$5,000,000,000 for—

(A) direct losses incurred beginning on September 11, 2001, by air carriers as a result of any Federal ground stop order issued by the Secretary of Transportation or any subsequent order which continues or renews such a stoppage; and

(B) the incremental losses incurred beginning September 11, 2001, and ending December 31, 2001, by air carriers as a direct result of such attacks.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—Congress designates the amount of new budget authority and outlays in all fiscal years resulting from this title as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(e)). Such amount shall be available only to the extent that a request, that includes designation of such amount as an emergency requirement as defined in such Act, is transmitted by the President to Congress.

SEC. 102. AIR TRANSPORTATION STABILIZATION BOARD.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) BOARD.—The term "Board" means the Air Transportation Stabilization Board established under subsection (b).

(2) FINANCIAL OBLIGATION.—The term "financial obligation" means any note, bond, debenture, or other debt obligation issued by an obligor in connection with financing under this section and section 101(a)(1).

(3) LENDER.—The term "lender" means any non-Federal qualified institutional buyer (as defined by section 230.144A(a) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation) known as Rule 144A(a) of the Securities and Exchange Commission and issued under the Security Act of 1933, including—

(A) a qualified retirement plan (as defined in section 4974(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 4974(c))) that is a qualified institutional buyer; and

(B) a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 414(d))) that is a qualified institutional buyer.

(4) OBLIGOR.—The term "obligor" means a party primarily liable for payment of the principal of or interest on a Federal credit instrument, which party may be a corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or governmental entity, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) AIR TRANSPORTATION STABILIZATION BOARD.

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a board (to be known as the "Air Transportation Stabilization Board") to review and decide on applications for Federal credit instruments under section 101(a)(1).

(2) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall consist of—

(A) the Secretary of Transportation or the designee of the Secretary;

(B) the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the designee of the Chairman, who shall be the Chair of the Board;

(C) the Secretary of the Treasury or the designee of the Secretary; and

(D) the Comptroller General of the United States, or the designee of the Comptroller General, as a nonvoting member of the Board.

(c) FEDERAL CREDIT INSTRUMENTS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may enter into agreements with 1 or more obligors to issue Federal credit instruments under section 101(a)(1) if the Board determines, in its discretion, that—

(A) the obligor is an air carrier for which credit is not reasonably available at the time of the transaction;

(B) the intended obligation by the obligor is prudently incurred; and

(C) such agreement is a necessary part of maintaining a safe, efficient, and viable commercial aviation system in the United States.

(2) TERMS AND LIMITATIONS.

(A) FORMS; TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A Federal credit instrument shall be issued under section 101(a)(1) in such form and on such terms and conditions and contain such covenants, representatives, warranties, and requirements (including requirements for audits) as the Board determines appropriate.

(B) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue regulations setting forth procedures for application and minimum requirements, which may be supplemented by the Board in its discretion, for the issuance of Federal credit instruments under section 101(a)(1).

(d) FINANCIAL PROTECTION OF GOVERNMENT.

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent feasible and practicable, the Board shall ensure that the Government is compensated for the risk assumed in making guarantees under this title.

(2) GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN GAINS.—To the extent to which any participating corporation accepts financial assistance, in the form of accepting the proceeds of any loans guaranteed by the Government under this title, the Board is authorized to enter into contracts under which the Government, contingent on the financial success of the participating corporation, would participate in the gains of the participating corporation or its security holders through the use of such instruments as warrants, stock options, common or preferred stock, or other appropriate equity instruments.

(3) DEPOSIT IN TREASURY.—All amounts collected by the Secretary of the Treasury under this subsection shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

SEC. 103. SPECIAL RULES FOR COMPENSATION.

(a) DOCUMENTATION.—Subject to subsection (b), the amount of compensation payable to an air carrier under section 101(a)(2) may not exceed the amount of losses described in section 101(a)(2) that the air carrier demonstrates to the satisfaction of the President, using sworn financial statements or other appropriate data, that the air carrier incurred. The Secretary of Transportation and the Comptroller General of the United States may audit such statements and may request any information that the Secretary and the Comptroller General deems necessary to conduct such audit.

(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PAYABLE PER AIR CARRIER.—The maximum total amount of compensation payable to an air carrier under section 101(a)(2) may not exceed the lesser of—

(1) the amount of such air carrier's direct and incremental losses described in section 101(a)(2); or

(2) in the case of—

(A) flights involving passenger-only or combined passenger and cargo transportation, the product of—

(i) \$4,500,000,000; and
 (ii) the ratio of—

(I) the available seat miles of the air carrier for the month of August 2001 as reported to the Secretary; to

(II) the total available seat miles of all such air carriers for such month as reported to the Secretary; and

(B) flights involving cargo-only transportation, the product of—

(i) \$500,000,000; and
 (ii) the ratio of—

(I) the revenue ton miles or other auditable measure of the air carrier for cargo for the latest quarter for which data is available as reported to the Secretary; to

(II) the total revenue ton miles or other auditable measure of all such air carriers for cargo for such quarter as reported to the Secretary.

(c) PAYMENTS.—The President may provide compensation to air carriers under section 101(a)(2) in 1 or more payments up to the amount authorized by this title.

SEC. 104. LIMITATION ON CERTAIN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may only issue a Federal credit instrument under section 101(a)(1) to an air carrier after the air carrier enters into a legally binding agreement with the President that, during the 2-year period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending September 11, 2003, no officer or employee of the air carrier whose total compensation exceeded \$300,000 in calendar year 2000 (other than an employee whose compensation is determined through an existing collective bargaining agreement entered into prior to September 11, 2001)—

(1) will receive from the air carrier total compensation which exceeds, during any 12 consecutive months of such 2-year period, the total compensation received by the officer or employee from the air carrier in calendar year 2000; and

(2) will receive from the air carrier severance pay or other benefits upon termination of employment with the air carrier which exceeds twice the maximum total compensation received by the officer or employee from the air carrier in calendar year 2000.

(b) TOTAL COMPENSATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “total compensation” includes salary, bonuses, awards of stock, and other financial benefits provided by an air carrier to an officer or employee of the air carrier.

SEC. 105. CONTINUATION OF CERTAIN AIR SERVICE.

(a) ACTION OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Transportation should take appropriate action to ensure that all communities that had scheduled air service before September 11, 2001, continue to receive adequate air transportation service and that essential air service to small communities continues without interruption.

(b) ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out the essential air service program under subchapter II of chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, \$120,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

(c) SECRETARIAL OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is authorized to require an air carrier receiving direct financial assistance under this Act to maintain scheduled air service to any point served by that carrier before September 11, 2001.

(2) AGREEMENTS.—In applying paragraph (1), the Secretary may require air carriers receiving direct financial assistance under this Act to enter into agreements which will ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that all communities that had scheduled air

service before September 11, 2001, continue to receive adequate air transportation service.

SEC. 106. REPORTS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than February 1, 2001, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on the Budget of the Senate a report on the financial status of the air carrier industry and the amounts of assistance provided under this title to each air carrier.

(b) UPDATE.—Not later than the last day of the 7-month period following the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall update and transmit the report to the Committees.

SEC. 107. DEFINITIONS.

In this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) AIR CARRIER.—The term “air carrier” has the meaning such term has under section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(2) FEDERAL CREDIT INSTRUMENT.—The term “Federal credit instrument” means any guarantee or other pledge by the Board issued under section 101(a)(1) to pledge the full faith and credit of the United States to pay all or part of any of the principal of and interest on a loan or other debt obligation issued by an obligor and funded by a lender.

(3) INCREMENTAL LOSS.—The term “incremental loss” does not include any loss that the President determines would have been incurred if the terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, had not occurred.

TITLE II—AVIATION INSURANCE

SEC. 201. DOMESTIC INSURANCE AND REIMBURSEMENT OF INSURANCE COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44302 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”; and

(B) by striking “foreign-flag aircraft”— and all that follows through the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “foreign-flag aircraft”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), and (d) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) REIMBURSEMENT OF INSURANCE COST INCREASES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may reimburse an air carrier for the increase in the cost of insurance, with respect to a premium for coverage ending before October 1, 2002, against loss or damage arising out of any risk from the operation of an American aircraft over the insurance premium that was in effect for a comparable operation during the period beginning September 4, 2001, and ending September 10, 2001, as the Secretary may determine. Such reimbursement is subject to subsections (a)(2), (c), and (d) of this section and to section 44303.

“(2) PAYMENT FROM REVOLVING FUND.—A reimbursement under this subsection shall be paid from the revolving fund established by section 44307.

“(3) FURTHER CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may impose such further conditions on insurance for which the increase in premium is subject to reimbursement under this subsection as the Secretary may deem appropriate in the interest of air commerce.

“(4) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to reimburse air carriers under this subsection shall expire 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph.”;

(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the first sentence by inserting “, or reimburse an air carrier under subsection (b) of this section,” before “only with the approval”; and

(B) in the second sentence—

(i) by inserting “or the reimbursement” before “only after deciding”; and
 (ii) by inserting “in the interest of air commerce or national security or” before “to carry out the foreign policy”; and

(5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated) by inserting “or reimbursing an air carrier” before “under this chapter”.

(b) COVERAGE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 44303 of such title is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “, or reimburse insurance costs, as” after “insurance and reinsurance”; and

(B) in paragraph (1) by inserting “in the interest of air commerce or national security or” before “to carry out the foreign policy”.

(2) DISCRETION OF THE SECRETARY.—For acts of terrorism committed on or to an air carrier during the 180-day period following the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation may certify that the air carrier was a victim of an act of terrorism and in the Secretary’s judgment, based on the Secretary’s analysis and conclusions regarding the facts and circumstances of each case, shall not be responsible for losses suffered by third parties (as referred to in section 205.5(b)(1) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations) that exceed \$100,000,000, in the aggregate, for all claims by such parties arising out of such act. If the Secretary so certifies, the air carrier shall not be liable for an amount that exceeds \$100,000,000, in the aggregate, for all claims by such parties arising out of such act, and the Government shall be responsible for any liability above such amount. No punitive damages may be awarded against an air carrier (or the Government taking responsibility for an air carrier under this paragraph) under a cause of action arising out of such act.

(c) REINSURANCE.—Section 44304 of such title is amended—

(1) by striking ““(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.”;

(2) by striking subsection (b).

(d) PREMIUMS.—Section 44306 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) ALLOWANCES IN SETTING PREMIUM RATES FOR REINSURANCE.—In setting premium rates for reinsurance, the Secretary may make allowances to the insurance carrier for expenses incurred in providing services and facilities that the Secretary considers good business practices, except for payments by the air carrier for the stimulation or solicitation of insurance business.”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 44305(b) of such title is amended by striking “44302(b)” and inserting “44302(c)”.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF PROVISIONS TO VENDORS, AGENTS, AND SUBCONTRACTORS OF AIR CARRIERS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may extend any provision of chapter 443 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this title, and the provisions of this title, to vendors, agents, and subcontractors of air carriers. For the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may extend or amend any such provisions so as to ensure that the entities referred to in the preceding sentence are not responsible in cases of acts of terrorism for losses suffered by third parties that exceed the amount of such entities’ liability coverage, as determined by the Secretary.

TITLE III—TAX PROVISIONS**SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF DUE DATE FOR EXCISE TAX DEPOSITS; TREATMENT OF LOSS COMPENSATION.**

(a) EXTENSION OF DUE DATE FOR EXCISE TAX DEPOSITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible air carrier, any airline-related deposit required under section 6302 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to be made after September 10, 2001, and before November 15, 2001, shall be treated for purposes of such Code as timely made if such deposit is made on or before November 15, 2001. If the Secretary of the Treasury so prescribes, the preceding sentence shall be applied by substituting for “November 15, 2001” each place it appears—

(A) “January 15, 2002”, or

(B) such earlier date after November 15, 2001, as such Secretary may prescribe.

(2) ELIGIBLE AIR CARRIER.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “eligible air carrier” means any domestic corporation engaged in the trade or business of transporting (for hire) persons by air if such transportation is available to the general public.

(3) AIRLINE-RELATED DEPOSIT.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “airline-related deposit” means any deposit of—

(A) taxes imposed by subchapter C of chapter 33 of such Code (relating to transportation by air), and

(B) taxes imposed by chapters 21, 22, and 24 with respect to employees engaged in a trade or business referred to in paragraph (2).

(b) TREATMENT OF LOSS COMPENSATION.—Nothing in any provision of law shall be construed to exclude from gross income under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 any compensation received under section 101(a)(2) of this Act.

TITLE IV—VICTIM COMPENSATION**SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001”.

SEC. 402. DEFINITIONS.

In this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) AIR CARRIER.—The term “air carrier” means a citizen of the United States undertaking by any means, directly or indirectly, to provide air transportation and includes employees and agents of such citizen.

(2) AIR TRANSPORTATION.—The term “air transportation” means foreign air transportation, interstate air transportation, or the transportation of mail by aircraft.

(3) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” means an individual filing a claim for compensation under section 405(a)(1).

(4) COLLATERAL SOURCE.—The term “collateral source” means all collateral sources, including life insurance, pension funds, death benefit programs, and payments by Federal, State, or local governments related to the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001.

(5) ECONOMIC LOSS.—The term “economic loss” means any pecuniary loss resulting from harm (including the loss of earnings or other benefits related to employment, medical expense loss, replacement services loss, loss due to death, burial costs, and loss of business or employment opportunities) to the extent recovery for such loss is allowed under applicable State law.

(6) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible individual” means an individual determined to be eligible for compensation under section 405(c).

(7) NONECONOMIC LOSSES.—The term “noneconomic losses” means losses for physical and emotional pain, suffering, inconvenience, physical impairment, mental anguish, disfigurement, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of society and companionship, loss of consor-

tium (other than loss of domestic service), hedonic damages, injury to reputation, and all other nonpecuniary losses of any kind or nature.

(8) SPECIAL MASTER.—The term “Special Master” means the Special Master appointed under section 404(a).

SEC. 403. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this title to provide compensation to any individual (or relatives of a deceased individual) who was physically injured or killed as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001.

SEC. 404. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, acting through a Special Master appointed by the Attorney General, shall—

(1) administer the compensation program established under this title;

(2) promulgate all procedural and substantive rules for the administration of this title; and

(3) employ and supervise hearing officers and other administrative personnel to perform the duties of the Special Master under this title.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to pay the administrative and support costs for the Special Master in carrying out this title.

SEC. 405. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION.**(a) FILING OF CLAIM.**

(1) IN GENERAL.—A claimant may file a claim for compensation under this title with the Special Master. The claim shall be on the form developed under paragraph (2) and shall state the factual basis for eligibility for compensation and the amount of compensation sought.

(2) CLAIM FORM.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Special Master shall develop a claim form that claimants shall use when submitting claims under paragraph (1). The Special Master shall ensure that such form can be filed electronically, if determined to be practicable.

(B) CONTENTS.—The form developed under subparagraph (A) shall request—

(i) information from the claimant concerning the physical harm that the claimant suffered, or in the case of a claim filed on behalf of a decedent information confirming the decedent’s death, as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001;

(ii) information from the claimant concerning any possible economic and non-economic losses that the claimant suffered as a result of such crashes; and

(iii) information regarding collateral sources of compensation the claimant has received or is entitled to receive as a result of such crashes.

(3) LIMITATION.—No claim may be filed under paragraph (1) after the date that is 2 years after the date on which regulations are promulgated under section 407.

(b) REVIEW AND DETERMINATION.

(1) REVIEW.—The Special Master shall review a claim submitted under subsection (a) and determine—

(A) whether the claimant is an eligible individual under subsection (c);

(B) with respect to a claimant determined to be an eligible individual—

(i) the extent of the harm to the claimant, including any economic and noneconomic losses; and

(ii) the amount of compensation to which the claimant is entitled based on the harm to the claimant, the facts of the claim, and the individual circumstances of the claimant.

(2) NEGLIGENCE.—With respect to a claimant, the Special Master shall not consider negligence or any other theory of liability.

(3) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 120 days after that date on which a claim is filed under subsection (a), the Special Master shall complete a review, make a determination, and provide written notice to the claimant, with respect to the matters that were the subject of the claim under review. Such a determination shall be final and not subject to judicial review.

(4) RIGHTS OF CLAIMANT.—A claimant in a review under paragraph (1) shall have—

(A) the right to be represented by an attorney;

(B) the right to present evidence, including the presentation of witnesses and documents; and

(C) any other due process rights determined appropriate by the Special Master.

(5) NO PUNITIVE DAMAGES.—The Special Master may not include amounts for punitive damages in any compensation paid under a claim under this title.

(6) COLLATERAL COMPENSATION.—The Special Master shall reduce the amount of compensation determined under paragraph (1)(B)(ii) by the amount of the collateral source compensation the claimant has received or is entitled to receive as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.

(1) IN GENERAL.—A claimant shall be determined to be an eligible individual for purposes of this subsection if the Special Master determines that such claimant—

(A) is an individual described in paragraph (2); and

(B) meets the requirements of paragraph (3).

(2) INDIVIDUALS.—A claimant is an individual described in this paragraph if the claimant is—

(A) an individual who—

(i) was present at the World Trade Center, (New York, New York), the Pentagon (Arlington, Virginia), or the site of the aircraft crash at Shanksville, Pennsylvania at the time, or in the immediate aftermath, of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001; and

(ii) suffered physical harm or death as a result of such an air crash;

(B) an individual who was a member of the flight crew or a passenger on American Airlines flight 11 or 77 or United Airlines flight 93 or 175, except that an individual identified by the Attorney General to have been a participant or conspirator in the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001, or a representative of such individual shall not be eligible to receive compensation under this title; or

(C) in the case of a decedent who is an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B), the personal representative of the decedent who files a claim on behalf of the decedent.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.

(A) SINGLE CLAIM.—Not more than one claim may be submitted under this title by an individual or on behalf of a deceased individual.

(B) LIMITATION ON CIVIL ACTION.

(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the submission of a claim under this title, the claimant waives the right to file a civil action (or to be a party to an action) in any Federal or State court for damages sustained as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. The preceding sentence does not apply to a civil action to recover collateral source obligations.

(ii) PENDING ACTIONS.—In the case of an individual who is a party to a civil action described in clause (i), such individual may not submit a claim under this title unless such

individual withdraws from such action by the date that is 90 days after the date on which regulations are promulgated under section 407.

SEC. 406. PAYMENTS TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 20 days after the date on which a determination is made by the Special Master regarding the amount of compensation due a claimant under this title, the Special Master shall authorize payment to such claimant of the amount determined with respect to the claimant.

(b) PAYMENT AUTHORITY.—This title constitutes budget authority in advance of appropriations Acts and represents the obligation of the Federal Government to provide for the payment of amounts for compensation under this title.

(c) ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General is authorized to accept such amounts as may be contributed by individuals, business concerns, or other entities to carry out this title, under such terms and conditions as the Attorney General may impose.

(2) USE OF SEPARATE ACCOUNT.—In making payments under this section, amounts contained in any account containing funds provided under paragraph (1) shall be used prior to using appropriated amounts.

SEC. 407. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Special Master, shall promulgate regulations to carry out this title, including regulations with respect to—

(1) forms to be used in submitting claims under this title;

(2) the information to be included in such forms;

(3) procedures for hearing and the presentation of evidence;

(4) procedures to assist an individual in filing and pursuing claims under this title; and

(5) other matters determined appropriate by the Attorney General.

SEC. 408. LIMITATION ON AIR CARRIER LIABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, liability for all claims, whether for compensatory or punitive damages, arising from the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001, against any air carrier shall not be in an amount greater than the limits of the liability coverage maintained by the air carrier.

(b) FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION.—

(1) AVAILABILITY OF ACTION.—There shall exist a Federal cause of action for damages arising out of the hijacking and subsequent crashes of American Airlines flights 11 and 77, and United Airlines flights 93 and 175, on September 11, 2001. Notwithstanding section 40120(c) of title 49, United States Code, this cause of action shall be the exclusive remedy for damages arising out of the hijacking and subsequent crashes of such flights.

(2) SUBSTANTIVE LAW.—The substantive law for decision in any such suit shall be derived from the law, including choice of law principles, of the State in which the crash occurred unless such law is inconsistent with or preempted by Federal law.

(3) JURISDICTION.—The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all actions brought for any claim (including any claim for loss of property, personal injury, or death) resulting from or relating to the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001.

(c) EXCLUSION.—Nothing in this section shall in any way limit any liability of any person who is a knowing participant in any conspiracy to hijack any aircraft or commit any terrorist act.

SEC. 409. RIGHT OF SUBROGATION.

The United States shall have the right of subrogation with respect to any claim paid by the United States under this title.

TITLE V—AIR TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

SEC. 501. INCREASED AIR TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.

Congress affirms the President's decision to spend \$3,000,000,000 on airline safety and security in conjunction with this Act in order to restore public confidence in the airline industry.

SEC. 502. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITMENT.

Congress is committed to act expeditiously, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, to strengthen airport security and take further measures to enhance the security of air travel.

TITLE VI—SEPARABILITY

SEC. 601. SEPARABILITY.

If any provision of this Act (including any amendment made by this Act) or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Act (including any amendment made by this Act) and the application thereof to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 244, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to the debate on this legislation tonight. I commend those that brought up points that are not in this bill. But as I heard the Speaker say and the minority leader speak, this is just the beginning. I know there are those of you who wanted more in this bill, and I understand that and I would like to have had more in this bill, but I believe this is the best way we can do the job and get this problem solved tonight.

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and I last week introduced a bill about this time on Friday night, and it was objected to, and we are here tonight.

But if we do not do this, as I said then and I will say now, this airline industry is in serious trouble. We will have an opportunity to bring up a bill on security with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) who is already working on it. That will happen next week if everything goes all right, although it is a shortened week. We will have an opportunity to think about those workers that lost those jobs. But may I remind you, as it has been said today, that if we do not do anything, there will not be any jobs to come back to.

The security issue is one that has been talked about and thought about, discussed for many, many years. And now I think we are awakened and we shall take care of that.

Mr. Speaker, I will suggest that if we do not do this legislation tonight, the workers you are trying to protect, and which I am trying to protect, will have nowhere to go. This is just the beginning of a series of packages we hope that will come to the floor. I will do everything in my jurisdiction.

May I remind my colleagues, one of the problems we had in this legislation is we had different committees that had other jurisdictional problems than what we are trying to do. I kept saying, "If you don't want us to do it, you do it." Yet we had to step up, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) and myself and the leadership of this House, to say we are going to do this and we did that.

We also had another effect. We had the other body. Working with the other body is sometimes a very tedious process. What we have here tonight is not perfect, but it will do the job. We will have an airline industry. We will protect the workers. We do have the liability provision in it. And this money is not going to be a bailout. It is going to make sure that this airline industry survives.

Mr. Speaker, may I suggest, and I hope all Members will consider voting "yes" on this legislation for the benefit of this country.

Mr. Speaker, we bring to the floor tonight a bill that will address the threat to the continued stability and viability of our U.S. air transportation system. It is the first critical step toward addressing the financial burdens that last week's terrorist attacks put on our transportation and related industries and their employees.

The terrorists who attacked our country last week, were trying to destroy our way of life and our economy—we will not let them do that.

They have murdered thousands of innocent people, destroyed billions of dollars in property and have dealt a terrible blow to an air transportation system that is vital to the economic health of our country.

On September 11, 2001, the FAA grounded every airplane in this country within a two-hour period. This was necessary for the safety and protection of our country and of our people.

I want to commend the FAA and the air traffic controllers for their quick response and decisive action. I also want to commend the aviation industry for their cooperation and willingness to put the safety of others first.

Unfortunately, we are not facing a serious crisis in our air transportation system. The reductions in schedules and flights have started and layoffs are being implemented.

The capital markets are not coming to the aid of most of the airlines. We are seeing the ripple effect in our economy as layoffs occur in other related industries. Our economy is at risk. Our national security is also at risk.

Last week, my colleague, Jim OBERSTAR and I introduced H.R. 2891 to keep our U.S. air transportation system viable in the short term. Unfortunately, the House did not pass the bill last Friday when it had the chance. Since that time, we have conducted a hearing to document the needs and to fine-tune the bill. The bill before us today reflects much information that has been brought to light.

Mr. Speaker, today's bill is not the end. In the coming weeks we intend to address other issues, including aviation security and the economic impacts on other affected businesses and their employees.

H.R. 2926 authorizes the President to provide direct compensation and loan guarantees to the air carriers.

This assistance is intended as a short term, emergency response to keep the air transportation system operating for the benefit of the American people.

We will soon take further action to address the vitally important issue of aviation security. However, the bill now before us includes a congressional affirmation of the President's authority to use the emergency supplemental appropriations. The bill's language on using \$3 billion of such funds sends a strong message of our resolve. These funds should be used to beef up the sky marshall program, to address other modes of transportation such as port security, and for other activities that have an immediate impact.

The critical task before us is getting the airlines back to health so that all communities, large and small, can continue to receive air service. However, we also address the specific needs of small communities. The bill includes strong support for continuing air service to small communities. Authority and high priority is given to assuring that service to small communities does not suffer. In addition, we increase the authority for the "essential air services" program to \$120 million.

The bill also is responsive to air carriers' requirement for insurance during times of war. We modified the so-called "war risk" program to make it more flexible, such as making it applicable to domestic flights as well as international flights.

The bill is also very responsive to victims of terrorist attacks, whether those victims are on the aircraft or on the ground.

I know many of us are concerned about financial losses sustained by other businesses. However, I urge you to focus on the issue of how best to ensure the continued operation of our air transportation system. By assuring the survival of the air carriers, other related industries, and their employees, will gain a measure of economic stability.

We conducted hearings today and will conduct another next Tuesday to continue the evaluation of airline security issues and other economic issues. I want to assure members of this body that we will take necessary steps to address those matters.

The current crisis requires this bill to become law as quickly as possible to protect the well being of all Americans by preserving a functioning air transportation system.

I urge the Members of this chamber to fully support the effort to pass this legislation overwhelmingly.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

We are gathered here tonight because of one cataclysmic day in the storied history of aviation. Not to rescue an industry from its mistakes but to restore an industry because it was attacked as a symbol of American democracy, of our freedom, and of our great, strong economy. We are here to put back on its feet an industry that

represents 10 percent of our \$7 trillion gross domestic product, a \$700 billion sector of our economy, one without which all the rest of our economy fails.

Mr. Speaker, I express my great appreciation for the chair of our committee, the gentleman from Alaska, for the work that we have done together to bring this bill here, and to the Speaker, as the Democratic leader said a minute ago, who was so gracious and firm and showed real leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the Democratic leader who has been a tower of strength on our side.

□ 2100

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, this has been a very difficult process of putting this bill together. A lot of people, I assume, out in the public are asking why are we doing this for the airlines; there are a lot of other industries that have been affected.

I urge us all to understand that airlines were affected uniquely in this tragedy. Four planes were used as missiles of mass destruction; and because of that, the government of the United States ordered 2,200 planes that were in the air at the time to get on the ground as fast as they could, wherever they were, and that happened in about 2 hours.

When that happened and it persisted for the days after, the heart of our economy was affected. Air transportation affects everything that we do in our society. It affects every business and every enterprise and every activity. So a dagger was put into the heart of our economy as planes were put into these buildings.

So on this, because it is a national emergency, and what we acted on last week, we have tried to act with unity and together, as we should, as we must, as people expect us to. But I keep getting asked by people in the media and the press, how long will this bipartisanship last? And the truth is, I do not know the answer.

Then, I am always happy to tell them something that I think a lot of our citizens and maybe even we tend to forget. We are here to disagree. That is what we do. We do that because we each represent a half a million people who all disagree most of the time. If we were not here expressing their heartfelt views, democracy would not work and we would not be doing our job. Disagreement is normal and healthy in our great, vibrant democracy. If we were agreeing all the time the way we are tonight, that would be abnormal and, in the long run, unhealthy.

Tonight, in my humble opinion, agreeing and acting to save this industry and keep it going forward is in the highest and best interest of all the people of our country.

There are good things in this bill, and I want the Members to know that it is not an airline bill. It is a bill to keep these airlines going. They are op-

erating tonight at about 30 percent of the capacity that they had the day before this event happened. So this is a bill to not only shore up the airlines, it is to help the baggage people keep their job and have a job in the next days and weeks hopefully. It helps the ticket attendants. It helps the flight attendants. It helps the pilots. It helps the hotel employees who are hoping that people will come back to hotels and the food service and all of the people who have been so deeply affected by this disaster.

It is also not the bill that I wanted. It has some glaring omissions from my viewpoint, because while we are still trying to keep the people that are working working, we have about 100,000 or more people tonight who are not working, who have been laid off and are unemployed unexpectedly.

So they are asking us, I think, tonight and when we go home they will ask us, how can I get unemployment comp if they do not qualify for it? Some of these folks do not. And further than that, how can I keep my health care going? How can I protect my family? We need to consider that and how we are going to get them trained to take other jobs if this, God forbid, persists.

So we are learning tonight, in many ways, that bipartisanship is hard. You cannot get everything you want. You never do. I guess we have kind of gotten out of understanding what that means. It is kind of maybe the way we have operated over the long period of time. Bipartisanship means you get some things you really want and you give up some things that you really want.

Finally, let me talk to my colleagues for a moment about what has happened in this horror to our American family. Our American people have been so violated by what happened on September 11, it has affected all of us. The stories of the cell phone calls, the stories that New York Members told me this afternoon of talking to their constituents, calling a young man to say that you got your West Point appointment and the young man saying my father is dead and that is the one thing in his life he wanted to hear. The stories go on and on and they hurt. They make us cry. I find myself crying at least two or three times a day, and you do, too.

We have been so damaged by this, so violated, and we want answers. I think of my own kids, how would I feel if one of them had been killed or my wife, imagine the grief and the sadness; and we all want to find somebody to blame.

One of the things that worries me the most and that I think about every day, we cannot just lay this on the CIA or the FBI or somebody else. We all failed. The prime responsibility of government is to keep our people safe, and we failed the other day. Not by motive and design. We failed as a people, and we are going to do better.

We are going to make our planes safe. We are going to make our country

safer. We are going to have homeland defense. We are going to do better than we did, and this bill that caps the airline liability, and this is something we fought for last night, does not cap the damages that these families who have lost so much can possibly get.

I hope tonight and in the days ahead, in the face of this unspeakable hatred and evil, we, together with the American people, will demonstrate love and compassion and tolerance in everything that we do and say as we fight against this evil. At this time of incredible pain, we must be at our best, so that the army of terrorists and evil never, ever gains one more recruit. That is our mission, that is our responsibility, and we will prevail.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, to engage in a colloquy.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to engage the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, in a colloquy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to applaud the gentleman for the legal protections in the bill to get our airlines back in the air. But I wanted to clarify that these protections are intended to limit liability to reasonable levels and not in any way allow their transfer to another deep pocket party.

Is this the gentleman's understanding?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OXLEY. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, that is my understanding.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, this bill also provides critical stopgap insurance assistance for the airlines. Is it the gentleman's understanding that any assistance by the Secretary of Transportation is intended to be short term and focused on addressing the uncertainty about further losses from an act of terrorism or war, and that it is not intended to displace the private sector market or be a long-term general insurance program?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, the gentleman from Ohio is correct on both accounts.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, also I am concerned about the thousands of passengers who have advance-purchased airline tickets on flights that have been canceled or rescheduled as a result of the tragic events on September 11, 2001. Airline passengers must not be left stranded when flights are canceled. This is why I support the inclusion of language in this legislation that would require airlines to honor tickets issued by other airlines to the extent practicable. The language I support would also direct airlines to make passengers whole for the price of tickets on flights that are canceled or rescheduled.

I appreciate the gentleman's commitment to work with me and other concerned Members in the next few weeks to address this problem with legislation, if necessary. In the meantime, I trust the Federal agencies will do everything possible to make sure that passengers get their refunds they are entitled to or the alternative flights they need.

I thank the gentleman profusely.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I can assure the gentleman that we will look into that. We will also contact the airlines and make sure they try to do this voluntarily. If they do not, we will make them do it in future legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise against the bill.

Mr. Speaker, today, Congress blew an ideal opportunity to continue the bipartisan unity it had so nobly demonstrated during the past ten days. This bill could have provided critical aid to an industry in deep financial crisis as well as to their laid-off workers. Instead, Congress is handing airline executives golden parachutes while over 90,000 American workers—to date—are left without so much as a safety net!

Congress may have blown an opportunity but the Republicans have demonstrated their opportunistic aims. They neatly wrapped this one-sided bill in a patriotic package, enveloped not by the American flag mind you, but with the American Airlines logo. There is no question that the airlines desperately need this bailout, but why should the government shoulder the brunt of the responsibility—to resuscitate an industry that has shown its true colors—how they feel about unemployment insurance, job training, health benefits for their displaced workforce and safety. Does anyone here seriously believe that the American public will seriously consider returning to the airways when they can't really be sure that these planes are safe or even properly maintained. There isn't any money in this bill that ensures the future safety of our citizens. After all, isn't this an industry that resists government regulation and abhors collective bargaining agreements. And now they are asking us to bail them out!

I cannot, in good conscience, vote in support of legislation that doesn't include a package of worker relief benefits. It's time our leadership got their priorities straight. They should have brought a more responsible bill to the floor for our consideration and not wasted this body's precious time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concerns about this bill before the House today. We did not see this bill until just before it was brought to the floor for consideration. This bill falls far short of what the air travel industry as a whole requires.

People are not flying. Workers are being laid off at alarming rates. In Hawaii, the beaches are empty and our State economy is in a state of emergency.

Mr. Speaker, people will not fly until they feel safe. We can throw as much money as we want at the airlines to cover their losses, but the bottom line is that they will continue to lose money until public confidence in security is regained. There is not a single mention about security in this bill, except reference to a previously enacted relief bill Congress passed last week which gave the President authority to do what he wants.

America's confidence has been shattered with the growing array of evidence that we have failed to adequately protect the flying public from hijackers. Until we fix the problem, people will not get back into airplanes. The federal government must assume control of the airline passenger security. All safety personnel must be federal employees with training and adequate wages. Trained, armed marshals must be on board at all aircraft. Cockpit doors must be reconfigured to be secure and of solid construction. The cockpit must also have a camera view of the cabin area. All ground crews, baggage handlers, and all people with access to the cabin must be security-cleared before hire.

I am committed to ensuring that the airlines function in the aftermath of the terrorist attack, but this is not the time to only pass a bill to bailout airlines whose financial problems are long term and predate September 11, 2001. The airline industry's problems existed well before the tragic events of September 11th. The federal government's role should be to get people to fly again; not just to bail out the airline industry.

This bill before us fails to take into account the workers who are being laid off nationwide at staggering rates. These people deserve protection. They should all be immediately eligible for 100% unemployment compensation. Their health care plans should be extended for themselves and their family. If we are going to take care of the airlines, we must also take care of the workers who have been laid off by the airlines because of this national crisis.

This bill needs to mention the federalization of airline passenger security. Public confidence must be restored if the air industry is to recover. There must be a provision that states the federal government will give immediate and full unemployment compensation to laid off workers for a full year. If the airline executives are to have their compensation protected, so should all the airline employees who have been laid off. We must act quickly and deliberately to restore the public's trust and get people back into skies.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Aviation, who has been a strong and supportive partner throughout this difficult process.

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT); our leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT); the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG); and the ranking member,

the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), for their leadership and cooperation in putting this legislation together. I know that they have done the best that they possibly could; but, unfortunately, I feel very strongly that I have to rise in opposition to this bill.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Aviation, I know how important the aviation industry is to the economy of this Nation. I do not want to see the planes stop flying. But let me tell Members, we do not have to pass this legislation tonight. The real deadline is this coming Wednesday, because Wednesday is the day when the airlines lose their insurance. So we could work on this bill Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and even Wednesday, to improve it and take care of many of the concerns that people have, and the planes will keep flying at least until then.

Now, the first way to improve this bill is by improving security. I do not care how much money one gives to the air carriers. I do not care how solvent one makes them. Unless we can get passengers back into those planes, they are not going to be making any money, and the best way to get people back into the planes is by proving to them that the planes are safe and secure.

So what we should be doing in this legislation is passing some dramatic safety improvements. We should be passing things such as making the cockpit impregnable; we should be passing the federalizing of the screeners; we should be passing not only an authorization, but an appropriation to pay for 1,200 sky marshals.

□ 2115

Nothing will deter terrorists more than sky marshals.

We also should be restricting carry-on luggage to one piece, thereby reducing by 50 percent what a screener has to watch. If we did something dramatic such as that, we would restore confidence in the minds of the American traveling public, and they would get back on these planes.

We could also take care of the 100,000 workers who have already lost their jobs in the aviation industry. We could be getting them extended unemployment compensation; we could be getting them health care; we could be doing retraining for them; but no, unfortunately, we are rushing this bill through tonight.

It is a shame; it is a mistake. I just hope and pray that the promises that have been made for the future in regards to safety, in regards to workers come to pass.

In closing, I would like to clear up one point that has been made on this floor on numerous occasions. It has been stated that there is a \$300,000 cap on executives in the airline industry. That is totally incorrect. What it states in the bill is that anyone making over \$300,000 cannot make anymore in 2001, in 2002 than they made in the year 2000. So if they made \$10 million,

\$15 million, \$20 million, they can still make that amount of money in 2001 and in 2002. That only applies to people who take the low money, not people who get to direct \$5 billion in cash.

So I say to all my colleagues, we have time, if we really want a bill that takes care of all Americans and not only the aircraft CEOs and the air carriers, vote against this bill. We can pass a better bill by Wednesday.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from Alaska on this bill and the future of general aviation.

Let me thank the chairman and ranking member, first of all, for the work they have done on this important piece of legislation. The country's air carriers are not only a vital part of our transportation infrastructure, but they are of great importance to our national security. However, they are not the only part of the aviation industry that find themselves in dire straits following last week's horrible attacks in New York and Washington. Many of those in general aviation suffer as well. For example, some 3,500 flight schools will have lost up to \$245 million in revenue by this coming Tuesday due to the continued ban on VFR training.

Mr. Speaker, while I believe it is important to address the problems facing our air carriers, does the chairman of the committee also intend to address the financial difficulties of other components of general aviation in the near future?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYES. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding.

General aviation is of vital importance to our Nation's economy. In my home State of Alaska, general aviation aircraft are the only pipeline bringing supplies to those living in remote areas, and we are experiencing our small communities. We are experiencing a shortage of pilots to fly those, and a failure of the flight school industry will cause severe economic hardship to not only those in Alaska, but to those living in remote areas of the U.S. Therefore, it is my intention to present to this body by next week a bill, if possible, that will provide real economic relief to those in need.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAYES. I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I share the views of the chairman. General aviation is a major sector of our economy. There are some 345,000 general aviation pilots. I have written the National Security Advisor, Condoleezza

Rice, urging her to lift the restrictions on VFR flights and boundaries of Class Bravo airspace and for flight school operations anywhere in the country.

For these and many other reasons, I join the chairman and will work with him to develop a relief package for those sectors of the aviation industry not subject to the provisions of this bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, because I am voting "yes" for the 1.1 million workers still employed. If we do not do this tonight, that 1.1 million workers is going to be reduced accordingly. We cannot let them down. We will be back next week to do our job for those who are going to be laid off or have been laid off. With that, we will make another great step for America tonight. This can be a good vote; let us make it a positive vote. Let us walk out of this Chamber together.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, but urge my colleagues to remember that this is just a part of what we must do.

It is clear that without some short-term assistance, our aviation industry will not survive the impact of last week's disastrous attacks on our country. And as a critical part of our nation's economy, we must act and act quickly. I'm voting for the workers still working.

The \$5 billion in direct aid is extremely important to keep the airlines afloat, and importantly, this is NOT a blank check.

We cannot and will not bail out the airlines for \$3 billion in losses they would have sustained without the tragic events of September 11th. The safeguards are here to insure that.

Even more critical in this bill is the \$10 billion dollars in loan guarantees, so airlines such as Continental—so critical to my region—can access much needed capital and establish lines of credit.

We are not only talking about the thousands of Continental jobs in New Jersey. Keeping Continental solvent will ensure the economy of New Jersey remains stable and is able to function.

Pharmaceuticals, Port Newark, small businesses such as the limousine industry—these businesses count on the airlines to do their daily business.

However, this package only took 10 days to come to the floor, and my major worry is that we are only finding a remedy to half of the problem.

This bill does nothing to address security measures, assistance for laid off employees, and health benefits for families.

I expect that we will be as vigilant on these critical issues as we were on this aid package.

In 10 days, if not sooner, I want to be back here on this Floor considering a bill that will make my constituents feel safe in the air.

Congress must take action. As I am hearing from my constituents, the security precautions must be in place before we can rebuild public confidence in the system.

We are talking about using air marshals on domestic flights, installing secure cockpit doors, and even federalization of airport security screening run by the Justice Department.

Economic stability must go hand in hand with security.

I thank the leadership of the Transportation Committee for their hard work on this important measure.

We need to ensure we are back on the floor soon to deal with security measures dealing with all airports, both large and small.

We need to ensure we are back on the floor soon to provide assistance to the tens of thousands of workers out of a job, and tens of thousands of families without a source of income.

Only then can we ensure that the airlines will be on their way back to stability.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) for the purposes of a colloquy.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, our Nation faces a crisis; and today we are acting with appropriate speed in dealing with that crisis. But in doing so, we want to be sure that we are dealing with the entire air transportation infrastructure. A major objective of this bill should be to mitigate job loss within the air transportation industry and, therefore, preserve the infrastructure of this crucial element of our economy.

Many sectors of the air transportation industry would be subject to economic dislocation and potential bankruptcy if they were exposed to unlimited liability for the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11. This is not a problem for just the traditional air carriers. This is a problem for the entire industry. For this reason, we provided for an expanded definition of air carriers in section 402 of the bill. That would also apply to section 408.

I wish to make it clear that it is my understanding that this expanded definition encompasses air transportation elements such as aircraft manufacturers and aircraft components and parts manufacturers. Mr. Speaker, is that the chairman's understanding also?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TIAHRT. I yield to the gentleman from Alaska.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, in response to my colleague from Kansas, I too am greatly concerned about this issue of potential unlimited liability for the air transport industry. It is always my intent to ensure adequate liability and protection for all transport elements such as aircraft manufacturers and manufacturers of aircraft components and parts. I had hoped we could have this specifically addressed in this bill. However, I too agree that the definition of "air carrier" in section 402 should include those elements of air transportation.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman. We cannot afford to risk irreparable harm to the air transportation industry, and subsequent economic impacts and job loss, by exposing the industry to the spectre of unlimited liability for a terrorist attack. I thank the chairman for his help in clarifying this important issue.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my 2 minutes has been reduced to 30 seconds, so I will turn in my remarks. Two wrongs simply do not make a right. I share Dallas/Fort Worth airport with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), and I have three other airports. I know how many people were laid off, but that will be fourfold or more if we do not support the airlines tonight. It is for that reason that I rise in support of this bill, and I have been working to make sure that we come up with the other bill to support those persons who have already lost their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, although I have some misgivings regarding what has not been included in the bill, I rise in support of H.R. 2926 and urge its passage by the House.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, air carriers have reported sustaining nearly \$1 billion in losses as a direct result of the Federal Government's order that flights be grounded. While service has been restored, passengers are still reluctant to fly. As a result, the airlines will certainly suffer further losses from reduced demand. On Monday, the financial markets responded predictably to this environment—the airlines lost about 40% of their market capitalization on that day alone, and Morgan Stanley wrote to the Treasury Secretary that the airline industry would not have access to private capital markets unless the Federal Government intervened.

H.R. 2926 is the intervention that the airlines need to stabilize their financial situation and to help them weather this crisis. Unless we act to pass H.R. 2926, some carriers face the very real possibility of bankruptcy. We cannot let that happen. The airline industry is an indispensable sector of the American economy, touching upon 10% of our gross domestic product. Without aviation, other important sectors such as aircraft manufacturing, hospitality, tourism, and countless others cannot function efficiently.

We already see a glimpse here in the Washington, DC metropolitan area how bankruptcies in the airline industry will affect businesses and communities. Washington National Airport has still not been given clearance to resume operations. As a result, the airport and other businesses dependent on passenger flows have laid off thousands of workers, and small businesses like restaurants and newsstands who cater to passengers are idle and losing money. Unemployment lines in this area are overflowing. We must act to pass H.R. 2926 to prevent this situation from being replicated in cities across the country. Despite the tax rebates, which my Democratic colleagues devised and which I supported, the nation is already teetering on the brink of a recession. If we do not act to stabilize our airlines, we risk plunging the country into a full-scale depression and massive unemployment.

Indeed, I am most concerned about the individuals who work in the airline industry and

their families. They include the 140,000 employees of American Airlines, whose headquarters and major hub operations are located at DFW International Airport in my district. I am also concerned about the 40,000 people who work at the airport and whose jobs depend on American's survival. Two days ago, American announced that they would have to lay off 20,000 of its workers, and I know what kind of hardship they must be going through right now.

I have heard some of my colleagues object to this bill because it does not contain language to provide relief to displaced workers. I too want to ensure that workers have enough money to pay their rent and mortgages, to buy food and clothes for their kids, and to keep their health benefits while they are unemployed. I understand that Majority Leader DASCHLE has promised to call up legislation regarding displaced airline employees in the Senate next week, and I intend to make sure that this legislation also passes the House. I also intend to work with my colleagues on legislation to restore the public's confidence in airport and aircraft security because airlines' long-term survival depends on their having paying passengers.

In the meantime, we must deal with the impending crisis. The employees of American and DFW Airport have flooded my phone lines in my district office with a loud and clear message—Congress' number 1 priority in this area is to pass legislation to help American Airlines ride out this storm. They, in their collective wisdom, know what's at stake. We have some time and leeway to help displaced workers, but unless we act now to help the airlines avert bankruptcy, they might not have jobs to return to.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), who is conducting hearings as of today and will have a bill on security, as I assured everybody else in this body, our outstanding subcommittee Chairman.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, this is an extraordinary piece of legislation, and it is an extraordinary piece of legislation for an extraordinary time. Never before in the history of American aviation have we faced such a disaster as we now face. We cannot wait. We lost over 100,000 jobs since Tuesday, September 11. By next week, we will lose that many jobs again. This disaster is having a ripple effect across this Nation. There is not a community across this country that has not been touched by the devastation. If we do not act tonight and take this first step in trying to put our economy and our transportation system together, I am telling my colleagues that the results will be disastrous.

Everything is not in this bill. The bill is not like the gentleman from Alaska would like to have it, it is not like the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) would like to have it; but the minority leader came before us and pleaded so eloquently, pass this legislation. The other body passed it with one dissenting vote.

So I plead with my colleagues: America is waiting. The people that we care about, those that we have compassion

about tonight, we are going to take care of tonight, we are going to take care of Monday night, next week, next month; and we will be here next year because the people elected us here to do this job. So I plead with my colleagues, I beg my colleagues, do not delay. We cannot afford it. The Nation cannot afford it.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, before September 11, Las Vegas had one of the strongest economies in the country. Now it is among the worst, and thousands of people are being laid off and losing their jobs. In Nevada, our economy, our businesses, our jobs, our families, rely on the tourism industry. People in my district know that if the airplanes are not flying and people are not coming to Las Vegas, there is not going to be a Las Vegas.

Last year, 38 million people came to southern Nevada; approximately 46 percent arrived by air. Tourism is the lifeblood of my district, and the airline industry is a lifeline to my district. I know this is not a perfect bill; but, Mr. Speaker, this is an emergency. I need to protect the jobs in my district and the people in my district. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, when I went home this weekend, I spoke to the people who live and work in my district. They are very worried about what has happened to our country, and they are very worried about what is going to happen to Las Vegas.

Before September 11th, Las Vegas had one of the strongest economies in the country. Now, it is among the worst and thousands of people are being laid off and may be losing their jobs.

Our economy, our businesses, our jobs, our families rely on the tourism industry. People in my district know that if airplanes are not flying and people are not coming to Las Vegas, there won't be a Las Vegas.

Last year, 38 million people came to Southern Nevada—approximately 46 percent arrived by air. Tourism is the lifeblood of my district. The airline industry is the lifeline to my district.

Last week, 240 conventions were canceled. The city's hotel occupancy rates have fallen from 100% to approximately 40% and the hotels are losing millions of dollars every day. Without the airlines flying visitors to Las Vegas, Las Vegas will soon be a ghost town.

I know that this is not a perfect bill. We still need to immediately improve safety in the air, help the airline workers who have lost their jobs and provide incentives to get people flying again.

But Mr. Speaker, this is an emergency. I need to protect jobs in my district. I must protect the people in my district. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN), who has been deeply affected by this act of terrorism.

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

There is no question that the Government's decision to ground aircraft on

September 11 was brilliant. It was the correct choice. The quick actions of the President, the Secretary of Transportation saved countless lives.

When the President spoke in this Chamber last night he said, "We will come together to take active steps that strengthen America's economy and put our people back to work." He was talking about the airline industry and all our Nation's workers who are affected by this crisis.

But I am particularly concerned about how the impending Boeing layoffs will affect the 25,000 Boeing employees I represent here on the floor of the House tonight.

Mr. Speaker, as the Speaker has said, we will address the various needs of our workers in next year's legislation. That has been his commitment. He is talking about the health care needs and the insurance needs and the job training needs, all of which we take very seriously and we are putting serious work into right now.

The first step toward addressing the stability of our economy is to stabilize the airline industry. It is critical that Congress act now, tonight, to ensure the solvency of our Nation's airlines, because doing so will protect the livelihoods of every American who relies on a vibrant air transport system.

□ 2130

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL), a distinguished member of our committee.

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

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I hold accountable, and I believe that the leaders will bring the other bill about the workers next week. After hearings this week, hours and hours of hearings that we spent together, our committee, I know our aviation industry is literally on the brink of collapse and liquidation. The need for government assistance cannot be overstated. A failure to act tonight would be like throwing an anvil to a drowning person.

The airlines have had their lines of credit cut off, their assets devalued, and their insurance canceled. A catastrophe is staring them in the face. We are faced with the worst crisis ever to confront our aviation industry. We must provide a helping hand. I urge Members' support.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Aviation Subcommittee, I rise in strong support of the Airline Stabilization Act. If I was the sole author of this legislation, I would have written it differently. Because this is a collaborative body, we must come together and reach a consensus in what is known as the legislative process. Our respective congressional leaders, after consultation with members of Congress, industry leaders, labor representatives, financial analysts, and government officials, have written the bill we have under consideration. I believe it merits our support.

After 2 days of hearings this week, I have a very clear picture of our Nation's aviation industry. The industry is literally on the brink of collapse and liquidation. The need for immediate governmental assistance cannot be overstated. A failure to act tonight would be like throwing an anvil to a drowning person. The airlines have had their lines of credit cutoff, their assets devalued, and their insurance canceled. A catastrophe isn't around the corner, but it is staring them in the face.

We are faced with the greatest crisis ever to confront our aviation industry. We must provide a helping hand to them to ensure we will still have an industry next week. I am very concerned about the thousands of employees who are employed in the aviation industry and the thousands who have been or will soon be laid off. This economic devastation will cause great harm to many families across our Nation. We must promptly address their economic catastrophe next week, and also provide assistance to those who are facing job loss because of their association with the aviation industry. I challenge our leaders who brought forth this legislation tonight, to bring similar legislation to help our workers next week.

Please, let us act promptly and approve this very important and necessary legislation.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, my office has been besieged by literally thousands of phone calls from workers at D-FW Airport. They have not identified themselves as Republicans or Democrats or union members or nonunion members, and in almost every case, they said, I am a flight attendant, I am a baggage-check-in person, I am a maintenance worker, and I need help.

This is the chance for us to help. This is not a perfect bill, but it is excellent, an excellent first start. All these people that have been calling my congressional office, and D-FW is 10 miles from my office, they are not asking about an unemployment package or a liability package. Do Members know what they are asking about? "Help protect my job," J-O-B. That is the best unemployment package we can do.

As has already been pointed out, we have laid off over 100,000 airline workers in the last week. We know how inconvenienced we are as a Congress because Reagan National is closed. What happens if Atlanta closes, LAX, closes, O'Hare closes, Boston closes, LaGuardia closes? There is the very real possibility, if we do not pass this package tonight, in the next month we may see some of that start to happen.

I would beg every Member of this body, let us do what the other body has done: Let us pass this with almost no "no" votes, or perhaps even 435 to zero. Let us help the airline industry now so they can help the economy and keep

these jobs growing, and keep our economy growing. I would urge a yes vote on this bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), a member of our committee.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a plea for help from our airlines, and provided an immediate response to ensure that a key component of our economy, the airline industry, remains intact.

But I have also heard pleas for help from the many people and businesses that are critical to the efficient functioning of the aviation system: sky-caps, cabbies, and the employees of airlines, restaurants, and the variety of shops found in airports. Thousands of hard-working Americans have taken pay cuts or have lost their jobs but still have bills to pay.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members, we have heard the airlines and we have quickly responded. I only urge us to hear the pleas of individual Americans and respond to them, also.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG).

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

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. Make no mistake about it, it is not perfect, but it is a fair compromise worked out by the efforts of both sides.

A week ago today, late at night, in the wee hours of the morning, I argued that it was essential that we get our airlines back in the air, and that we as Americans use them. The terrorists who launched their vicious attack against America seek not just to destroy buildings, but to destroy our economy.

The airline industry comprises 10 percent of our gross domestic product. We in Congress and the American people must not let those terrorists destroy our economy, or the lives and jobs of the American people. Americans must resume their lives, and we must pass this bill. No additional American should lose his or her job, not an airline employee, not a tourist industry employee, not a baggage handler, no one. It is absolutely essential that we pass this bill tonight.

But there is a flaw in this bill. This bill empowers a government board to pick winners and losers in the airline industry, and that is flat wrong. No bureaucrat should say, "This airline wins; that airline loses." How do we say to the employees of the loser, "We are terribly sorry, you are out of your job, but the employee of some other airline keeps his or hers"?

If an airline or its employees was injured by this outrageous attack, they should be eligible to be made whole. They should be put back in the position where they can get back into the skies and fly. And we cannot let this board, I urge Members not to allow this

board to pick and choose winners, so the employees of one airline remain unemployed, the employees of another airline get to stay back at work. It is absolutely essential, and it would be outrageous if we allowed that to happen.

This legislation must pass tonight. It is critical for the economy of this Nation. Americans need to get back aboard our airlines and resume their lives, but the board must handle its power fairly.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 seconds to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Arizona for his calm, reasoned intervention last Friday night when we were attempting to pass the first version of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this legislation, even though I have serious reservations about it. In truth, while this bill helps to stabilize the industry and assist families who have lost loved ones, it is still incomplete. Simply put, it falls short of protecting the workers who have already lost their jobs or will lose them soon.

I will give some examples. It does not provide unemployment benefits to workers who have lost their jobs, or extend health care coverage to those employees, nor does it prohibit the airlines from abrogating their contracts with workers; and it mandates no job protections, or a system for rehiring when our airline industry recovers.

We do have a national emergency. Let us pass the legislation, but let us help our workers.

Mr. Speaker and fellow Members of Congress, we find ourselves at a time of crucial action. Before us is the prospect of the collapse of one of our greatest industries. As a result of the stunning acts of terrorism committed against our Nation, portions of our aviation system are on the brink of failure. We can not let that happen. We will not hand another victory to terrorists.

Our country's airlines are too important to all sectors of the economy. They are too important to the over 1 million aviation workers. And, they are too important to our quality of life and our understanding of freedom.

But, it is with great reservation that I will vote "yes" tonight for this piece of legislation. In truth, while this bill helps to stabilize the industry and assists families who have lost loved ones, it is still incomplete. Simply put, it falls short of protecting the workers who have already lost their jobs or will lose them soon. This bill, for all that it does, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act does not: Provide unemployment benefits to workers who have lost their jobs or extend health care coverage to those employees; nor does it prohibit the airlines from abrogating their contracts with workers; and, it mandates no job protections or a system for rehiring when our airline industry recovers.

Already, I have heard from airline employees in my hometown of Nashville who have been furloughed, their contracts abrogated, and left with nothing. We cannot allow the

dedicated men and women of this Nation to languish without health benefits or severance income. In exchange for the \$15 billion in grants and loans that we are providing, airlines must do everything they possibly can to assist their employees through this difficult time. Let me also say that this legislation does not address adequately the needs of our aviation security system, nor does it address the other aviation-related sectors deeply effected by this tragedy. This must be changed as well.

In response, I will join my colleagues in the House in enacting additional legislation to ensure these flaws are fixed. And, I will vote "yes" on this bill, but only because it is the beginning of the process.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of this important legislation ensuring the continued operational viability of our Nation's airline industry.

The barbaric terrorist attacks of New York and Washington were calculated to throw our Nation into economic and social turmoil, but we are not going to let that happen. Our Nation's air transportation system is essential to our economic well-being. It is our duty to preserve the full and continued operation of this vital airline network.

However, in doing so, let us not forget there are many other industries that depend on the airlines for their own livelihood, including travel and auto rental agencies and food services. Let us encourage any airlines receiving emergency financial support under this legislation to restructure their fee scales with travel agents to convey their solidarity.

I also encourage airlines to carefully review policies that may impact the food service industry that employs thousands around the country.

Our air transport system is the best in the world, but it now needs our help to help them get through this difficult period. We must continue to foster the means for the advancement of this industry in the next century.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), a member of our committee.

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect bill, but I do take heart in the words of the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG), those of the subcommittee chair, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), and our leadership, that we will come back and address those issues.

This is not a perfect bill, but after careful consideration, I have concluded that the common good must not be jeopardized in an effort for immediate perfection. Tonight we will pass this

bill. Tomorrow, we will renew our work to impose stringent new security standards and provide critical Federal assistance to the many sectors and individuals left out in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my reluctant support for this important and time sensitive legislation.

Just minutes after the tragic events of last week, the Department of Transportation acted swiftly to ground our Nation's entire commercial aviation and general aviation fleet—an unprecedented action aimed at averting any additional harm to innocent Americans.

As a result of the DOT's groundstop order and limitations on service, the airlines are hemorrhaging, many teetering on the verge of insolvency after losing billions of dollars in just days. The dire state of the airlines led to this week's downward spiral of the financial markets, moving our economy closer to recession.

As a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I quickly took up the call for expeditious congressional action to provide our ailing airline industry with a cash infusion and loan guarantees. I argued that while our airliners wait at the gate, Congress must not.

Tonight, a week and a half after terrorism struck America, Congress considers a multi-billion dollar bill to aid the industry that has been most devastated.

It is not a perfect bill. I am distressed that this bill fails to address the plight of over 100,000 airline employees who have or will soon be laid off. I am quite dismayed that this legislation provides no aid to the many related sectors that have been devastated by last week's attacks: the travel industry, flight academies, and aviation manufacturers.

I am equally disappointed that this bill fails to introduce substantive security measures to ensure the integrity of our nation's aviation infrastructure. The Nation's airlines will continue to lose money, so long as Americans lack confidence in the security of air travel.

However, after careful consideration, I have concluded that the common good must not be jeopardized in an effort for immediate perfection. Tonight, we will pass this bill. Tomorrow, we will renew our work to impose stringent new security standards and provide critical federal assistance to the many sectors and individuals left out of H.R. 2926.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on the third floor of this Capitol Building, I was standing in the hall when the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and the minority leader, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), walked by.

I stood aside and I applauded them. I applauded them because they are working very hard together under very difficult circumstances for this Nation. I stand in agreement with the eloquent remarks made by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) in this well just a few minutes ago, and I applaud the outstanding commitment and leadership of our Speaker.

Of course, we have to be concerned with the people part of this equation.

Tens of thousands of people have lost their livelihood, through no fault of their own. They need health care for their families. They need job training for new opportunities. They need extended unemployment compensation. That is going to be provided. We will not ignore their needs.

But for the task at hand, we listened as the gentleman from Alaska Chairman YOUNG) was in that chair for 7 hours to hear leaders from the business community, the labor community, the financial community, one after another, say to us, "We must take immediate action to protect the viability of commercial aviation in America. We cannot lose a moment," and we are responding.

Safety is a concern that we all have. The gentleman from Florida Chairman MICA) is responding. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a proud record of dealing in a forthright manner with sensitive issues.

I am proud to serve with the gentleman from Alaska Chairman YOUNG) and the gentleman from Florida Chairman YOUNG), but I am proudest of all to serve with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) in this hour of need for America. Pass this legislation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House extend the time for debate on each side. We have more than 30 people on this side who would like to speak, and under this rule, those Members will be limited to 30 seconds or less.

I ask unanimous consent that we extend the time on both sides of the aisle. I am sure there are people on that side of the aisle who would like to speak at more length on this important legislation. I would suggest at least an additional 15 minutes on either side of the aisle for the debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I object, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have to act in haste tonight with legislation that will bequest billions to a favored few and vague promises of future help to hundreds of thousands of others. We could work deliberately over the weekend, if we so chose, to create a shared burden and benefit.

The 100,000 workers have already lost their jobs. They have been thrown into the so-called safety net, but they will get maybe something in the future. For the tens of thousands of people in related businesses, travel agents, car agencies, hotels, maybe we will do something in the future. Regional airlines, they get crumbs.

Now, there are no new security provisions in this bill. That is why people are not flying. If we do not put in security provisions tonight or tomorrow or over the weekend, people are not going to come back. This says, "The money we appropriated last week, we know the President will spend some of it on future security enhancements." That is not going to bring people back. It is not going to give them the assurances they need.

But do not worry, the CEOs will be limited to last year's salary, \$10 million, \$15 million, \$20 million, or \$30 million.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the best we can do. We all know that. We have just been denied time for additional debate. Where are Members going tonight? It is a little late to catch a plane. Why can we not extend the debate? Why can we not stay here and work this weekend? Why can we not have a better bill? Why do the 100,000 people who have already been laid off and do not have health insurance have to wait for the week after or the week after, or maybe Thanksgiving? Why? Do not just give them empty promises. I know the airline CEOs have a crisis, but let us help the people, too.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the aviation assistance package. As both the representative of LaGuardia Airport and a member of the Committee on Financial Services, I understand firsthand the importance of sending a signal to the capital markets that our airlines are strong and will receive the support they need to continue to operate.

□ 2145

The importance of securing the financial viability of our Nation's air carriers cannot be overstated. Additionally, this bill makes an effort to expedite compensation packages for those injured or lost in last week's vicious attacks upon our city. I welcome this bill, but as a first step towards remedying a number of other problems involved with the economic problems befalling our airline industry.

There are a number of things that this bill does not do. We need to provide protections for health care and pay for the over 90,000 airline employees who have lost their jobs in the face of the economic hardship hitting the domestic airline industry, and we all know there could be more to come.

Furthermore, this Congress needs to bolster airline security. If we really want to restore consumer confidence, we need to provide increased safety to the airlines. We need to make the American public feel safe while flying.

I am not voting for this bill because I trust the airlines, and I am not voting for this bill because I trust airline

executives. I am voting for this bill because I trust the American people. I know the American people will make this country strong again. My faith in their ability to rebuild our economy, if given the opportunity, is unwavering. I know this much is true. And I hope the American people show their faith by getting on an airplane to go to Disneyland, by visiting Las Vegas, by visiting our Nation's capitol. But most importantly, I ask my colleagues' constituents to revisit my city, New York, in the very, very near future.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to note, in the bipartisan way that we have conducted ourselves, that the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) has never voted with me on any piece of legislation in any committee. But this is a time we work together, and I thank the gentleman for his statement.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 40 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), a member of the committee.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of this legislation. We have to help the airline industry or we will face even more layoffs and economic downturn in the days ahead. But this bill does nothing to help the pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, reservation agents, and other employees who make the aviation system work.

The bill contains no provisions extending unemployment benefits, health care coverage, job search assistance or any kind of relief to those who have lost their jobs as a result of the September 11 attacks. And it contains nothing about enhancing airline security, without which people will not fly the planes.

The bill is inadequate, and I am tempted to vote against it, but I fear that the defeat of this bill could result in the loss of many more jobs and negatively impact the one million employees still working in the industry. It is terrible we are forced to choose between an inadequate bill or no bill at all. But that is our choice, and so I have to exercise it. And I will vote "yes."

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I support victims compensation. I support the airline industry. But crisis is no excuse for a stampede. The wagons have been circled around the industry but not around the people who make it work.

Crisis is no excuse for unjust compensation for the airlines. Crisis is no excuse to deny the workers the protection they need now.

My father was a sky cap, my sister works in the airport, my niece is a flight attendant, my brother-in-law is

a sky cap. I come from a family of workers for airlines. They need protection like the airlines. Let us step up to the plate, my colleagues, and protect the workers too.

As last week's tragedy continues to unfold, we, as Members of Congress are constantly challenged to find solutions to very complex issues. I believe that our American resolve and faith in God will bring this nation through these tough times. As a member of the Financial Services and Small Business Committees, I am compelled to speak because I realize the devastating effects this tragedy and its subsequent economic downturn has had on both our financial markets, insurance industry and small business. Companies are doing less—and in some cases no—business, workers are being laid-off and insurance claims are staggering. We must work together and hold to our resolve of building America back up. We are all doing our part to make sure this happens. We have put aside party differences and political wrangling and come together because we all know that, when it comes down to it, we are all one people. But we can't let this spirit of togetherness cause us to run blindly forward into actions that, while they may seem reasonable in the heat of our desperation to deal with this problem, will result in serious consequences in the long run.

That is why I am speaking out against this bill. I stand today as a supporter of congressional funding and other legislative efforts that restore stability to this nation and particularly, our financial markets, that are the envy of the world. With that, I wholeheartedly supported the \$40 billion supplemental appropriation for military support and clean-up efforts stemming from last week's tragedy. Our concerns, sadly enough, do not end there. Our financial markets, as well, face decline and other challenges to recovery. Today, we deal with an airline industry crisis. The airline industry facing staggering losses may face bankruptcy as a result. It was reported that during our national tragedy, when airplanes were grounded, the airline industry lost about \$330 million a day for each day that flights were grounded. No industry can recover from losses of that magnitude overnight.

I support our airline industry. I support direct aid of \$5 billion to the airlines. I also support \$10 billion in loan guarantees that assists large as well as small airline carriers that works to ensure the financial solvency of our airline industry and other affiliated jobs. However, I am troubled about some aspects of this bill. First, in our efforts to stabilize the airline industry, we cannot forget workers. We cannot overlook thousands of dislocated skycaps, attendants, pilots, food service workers, maintenance workers and all of those other men and women employed in the airline service sector, who will receive absolutely nothing from this bill. We cannot simply save the plane and leave the people behind.

Second, liability protection. I cannot support a liability protection regime that is overly broad. To have the government as well the airline and insurance companies cover liability, could leave the government as the insurer of last resort. This aspect of the bill is too broad and overly complex.

Third negligence and damages. I am also concerned that this bill fails to consider any amounts for punitive damages and also reduces compensation if there is any collateral

source compensation. While I support the stabilization of the airline industry, on one hand, I cannot remove all liability from the industry on the other.

In addition, this bill caps air carriers' liability to limits of their coverage and reduces victims' families should they have supplemental coverage. It is paradoxical to fully support the airlines while reducing support for survivors who need to resume their lives. I cannot in good conscience support such a measure.

Lastly, security. This bill does not address the issue of increased security that must be employed by the airline industry. With a tragedy of this magnitude, we cannot sweep the issue of security under the rug. The airline industry must make operational changes in security at our nation's airports in order to thwart future terrorist activities.

In conclusion, I support the stabilization of the airline industry with direct aid and loan guarantees. Our airline industry serves as a major cog of our economic engine and also

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the firefighters in New York did not panic and neither should we. Tomorrow, when the sun comes up, Americans all over this country are going to ask this question: Why in this Chamber do the big dogs always eat first?

Twenty or thirty thousand Boeing laid-off workers who build the airplanes by their sweat of their brow are going to ask: Why are we using taxpayer money to help companies with CEOs who make \$35 million a year, and for the machinists, they get zero?

Bipartisanship does not mean the whole thing for the corporation and not a part for the worker. Help airlines, and put some "no's" up there to make sure we get a clean vote up there next week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) has 9½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) has 16¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we have just begun, I believe, to comprehend the extent of our national trauma. And while we continue to grieve, we cannot let a terrorist attack bankrupt such a critical component of our economy, so we must keep the planes in the air.

But I want to remind my colleagues that we cannot stop here, and I appreciate the fact that people have expressed that tonight. We cannot stop here. What we need is a comprehensive package. We need to address airline security, and we need to address the growing employment crisis in our country.

Please, Members, let us go to the next step and let us do it with the fervor and the passion that we have addressed this step as well.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to address these remarks to the families of the victims, those who were injured on September 11.

One of the best provisions of this bill is that this Congress has provided a method whereby all those injured, the victims of those who have died, will have full recovery for their economic and noneconomic damages by the establishment of a special master. The Treasury of the United States has been opened by the Members of this Congress to ensure that every family will receive just recovery.

It is one of the best provisions of the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the aviation industry is in need of a lifeline, and we are all trying to find it. The bill today provides \$15 billion in taxpayer dollars to give a bailout, but there is no reason why this legislation could not have included the real face of the aviation industry: the pilots, the mechanics, the baggage handlers, the flight attendants, and ticket agents. The airlines could not run without them.

This package contains nothing for the industry's reportedly 100,000 displaced or soon-to-be-laid-off workers. This \$15 billion package spends nothing for the greater safety in our airlines as well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make clear that we need to support legislation granting much-needed relief to our beleaguered airlines; but without help for workers, without real money for enhanced security, without real guarantees for air service to small communities, I cannot support this.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am supporting this bill. I am supporting it because of jobs.

I do not want to cut off our noses to spite our faces. If we lose this airline industry, we lose all jobs. We have to save it to save jobs, and then come back next week to make sure that we finish the job. It is indeed an incomplete job. We must finish the job, but we must not lose it all.

My heart goes out when I look at the New York City skyline and no longer see our twin towers. And I think if the towers were still standing, we could repair it and we could keep jobs in the building. But my heart is lost because there is no longer any towers on the skyline, and we have lost all of those jobs. Let us not lose any more jobs.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 40 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the first steps that we are taking as a result of the hell that descended on America over a week ago. I think that as we take these steps, we need to look very carefully at the larger picture.

Of course aviation is one of the most critical industries in our country. And I think today we are more fully appreciating everything that is related to the airlines. But I want to remind my colleagues that left out of this bill are the steps that we are going to have to take and take soon.

The planes will not stay in the air no matter how much we spend. What we put up in terms of the Federal dollar will not really do what we are seeking it to do unless we restore the confidence of the American flying public to get into these planes, as we are, and that it is safe to do so, and that the workers that help put those planes in the air be taken care of as well.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, our vital airline industry has asked for a hand; and we ought to give them a helping hand but not a handout. And that is what this bill does with billions of dollars of hard-earned Social Security Trust Fund monies.

While the airlines get those billions, the taxpayers do not get the protection, the workers do not get the support, and the traveling public does not get the safety. All they get is an IOU. We need to commit tonight to pay that IOU as quickly as the airlines cash the billions of dollars of checks that they are being granted in a bailout here tonight.

While this is hardly last Friday's midnight blank check to the industry that was urged, it remains grossly deficient. And even tonight the comptroller general of the General Accounting Office states that after reviewing the bill. "He has concerns that adequate safeguards need to be put in place to safeguard the taxpayers' interests."

We need to do that, but tonight we need to vote "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The Chair would announce that the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) continues to have 9½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I returned to the floor really to try to eliminate some of the myths.

The previous speaker tries to couch this as a bailout to the airlines and talks about billions of dollars. Let us

look at the billions. There are \$5 billion for direct costs. The airlines must prove direct costs of incidence from the September 11 tragedy.

Today, \$5 billion will barely replace a few number of airplanes. The gentleman does not have to worry about bailing out the airline industry, because there will be no airline industry. They will not have the insurance. They will not have the credit. They will not be in business. So we will not have 100,000 people out of work, we will have hundreds of thousands of people out of work.

The rest of the package, the \$10 billion, is not a loan program, it is a loan guarantee program. They must pay back the funds. So this is not any big handout.

The language on the compensation, the limits we took from the other side, in trust, to put some limits on compensation for overpaid airline executives, we took that in good faith from the other side.

The safety issue. There is \$3 billion in this legislation for safety and security. We gave the President another \$40 billion, of which he has complete discretion.

□ 2200

Mr. Speaker, this Congress is not going to decide airline safety on Monday. They tried to do it in 1996 with a bill that is still not enacted by the administration, the previous administration.

We passed another airline security bill in the year 2000, and that is still not implemented. We have given the money and the responsibility to the administration. We have sky marshals being put in place as fast as they are being trained. We have loaner security personnel on planes. Do not tell people that every possible security provision is not being instituted. That is not the truth. Do not demagogue this legislation, pass this legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because without it our economy would be in even greater danger. While I would have written a bill that protected the more than 100,000 airline industry workers who have been laid off or are at risk of getting pink slips, and we must address that, a vote against this bill will put all of the airline industry workers at risk, both those who have been let go and are hoping to be rehired, and the more than one million still on the job.

Mr. Speaker, not to vote for the bill means no job is secure. Most important, I cannot in good conscience vote against a bill that provides compensation to the more than 150 families in my district, and that number may sadly grow, who have been directly affected by this tragedy and who are in desperate need right now.

There is no time to wait and negotiate further for them. I agree with my

colleagues who want more for airline travel security and worker protection, but we need to move now and move quickly.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, no one is suggesting that we not help those airlines who as a result incurred costs and expenses of being ordered down by the Federal Government; but this legislation goes beyond that because it reimburses them for more than that cost, and that may turn out to be true in the future, but that is not true today in terms of what has been proven up.

Mr. Speaker, it does not deal with executive compensation. It allows people to continue on while workers are being laid off, while workers are losing their health insurance and wages.

The President talked to us about shared sacrifice, and that is not what this legislation is about. It is about the few and the powerful getting their hands on the \$5 billion and on the loan agreements and not providing for the workers and for the families that are devastated by the loss and tragedies that have taken place.

I think at a minimum we could have provided the coverage for these individuals. The language was ready; it was simply not agreed to. It is not about time.

We could have also made very sure that we directed the Federal agency to take over and federalize the safety of these airplanes. People are not avoiding airplanes because of the financial conditions of the airlines; they are not flying because they do not feel safe on airplanes.

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

Mr. Speaker, that cataclysmic event that occurred a week ago brought this Nation together at the very same time that it tore us asunder. We are here tonight to attempt to thread together shattered pieces of our economy, the torn hearts and spirits of our fellow citizens. In the limited way that we can, with the limited tools at our disposal, I share the frustration of many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle who wanted to reach out beyond the provisions of this bill and extend help to those workers who were laid off in the immediate aftermath of last Tuesday.

I thought we could do that and that we should do that, but there were other voices and other pressures. Since we do not have the majority, we do not dictate the course of events.

The Speaker wanted to do more, and he was magnificent in his management of the competing forces in that session that concluded at two o'clock this morning in his office when the final shape of this bill was hammered out. His willingness to work with our side to address the unmet needs and concerns of Members went on into today and into late afternoon.

Yes, I think we should have addressed security to a greater extent than we did in this bill. There is \$3 billion to be used by the Secretary of Transportation for sky marshals, for strengthening flight deck doors and for other airport security provisions; and there will be more to come.

Many on my side have said if we do not put it all in this train that is leaving the station it will never get done, but I trust the Members of this body and the leadership and the Secretary of Transportation on their word. They have given their word that we will do a broader and more inclusive security provision.

With the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), we are going to start on Monday in our committee crafting that broader language for broader security to carry out the work that, frankly, I began as a member of the Presidential Commission of Aviation Security and Terrorism in 1989 and 1990.

If all we have done and recommended had gotten enacted into law and fully carried out, we still would have gaps in security. That is why I asked for a review, a blue ribbon commission, in 1995 to come back and review aviation security from top to bottom; and it took a year for that to happen in the previous administration.

That group that was called together by the President, the baseline review committee met, and I addressed them. It was July 17, a year later, 1996; and that night TWA 800 went down off Long Island, and then a year later we came back with new legislation to fix aviation security once again; and we did it again last year in our committee. We are going to do it again until we get it right.

We have a lot of provisions in this bill to deal with the problems of those who lost their lives on the ground and the families who survived them, just as we did in the aftermath of TWA 800 and Pan Am 103, and it pains me to be on this floor once again to be addressing these matters.

We are going to provide in this bill continuation of air service for small communities that feed into the hubs. We provide \$120 million for essential air service for the very smallest markets in our country. We provide assistance to our air carriers with accountability, with limitations on executive pay. In the Chrysler package of 1979, there was a proposal to cap wages of UAW workers; and the Members on this side said no, and a good many on the Republican side said no; and the Congress refused to do it.

But in this bill we put caps. We put limitations. Maybe we should have limited their pay below what they were making last year; but we did what was doable, capped their pay at what it was last year for the next 2 years, so that there is some shared contribution.

I believe that we are going to move further ahead. The Speaker made a commitment tonight to the minority leader that beginning next week they

will start on a comprehensive package of worker assistance. I hope it will include extended unemployment compensation in many provisions of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act, and I will call upon the airlines of the United States to follow the example of Northwest Airlines, which voluntarily told its unemployed laidoff workers that it will continue their health insurance through the end of this year, fully paid, employer-employee portions by the airline, whatever its cost will be; and if the other airlines will do the same, there would be a greater sense of shared sacrifice. There would be greater confidence on this floor that they are doing the right thing.

I have asked the airlines to express their support for worker provisions, and they have done so in a letter, and for improved security provision that I know they have done so as well. They will stand with us next week and in the following days when we bring legislation to the House floor.

This is the best we can do, and it is the most important thing that we can do to get aviation back again moving people and goods and moving our economy. It is not just here at home. The International Air Transport Association reported earlier today that European airlines since last Friday have lost \$5 billion. That is a greater percentage of loss for them than for our carriers. If we do not get American aviation moving again, world aviation is going to collapse.

Yes, we want to do more for the workers who are laid off, but we have to do something to keep the jobs of those who are still working. There are 1.2 million employees in the airline industry; 100,000 are laid off. But that means 1.1 million are working, and this bill is to keep those jobs, to help them stay on their feet, help them continue contributing to the national economy.

That is why we are gathered around here, to do what we can in the right way, in the right time, to the extent that we can.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) very much for yielding me the time, and I know my colleagues are eager to leave this place, but many of us believe this is important enough that we should stay here and work.

I frankly believe that we can have a meeting of the minds. I believe that the United States Government last week made a catastrophic decision to ground the airlines; and they were right, and so we should compensate them. This legislation also speaks to the tragedy and travesty of 6,000 dead; and I think we should compensate them as well.

But at the same time, I believe we should advocate for the sky caps and cabbies, suppliers, airline stewardesses, and pilots that may be laid off.

I want to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member; and I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) for working this bill through. But I need be able to carry the message home in a very clear manner. I know the leader and the Speaker have spoken, and I would like to yield to the distinguished ranking member because he did recount for us extensively where we might go in this next week.

I ask the gentleman from Minnesota, the plan for next week or moving into next week on working on ensuring that we have a plan for extended employment assistance for the ability to cover employees that may be laid off and the commitment of the airlines respectively not to file bankruptcy, and I know there are no definitive answers, but to work with us to rebuild the airlines, thereby rebuild employment, because what I hear is that people do want their jobs.

□ 2215

Do we have the ability and the capacity and the commitment to do that?

Mr. Speaker, the September 11, 2001 terrorist acts against America will never be forgotten. 6,333 people are missing and presumed dead, and 6,291 have been injured as a result of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York. The death toll at the Pentagon is 189 including the 64 people who died on American Airline Flight 77.

Last night, we heard from President Bush regarding the need for national and world unity as we embark upon the mission of eradicating terrorism and bringing the terrorist to swift justice. I agree with President Bush on this issue. I vote to give the President the authority to act appropriately to achieve this goal. Also, I voted to provide the \$40 billion necessary to fund the rebuilding of New York City, the Pentagon and to fund the campaign to bring the perpetrators to justice.

I want to express my support for H.R. 2926, the Air Transportation System Stabilization Act. The airlines of this nation serve as a great public asset to this nation. That is why we should properly address the needs of the employees, the traveling public and the airline companies.

The cowardly acts of September 11, 2001 left our nation's airline industry and its workers in a precarious financial condition. Since these events, airline profits and operating funds have plummeted and the number of proposed employee layoffs increase daily. If Congress does not act quickly, first tier airlines will be forced to file for Chapter 11—bankruptcy protection within 30 to 60 days. Furthermore, it is estimated that by June 1, 2002, the industry will realize cash shortfalls of at least \$10 billion.

H.R. 2926, is an appropriate and timely response by the Congress to deal with the intended and unintended consequences of these unprecedented events that I hope will never occur again on American soil. I must say that I agree with many of my colleagues in the House of Representatives regarding the necessity to act today because it is apparent to us all that the capital markets are not coming to the aid of most of the suffering airlines.

H.R. 2926 provides \$5 billion in direct aid to the airlines, an amount that airlines say they

would lose by the end of the month as a result of the government-ordered grounding of flights following the terrorist hijackings of four jetliners and the sharp drop in business. Also, H.R. 2926 would provide \$10 billion in loan guarantees to airliners that face fewer customers, sharp increase in insurance premiums and rising costs for security. Further, H.R. 2926 creates a Victim Compensation Fund for victims of the terrorist-related attacks of September 11, 2001. A Special Master appointed by the Attorney General will administer the Fund. Air carrier liability is capped at the carriers' insurance company limit. The Federal Government will provide compensation above and beyond carrier liability.

Mr. Speaker, I must express my disappointment about this legislation's failure to address the needs of the hard working airport and other employees who will be out of work as a result of decreased air travel. This bill overlooks the skycaps, the concession workers, cabbies and the others who happily greet us as we move through our nation's airports. These employees should not be required to wait for assistance when their mortgages and other daily obligations continue.

That is why I supported the Hastings Amendment to H.R. 2926 which will not be debated on the floor of the House of Representatives. If the House Rules Committee had allowed debate on the Hastings Amendment, airline and airport employees could have been provided timely benefits to assist in these difficult times. Those benefits would have included the extension of unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 78 weeks, 26 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits for workers who would not otherwise qualify, extended job training benefits from 26 weeks to 78 weeks, and provides up to 78 weeks of federally subsidized COBRA premiums.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, this legislation does not address the needs of the small businesses, which are dependent upon the air travel industry. Also, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is lacking because it does not address the needs of small businesses based in the airports around the nation. I believe that it is imperative that we provide a statutorily acceptable mechanism to distribute relief funds to small businesses that have been affected outside the states that have been declared disaster areas. Primary disaster relief for small businesses comes from the Disaster Relief Assistance Program of the Small Business Administration. However, SBA cannot disburse funds without a disaster declaration by an individual state, and many affected airports are located in states geographically removed from the attack site like Texas. We must ensure that we provide fair treatment for these businesses caught in the ripple effect of the airline crisis. I will be working with the Mayor of Houston and the City Council to ensure that small businesses get the assistance that is needed.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation simply expresses the commitment of Congress to act expeditiously to strengthen airport security and take further measures to enhance the safety of air travel. But, I believe that we must take the next step and federalize all aspects of airport security so that the loss of consumer confidence can be restored within short order. Federalizing airport security does not mean that we discount the importance of the current airport security employees. Mr. Speaker, the

aim should be to increase consumer confidence in air travel.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2926 clearly does not go far enough, however now is the time to begin the process of rebuilding so that we can realize increased air traffic at the Bush Intercontinental Airport, and the William Hobby P. Airport in Houston, and all of America's airports.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the leadership of the House of Representatives and Senator DASCHLE and Senator LOTT will make a firm commitment to bring employee economic assistance legislation to the floor of both Houses of Congress early next week.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman will yield, that is not a matter I control. That is an agreement between the Speaker and the minority leader. They are certainly committed to working in the direction the gentlewoman has expressed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, I am proud to represent Washington's National Airport which tonight is closed, completely closed except for terminal A, which has been transformed into an unemployment compensation center for the more than 10,000 people who have lost their jobs at National Airport and the more than 60,000 people in the Washington area whose jobs are dependent on National Airport. The terrorists caused the loss of more than 6,000 lives. They cannot cause the loss of thousands of livelihoods.

I am going to vote for this, but I have the confidence we are going to do something for the workers, too, who work day to day and breathe life into the aircraft and the airline industry. But we cannot have employees without employers. We have got to pass this bill. But it is not enough.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

To the gentleman who just spoke, I happen to support reopening Reagan National Airport. He is another gentleman, by the way, that has never voted for anything I have ever wanted, and I do support opening that airport. It is the right thing to do. I want him to know that.

I would also suggest that for those who question it, this committee has jurisdiction over some parts of this bill which we are bringing up tonight, but as the gentleman from Minnesota has mentioned, we do not have total jurisdiction. But I am going to do everything in my power, as well as the gentleman from Minnesota's, to make sure that the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) and the Speaker's commitment is followed through for the workers. But this bill tonight is so crucially important so that we can keep those jobs that remain still viable and we get the airline industry back on track so they can be rehired as they have lost their jobs. And we will do that.

I would suggest one thing. I hope, and I know most of my colleagues have not

read the bill; I say that sincerely because I am also a Member of this Congress.

“Documentation. Subject to subsection (b), the amount of compensation payable to an air carrier under section 101(a)(2) may not exceed the amount of losses described in section 101(a)(2) that the air carrier demonstrates to the satisfaction of the President, using sworn financial statements or other appropriate data, that the air carrier incurred. The Secretary of Transportation and the Comptroller General of the United States may audit such statements and may request any information that the Secretary and the Comptroller General deems necessary to conduct such audit.”

I am going to suggest that all losses must be documented and if they make false statements, they have committed a felony and it is a crime. Let us keep that in mind.

Other than that, Mr. Speaker, I would like at this time to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBER-STAR) for the work he has done and the leadership he has shown on that side of the aisle with tremendous criticism from some of his Members. I did not face that on this side of the aisle at all. I also would like to thank the staffs on both sides. I may not name all of them because some of the names I may not know and I will not pronounce those I do not know. But the staffs put in yesterday, last night, today, last week, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and they worked 48 hours sometimes, so I thank the staffs for the work they have done. It is crucially important.

We also had another player, or two players not in this body, in this bill that we had to work with. We had the administration. It is my administration, but I can tell you sometimes they can be very, very shortsighted. We also had the other body, and they can be equally shortsighted. But we had to bring this bill together so it can become a law.

I am asking my colleagues tonight to keep in mind, this is not a bailout. This is an attempt to keep a vital part of our economy working. This is, in fact, crucial to the total economy of this Nation that we pass this legislation tonight. I urge my colleagues to think of this and to vote for final passage.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bill before us today. Some are asking why we need a bill specifically for the airlines, when so many other sectors of the economy need our help as well. The answer is simple—we have to.

September 11, 2001 changed everything in our world. Including the continuing stability and viability of the U.S. aviation system. The aviation industry normally constitutes 10 percent of our national gross domestic product. In my City of Philadelphia, the airline industry is a \$7.4 billion economic engine. I cannot stress it enough that if we do not help this industry now, today, it will not be the same viable transportation system as we know it and layoffs will be even more staggering then we are currently witnessing.

The situation the airline industry finds itself was not one of their making. Within hours of the first strike, Secretary Mineta made the difficult, yet crucial decision to ground all flights in the U.S. and divert others. It was the federal government's correct choice to close the airlines' doors for four days and it was this decision that also caused the industry to lose \$200 million a day for each day their flights were grounded.

On the principle of fairness, it must also be the responsibility of the federal government to restore this industry's economic solvency. To act otherwise, will be devastating to our nation's transportation infrastructure and crippling to our national economy.

Additionally, airlines will not become viable until the American people are convinced that they are secure. I comment Transportation Secretary Mineta for creating two task force teams to report and advise on airline and airport security. I also look forward to this Congress passing legislation to federalize the aviation security system. For far too long, these workers have been underpaid, overworked, and unappreciated. I am confident that the federal government can and will create a credible and well-trained federal enforcement aviation security system as soon as possible.

We are passing this legislation tonight to not only restore the trust in our aviation industry, but also for the men and women who drive the industry forward—the airline employees. In 2000 alone, these dedicated employees served approximately 670 million passengers traveling over 700 billion miles, and provided over 25 billion ton miles of freight delivery. While some may argue that this bill hurts airline employees, I believe it does just the opposite.

I am saddened and angered by the layoffs we have already seen as a result of the September 11th attacks. But if we do not pass this bill tonight, all 1.2 million U.S. airline employees are in jeopardy of losing their jobs. If we can enact H.R. 2926 as soon as possible, it will only accelerate the airline industry's ability to get back on their feet and put them in a position to rehire some of the workers already laid off. The faster we can increase the demand for flights, the faster airline employees can get back to their jobs.

In addition, I take our Leaderships' word that we will bring to the House floor, legislation to assist the airline employees that have already been effected by these tragedies. Within the next week or so I am confident that we will have an employee assistance package in hand, ready for these American heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I vote for this bill for the traveling public, the aviation employees, the American people, and all other business that rely on or are affected by the aviation industry.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote for this important and necessary piece of legislation.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 2926, the Airline Stabilization Act, which will revitalize our economy and protect jobs in my district and around the country. I do so with the strong intention of supporting additional legislation, scheduled to be considered on the House floor next, that will provide relief for airport workers and those who have already lost their jobs in the airline industry. I also believe Congress needs to provide additional resources for airport security as soon as possible.

Part of the aftermath of the tragedy our entire nation suffered on September 11 is that important industries in our nation's economy have become vulnerable. One of the most visibly affected industries has been the airline industry.

We know of 100,000 nationwide layoffs because airplanes were grounded for four days and because activity at our national airports which came to a halt, are only now slowly beginning to become active again.

As our nation recovers from this national tragedy, I believe that we must swiftly aid in this recovery. It is our obligation to help revive and ensure the viability of the airline industry by giving them the economic boost they require today.

I believe that by getting our airline industry back on track, our nation's economy as a whole will prosper, and we will prevent the loss of even more jobs in the long term.

Funds are included in this bill to give direct, prompt assistance to the airline industry. But the vast majority of the funds in the bill are loans that will be repaid. Additionally, there is a provision in the bill that I strongly support, to limit CEO compensation by putting a cap on executive salaries over \$300,000 for two years.

While I am cognizant that this bill does not contain language that would provide relief for workers who have been affected, nor does it include language that would provide increased security measures, I do believe that this bill will help to ensure solvency for much of the airline industry and prevent further job losses.

I have stated since the tragedy last week that we must look for a multifaceted solution to this multifaceted problem. This bill is one small step toward restoring one facet—our economy—and for that reason I will support this bill.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed about the way the House has handled this legislation. I think legislation to help the airline industry is urgently needed, but I think this bill falls far short of doing everything that urgently needs to be done.

I voted against the rule because I thought we should be taking the time to do a better job before we go home for the weekend. And I voted for the motion to recommit because it would have made the bill better.

I wish that the outcome to those votes had been different, because I am not enthusiastic about this bill.

I am not enthusiastic about it because while it will help the airlines, it does not do enough for the airline employees who are facing unemployment.

I am not enthusiastic about it because it does not do enough to address the effects of the airlines' problems on many other businesses.

And I am not enthusiastic about this bill because it does nothing to respond to the very urgent need to improve the safety and security of airline passengers and the American people—a need that I think nobody can deny after the tragic and criminal events of last week.

Still, while not enthusiastic about the bill I will vote for it because I think it is urgently needed.

And, above all else, I will vote for it because of the assurance of the Speaker and the leadership that the House will act quickly to address the problems of employees and the other things that should have been part of the

legislation. On that basis, and that basis alone, I am prepared to support passage of this incomplete and unbalanced bill.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, by bringing this bill up without extensive debate or scrutiny and without the opportunity for amendment, we are being asked to buy a pig in a poke.

I want to assist the airline industry. The condition of the industry was marginal before September 11. Since the assault on America, we now find it in a critical state.

In helping the airlines, we are protecting airline industry executives, managers and stockholders. I am not opposed to that if that is what it takes to rebuild the air transport system. But in the wake of trying to pull together a bill that will bridge the industry until some normalization in the system is restored, we are forgetting about the rank and file employees. These are the baggage handlers, the skycaps, the flight attendants, and the ticket agents who are the victims of last week's shutdown and who now find themselves out on the street. There is no provision in this bill that will help bridge them and their families until the air transport system is back on its feet.

The leadership has promised to bring up legislation next week to provide compensation for workers, families and victims adversely impacted by this tragic incident. My problem with this "promise" is that it does not have the united commitment of the leadership on the other side of the aisle. That's why I am skeptical of supporting this bill on these terms, under these conditions.

More often than not, legislating quickly is legislating badly. Many Members in this chamber have cited the precedents of the Chrysler and New York City loan guarantees. Although I was not a Member of Congress when Congress acted on these proposals, I supported their passage and encouraged my representative in Congress to vote for their approval. The difference between those financial assistance packages and the one that is before us today is that the Chrysler and New York City relief bills were debated at length in committee, in private negotiations with the White House and industry executives, and on the floor of the House and the Senate. The legislative process worked deliberately and ultimately wisely. Chrysler and New York City repaid their federal loans and the federal government actually earned a profit in the process.

But this case is different. We are being asked to pass a \$15 billion assistance package to rescue the industry. According to one source, the \$5 billion in direct aid is more than four times the amount of the actual losses actually experienced by the airline industry. I am not here to argue about the size of the package, although it does lead one to ask if we are buying a pig in a poke. The problem is that it is a halfway measure. The bill provides no lifeline to the tens of thousands of workers who have just been laid off and to the low- and tip-wage workers who were regulated out of their jobs for reasons of increased air security. I am prepared to rescue the airline and airport executives, stockholders and managers. But I am not prepared to forget those who lost their jobs under these extraordinary circumstances.

We all have a large stake in rebuilding and rescuing the air transport system. Mr. OBERSTAR has done a great job to move this bill forward, and I have enormous respect for his leadership and knowledge of and competency in the airline industry. However, I regret that I

have to vote against this bill because it ignores the very people who make the system work.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act. Although I am voting for this bill today, I do not think that this bill is the best possible bill or the only bill that we should enact to stabilize the airline industry and its supporting industries in response to the tragic September 11 attack on the United States. There are a number of issues that this bill does not address.

Most importantly, I do not think that the bill adequately provides for the tens of thousands of airline industry employees that are facing imminent layoffs. These are the men and women that were on the front lines of the September 11 attack, many of whom would bravely and willingly go right back up into our skies to literally keep this economy and this country moving.

Additionally, I think that we should use this as an opportunity to drastically improve airline and airport security. I would have liked to have seen a bill that provided additional funding for the possible federalization of passenger screening facilities in our airports and an increase in the number of armed Sky Marshals on board planes. I hope that Congress will act on both these issues as quickly as possible.

But the bottom line is that in this time of need the federal government must take strong action to stabilize the airline industry and the economy and to insure the continuity of safe and efficient air travel. A strong airline industry is critical to our national economy.

The airline industry has suffered immense and unprecedented financial damage from the events of September 11 and their aftermath. Unless substantial financial assistance is made available immediately, a major portion of the industry will fail financially over the next year; we will come out of the recovery period with, at best, a non-competitive, weak industry of only a few carriers, and, at worst, no viable survivors, no low fare competitors and the possible prospect of re-regulation or a government takeover. In either case, we would be likely to get much higher fares and less service than we had before September 11.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday we brought a stabilization bill to the floor and failed to act on it. This week, the airlines announced thousands of layoffs. This Friday I will vote in support of this bill and will urge my colleagues to support this bill, because if we act today, I can only hope that we will be able to save some jobs next week.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, Congress is taking important steps today to provide real short-term relief for the industry. The Air Transportation System Stabilization Act (H.R. 2926) delivers on the commitment supported by Congress and stated firmly by President George Bush in his address to the nation last night—"We will come together to promote stability and keep our airlines flying with direct assistance during this emergency."

For several days last week the U.S. government closed down the domestic aviation industry—a decision that was vital to the interest and safety of our country in a crisis situation. Now that the industry is back online, it is equally vital to our nation that we take steps to ensure that the public continues to have access to viable, competitive aviation transportation.

Today we are asking the taxpayers to provide a huge injection into the arm of the aviation industry. But the cash infusion, the tax deferral and the financial guarantees from Congress are only one part of the formula. We have also heard about a lot of talk tonight about providing additional legislation which provides a whole slew of health, unemployment benefits, in addition to those that already exist under current law.

But rather than double dip from the taxpayers, the aviation industry should use the initial taxpayer assistance provided through H.R. 2926, to keep their employees on board and utilize these professionally-trained men and women.

In order to survive, airlines must focus on reestablishing confidence among the American consumer. The only way you are going to get people back on planes, is to assure them that air travel is 110 percent safe.

Airlines should consolidate flights and dedicate non-flying personnel to increased security inspections. Rather than laying off employees during this travel slowdown, why not utilize their professional training by putting them throughout airports to increase passenger security checks and baggage inspection.

It's a fact that the elevated security status means that federal employees are already being pulled from non-aviation assignments throughout the government to meet the increased demand for security precautions in airports. At least on a temporary basis, airline employees should be utilized in the same capacity—to increase security of airports and provide the consumers with the confidence they need in order to return to the airways.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, disintegration of the airline network of America is simply not a viable alternative for our nation. Therefore, I will vote for this bill. Defeating it would be a worse alternative than passing it. But passing it must not obscure the serious shortcomings of this bill. It fails to address the serious holes in key parts of the safety net to help hold up those who suffer as a result of the tragedy of September 11. There are severe gaps in our unemployment compensation system and in our retraining structure that must be addressed or else many, if not most, of the dislocated will be out in the cold economically. Many of these same persons will be left without health coverage.

We have been assured by the Speaker in a colloquy with the minority leader that the appropriate committees will turn their attention promptly to important outstanding issues, which must include those mentioned earlier. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the Subcommittee which has jurisdiction over unemployment compensation and some retraining programs, I intend to join in active efforts consistent with the assurances in the colloquy.

This Congress must also take far more vigorous steps to dramatically strengthen airline security, and I mean dramatically. This bill does not begin to do so. If the public does not retain confidence that they can fly safely, most will not fly and when nothing in this bill will safeguard the financial integrity of the airline industry.

The vote tonight must lead to further steps, and soon.

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 2926, the Air Transportation System Stabilization Act. I also must express my concerns for

what is not contained in the legislation. While the assistance provided by this measure is absolutely essential to keep our airlines operating, the lack of provisions to address the needs of thousands of airline workers who were told by the government not to report to work and who will not be compensated for complying with that request is wrong. The bill lacks important provisions to increase security for pilots, crew and passenger that are needed to restore people's confidence in the industry that is so important to regaining the economic viability of the industry. At a time such as this, only the federal government can help restore that confidence, and I fear that this bill does not go far enough to accomplish this critical task.

These terrorist attacks were aimed at disrupting our economy and destroying our way of life. The destruction that followed has threatened not only the economic viability of the airline industry, but the livelihood of workers employed by air carriers, manufacturers, and the hospitality industry. Each day that flights are grounded resulted in a loss over \$300 million a day for the industry. The airlines expect to lose \$24 billion in the next year due to the aftermath of the attacks.

Without federal aid, many carriers may go bankrupt. I support the provisions in the bill that will help the industry remain economically viable, such as the \$5 billion in direct aid and \$10 billion in loan guarantees. However, none of this money goes towards helping the tens of thousands of hard working Americans who now have no assistance to help them while they search for new jobs or maintain their health insurance. We must address their concerns as well as the concerns of other industries tied in with the airline industry.

My home state of Missouri will be considerably affected if an economic recovery package is not enacted soon. Missouri is home to Vanguard Airlines, a regional, low-fare airline that serves the metropolitan Kansas City area by linking it with the 14 largest cities in the United States. The company employs nearly 1,000 residents in Missouri and Kansas and is an integral part of the state and regional transport economies. In addition, American Airlines has an enormous presence in the state. As part of its merger agreement with Trans World Airlines (TWA), American has incorporated TWA's hub in St. Louis and its overhaul base in Kansas City. American Airlines employs almost 13,000 people and makes up a significant portion of Missouri's workforce. A considerable curtailment of its operations or those of Vanguard Airlines would be devastating to the state's economy.

This measure is only a first step towards putting the airline industry back on solid financial ground. It is incomplete. We must continue to work to bolster the security of the airlines, returning air marshals to skies and implementing the latest technologies available to ensure the traveling public that hijackings will not occur again. We cannot ignore the needs of the thousands of workers who have lost their jobs. If we do not provide the support needed, the temporary nature of the layoffs and furloughs will be harder to overcome and lengthen the effect. I strongly urge my colleagues to revisit this issue immediately and continue to be vigilant in addressing the needs of the industry's employees and families, and do what is necessary to restore the confidence of the American people in this most vital of industries.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and ask that this letter be included in the RECORD.

ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA,
September 21, 2001.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT, Speaker and Hon. RICHARD GEPHARDT, Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC. DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND MR. LEADER: The Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) commends the United States Congress and President Bush for their leadership and decision to put families victimized by our national tragedy first and to ease their pain by expediting appropriate relief to them through the "September 11 Compensation Fund of 2001," created by H.R. 2926, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act.

ATLA agrees with you that extraordinary situations demand extraordinary responses.

At least seven thousand families are hurting more than any of us can imagine. And, because the first priority of every American should be prompt and full justice for the thousands of families who know first-hand the unspeakable horror visited upon the world on September 11, 2001, members of ATLA will provide free legal services to any family wishing to pursue justice through the fund established by this unprecedented, humanitarian legislation.

ATLA believes that 100% of the compensation from the fund should go directly to these families.

The officers and Executive Committee of ATLA have volunteered to be the first attorneys to provide legal services free of charge under this program.

God Bless America.

Sincerely,

LEO V. BOYLE, President
On behalf of the 60,000 men and women of
ATLA.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this legislation. Let me first acknowledge that this bill is much better than the bill we were asked to consider under unanimous consent one week ago. The fiduciary provisions associated with the bill's \$10 billion in loan guarantees are better in this bill, because they were non-existent in last Friday's version. Today's bill creates a loan guarantee board, which includes Treasury, the Fed, and GAO—all critical players in any loan guarantee package. There was no Board last week; the President had total discretion. It sets conditions for establishing the magnitude and source of financial losses prior to the extension of any guarantees, including the authority to conduct audits of corporate financial statements. And it provides a mechanism for the federal government, and ultimately the taxpayers, to be compensated for the risks assumed in the loan guarantees.

All of these provisions are sound. Unfortunately, they are part of an overall package that is seriously deficient.

First, the bill contains no provision for federalization of airline security. Yet, this is the critical element needed to restore confidence among Americans so that they will fly again. No amount of financial support from the federal government will return the airlines to sound footing if the American people remain reluctant to fly. And for confidence to be restored, the American people need to know that the federal government will assume the responsibility for airport and air security. We have no concrete assurance that actions to federalize airline security will be forthcoming any time soon, if at all.

Second, this bill is deficient in its provision for worker relief. In fact, it contains absolutely no worker relief. It is critical that we expand unemployment insurance coverage to the many workers who will be jobless as a result of the terrorist attack, yet currently are not covered by unemployment insurance. It is also critical that we extend the term of unemployment insurance, so that jobless Americans can count on adequate financial support throughout the duration of unemployment. Further, we need to do more to provide health coverage for laid-off workers by expanding COBRA benefits, which are currently structured to effectively put health coverage out of reach for many of the unemployed. But again, none of these provisions are in the bill, and we have no assurances that they will be forthcoming any time soon, if at all.

Third, while providing no support for rank and file workers, even as tens of thousands of these workers are being laid-off, the bill provides a meaningless limit on CEO compensation, allowing them to continue to reap the massive compensation packages they received in the year 2000. Telling a corporate executive that if he received \$15 million last year he can receive no more than \$15 million this year is not my idea of "shared sacrifice."

It is little wonder that this bill does not have the support of labor unions. Any industry financial package must be based on the tenet of shared sacrifice, as we saw in the Chrysler support package—that package had the support of the labor unions. Clearly, the labor unions see little evidence of shared sacrifice in this legislation, and they oppose it strongly. The AFL-CIO states, "members of Congress are poised to stiff airline industry workers in the bailout bill."

Fourth, this bill distributes \$5 billion in grants and \$10 billion in loan guarantees according to the airlines' passenger capacity, not their passenger load, during the month of August. This provides windfalls to airlines who were in weak financial straits prior to last Tuesday's tragic events. This is a fiscally irresponsible measure. Financial support should be distributed based on measures that would better reflect the financial condition of the airlines prior to September 11th.

Fifth, the victim's compensation provisions in this bill create gross inequities by compensating for economic losses based solely on the deceased worker's earnings. As a result, the family of a worker who earned millions of dollars a year will receive many multiples of that amount in compensation, while a deceased minimum wage worker's family will receive much, much less.

Sixth, this bill does nothing to address the economic losses of the many businesses directly and indirectly associated with the airlines, especially the travel industry. Without any assurances that we can address those losses in other legislation, we must wonder about the level of support in this bill, \$15 billion, for a single industry. These other businesses have a legitimate claim to federal support; yet, there is no assurance from the Administration or congressional leadership that further funding will be made readily available.

Seventh, I am concerned that limitations on the liability of the airline industry alone will

merely shift lawsuits and losses from the airlines to other entities, setting off a chain of unintended consequences throughout the economy. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes these provisions, saying that the provisions will have "dramatic and negative consequences on the entire business community."

Eighth, the bill only allows for warrants and other means of compensating the taxpayers for this bailout as they pertain to the loan guarantees. There are no such mechanisms associated with the \$5 billion cash infusion. Warrants should be extended as a condition of cash aid.

Ninth, the cash infusion is not accompanied by any language that would seek to reimburse the taxpayers for insurance payments received by the airlines under business interruption or physical disaster insurance policies. The airlines will receive payments from these policies, and they should return any cash assistance to the government that is offset by such payments.

Finally, I must ask, why are we rushing through a bill that includes all of these deficiencies tonight? Why can't we have a few more days, with more input from Members, to craft a package that makes sense in its entirety? Let me remind my colleagues that we will have no opportunity to improve this bill during a conference committee, because no conference will occur. I oppose this specific bill, but I remain eager to come back and craft a new and much better package.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2629, the Air Transportation System Stabilization Act. As our nation begins the hearing process in the aftermath of last week's attacks, we must focus our efforts toward getting back to the important business of our nation. I appreciate the hard work of Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member OBERSTAR and all of the Members on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for crafting this legislative relief package for the airline industry. We as a Congress and a nation need to continue to unite during this tragedy, set aside partisanship, and focus on issues that protect our way of life. We need to pass this important bill.

Addressing the immediate situation confronting the airline industry must be one of our top priorities. The airline industry provides an essential public service and is an integral component of the United States national transportation infrastructure. For example, during calendar year 2000, the 1.2 million U.S. airline employees served approximately 670 million passengers traveling over 700 billion miles and provided over 25 billion ton miles of freight delivery.

The terrorist attacks have had a grave and dramatic effect on the airline industry. As we as a nation comes to grips with the vulnerability of our transportation systems to terrorist attacks, more resources will need to be allocated to assure the safety and security of everyone who travels by air. This will cost a tremendous amount of money and should not be borne solely by the airline industry.

The effect is not only being felt with airlines, but also in travel agencies and other businesses associated with the travel industry. As a Congress, we need to do everything in our power to assist the many people across our country who have businesses that have been adversely effected due to the dramatically reduced demand for air service. Airlines are re-

ducing flight schedules and are expected to announce the layoff of 100,000 employees in the near future. Federal assistance to the airlines is an important first step, however, assistance must also be provided to our businesses that are dependent on the airlines. There are many businesses in my district and districts across the country who are facing severe layoffs. Travel agencies, which are losing \$26 million per day, restaurants, hotels, cruise lines and many, many others are experiencing great hardship. We need to make sure that we address their issues.

Without immediate and significant U.S. government financial support, many U.S. airlines will go bankrupt, severely threatening our way of life. It is estimated that the overall impact on the airline industry alone from the September 11th attack will be \$24 billion based on anticipated revenue declines and cost increases. H.R. 2629 goes a long way toward stabilizing the airlines by providing \$5 billion in direct grants and an additional \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

Safe and efficient air travel must remain a national priority. A strong airline industry is vital to our economy and the security of our country. I pledge my support for this important piece of legislation and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important and needed legislation to preserve the continued viability of our country's air transportation system. The financial condition of our nation's commercial airline industry in the aftermath of the catastrophic events that occurred on September 11 is of the utmost importance. Stability and service continuity within the industry is desperately needed as it affects not only the airline industry itself, but also our entire economy and marketplace, from manufacturing, to travel and tourism, to the transportation of goods and services, to mail delivery. These industries are on the verge of facing a crisis and they will not survive if we do not act now.

This relief package is particularly vital to Guam and the territories, whose geographical isolation and distance from the U.S. mainland makes air service costly and challenging to begin with and that much more vulnerable to cutbacks and downsizing in times of difficulty.

If this legislation is not passed soon and quickly, the isolated territories and jurisdictions like Guam and other U.S. Pacific Islands, will face enormous and disproportionate economic and social repercussions. These areas are significantly dependent upon the industry, much more so than other areas in our country where alternative modes of transportation are available.

Guam, which is seven hours flying time from Hawaii and nineteen flying hours from Washington, D.C., is the furthest U.S. jurisdiction from our nation's capital. For years, Continental Micronesia has provided Guam with excellent air and cargo service. Without their continued and unimpaired service, the people of Guam are essentially left with no viable and reliable air service to Hawaii and the U.S. mainland via U.S. routes. Air service, both passenger and cargo, is vital to our economic development and tourism industry.

The recent announcement by Continental Airlines of a system-wide reduction of flights by 20 percent and a lay off of 12,000 people or about 20% of its parent company work force underscores the necessity for this legis-

lation. Continental Micronesia is the largest private employer on Guam and is the only commercial airline that flies between Guam and Hawaii. Hawaii is a required stop for travelers between Guam and the U.S. mainland, unless individuals travel to Guam via Asia on Northwest or international air carriers. Due to Guam's close proximity to Asia, Guam has been more impacted than most U.S. jurisdictions from the Asian financial crisis, particularly in Japan, for the last several years. With an unemployment rate of over 15% and the anticipated decrease in tourism, this legislation becomes more important. The economic impact that a single commercial airline's cutbacks may have on an isolated jurisdiction like Guam is potentially devastating. Continental Micronesia employs near 2000 workers. Apart from being the only commercial passenger carrier between Hawaii and Guam, Continental Micronesia provides a key role in the delivery of mail and cargo service, including medical specimens and commercial goods. Their ability to sustain these services is essential. They are in dire need of our support.

Air arrivals to Guam have dropped 40 percent since last week and everyday more and more airport, airline, and tourism employees have been furloughed or laid off. The Guam International Airport has done all it can to mitigate the financial burden on our airlines, including reducing passenger fees, but they cannot solve the recovery problem alone. I believe that consideration should be given to the impact on our nation's airports by providing assistance in the implementation of heightened security requirements. Requiring improved screening devices and other security functions will come at a significant cost. Successful implementation of and compliance with these new standards necessitates federal financial support.

I strongly support this commercial airline relief package and urge its expeditious consideration and passage. This legislation is good for our nation, good for our economy, and good for our future. We should take all the necessary steps to safeguard our airline industry from crippling in the midst of catastrophic circumstances. I thank the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman, Mr. YOUNG, and the Ranking Member, Mr. OBERSTAR, for their leadership and concern.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill to stabilize the airline industry. Since the September 11 tragedy, the airlines have lost \$5 billion. There is fear in the industry that we could lose a possible 100,000 jobs. This include pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, sky caps, and other airport-related jobs like firefighters and food service workers.

This bill will save these workers from layoffs. I share the concerns expressed by unions that the bill does not provide protections for dislocated workers, and extended health care coverage for airline workers.

Speaker HASTERT and Democratic Leader GEPHARDT have pledged that the House will bring up a bill to help the workers expeditiously. I will help to write this bill and will work to get it enacted into law as quickly as possible.

I have always supported the American worker, and the unions, and will continue to do my best to support legislation that will protect the quality of life for the American worker.

Today, we are in a unique situation. Never, in the history of this nation, have we experienced the horror of September 11. We must

pass legislation one step at a time. Today, we will pass legislation to stabilize the airline industry and to save jobs in the airline industry. Then we will pass legislation to help displaced workers and to overhaul airport security.

Today's bill give the airlines an infusion of cash. Before the tragedy of September 11, the airlines were already burdened with a heavy debt load. Business was down due to a soft economy.

The bill will provide \$5 billion to the airlines and \$10 billion in loan guarantees. This will prevent a negative ripple effect in the economy, and will save jobs.

If the airlines were to go under, we would see a negative effect on domestic and international commerce, in economic development, agriculture, travel and tourism, the hotel-motel industry, the entertainment industry, sports events, rail, water and highway transportation, including the trucking industry, and the list goes on.

My constituents in West Virginia were worried that air service to rural areas and small towns would be irreparably damaged if the airlines go under. Already, USAirways and other major airlines announced a cutback in flights.

I am pleased that this bill provided \$120 million for essential air service to small communities for fiscal year 2002. This will ensure that small communities like Beckley, Bluefield and Lewisburg, West Virginia can continue to provide the most adequate air service to West Virginians.

In closing, we must remember that we are considering legislation under the most extraordinary circumstances. We must help the airline industry to stabilize, and then we will turn our immediate attention to the providing the most comprehensive protections, and extension of health care coverage, to the American workers who were displaced by this heinous crime.

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of last week have left the airline industry in complete disarray. The significant reductions in service, caused by poor consumer confidence, has led to significant job loss within the airline industry. The ripple effect is already seen throughout our economy with substantial declines in the stock market, significant reductions in restaurant patronage, and an overall decline in consumer spending. Because of these factors, this stabilization package is needed to prevent further job loss, not only within the airline community, but also businesses dependent upon the prosperity of this industry.

Although I believe this bailout package is needed, the bill is not without its shortcomings. The absence of a provision to protect workers is extremely troublesome. Thousands of displaced workers are forced to rely upon substantially reduced unemployment benefits without health benefits. This is not the way a dedicated and reliable workforce should be treated. I understand the fact that labor is the airline industry's largest expense, and is contingent upon the number of airplanes and customers in the air. However, I believe the federal government should have adequately addressed the numerous layoffs within this legislation.

My disappointment over the lack of worker protections is countered by a need to preserve the jobs we still have within the airline industry. Allowing the complete decimation of this industry benefits no one. It is my hope this bailout package assists the airline industry in

a manner that allows it to, someday, rehire the workers it was forced to lay off. Nonetheless, my support for this legislation has not deterred my desire to assist workers that are displaced because of this terrible tragedy. The need to preserve the airline industry should not drown out the need to preserve its workforce. I urge leadership in both parties to address their needs in the same expedient fashion.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Air Transportation System Stabilization Act, legislation that would provide immediate financial assistance to our nation's airlines. As the representative for William P. Hobby Airport, in Houston, Texas, and many Continental Airline employees who have been adversely impacted by last week's events, I strongly believe that we must assist our airlines. Last week, the federal government in response to the terrorist attacks, required that all airplanes be grounded for an extended period. This unprecedented event has caused financial harm to our airlines and we need to support them to ensure that they may continue to operate. It is estimated that for every directly employed airline employee, there are six ancillary jobs which are connected to these jobs. Our economy and our transportation infrastructure depend upon the airline industry to be operating at its full capacity.

This legislation would provide two forms of financial assistance, including \$5 billion in direct compensation to reimburse airlines for the cost of grounding their planes last week this direct payment would also help airlines to cover the cost of reduced trips and ridership during the month of September. In order to protect taxpayer funds. This direct compensation program requires that the Comptroller General of the General Accounting Office (GAO) as well as the Secretary of Transportation to audit financial statements to justify the loss compensation payments.

Second, this bill would provide \$10 billion in loan guarantees so the airlines can have access to our capital markets. Earlier this week, we learned that the capital markets have evaluated the risks and have decided to decline to offer credit and capital to our airlines. This is due in part to the recent terrorist attacks. By providing federal government loan guarantees, we will help the airline industry to get the liquidity it needs to rebuild ridership. Our nation's transportation is the envy of the world. However, with the intentional grounding of planes, we have caused serious financial hardship for these companies. I am pleased

that the final package includes critically important changes which will strengthen this loan guarantee program. First, this legislation now requires that any loans or guarantees will be determined and overseen by a board which would be made up of the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Transportation as well as the Comptroller General. I believe it is our fiduciary duty to ensure that these loans will be made in a reasonable, fair manner and will not jeopardize taxpayer funds. This Board will determine the terms and conditions under which airlines can apply for these loans. In addition, borrowers from these loans will be required to provide collateral where feasible in order to ensure that there will be an incentive for airlines to repay the federal government and taxpayers.

This comprehensive package also includes provisions to help the airline industry with the

immediate problem of cost-prohibitive liability insurance. Since the terrorists attacks, many insurance companies have either dramatically revised premiums or refused to renew such necessary insurance. Without such insurance, the capital markets have indicated that they will not provide liquidity to airlines, which is a capital-intensive industry. This liability section would require the federal government to cover the cost of liability insurance for 180 days after these attacks if carriers cannot obtain it. This section does not preclude any claims which individuals may wish to bring against the airline industry.

Another important provision in this legislation would require the President to spend \$3 billion on airline safety and security in order to restore public confidence in the airline industry. This \$3 billion would come from the \$40 billion that Congress has already provided to the President in order to recover from this devastating attack. This bill could have been more specific on security measures and we should press hard that the Transportation Department provide new rules very soon.

This bill would also establish a voluntary Victims Compensation fund so that victims of terrorist-related attacks of September 11 could seek compensation. This Fund would be administered by a Special Master appointed by the Attorney General. Air carrier liability is capped at the carriers' insurance company limit. Any additional liability would be assumed by the federal government. The federal government will provide compensation above this carrier liability. If victims elect to use this compensation program, they would be required to provide that they were damaged by these attacks. For victims who seek compensation through lawsuits, they would also be required to prove that the airlines were negligent and had caused them damage. However, I believe it is important that families ultimately still have the right to seek higher compensation through a legal case.

I agree with my colleagues that this bill is deficient in providing necessary assistance to those airline employees who have been or will be laid off as a result of the attack on America on September 11, 2001. Such provisions addressing unemployment compensation, job re-training and extended COBRA health benefits could have very easily been added to this bill and I regret that they were not. We have received a commitment from the leadership that a bill addressing these concerns will be brought up next week and it should.

I strongly believe that now is the time to provide confidence in our airport system. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I share the serious misgivings which others have expressed about this legislation. But I intend to support it—for two reasons. First, because I believe it is needed to preserve the viability of an entire industry—an industry which is at risk of collapse if we do not act now.

And second, because it will provide swift compensation to the victims and their families. They deserve everything we can do for them. The bill will give these families a way to obtain compensation without the expense, uncertainty, and pain of protracted litigation.

My chief concern is that the bill fails to provide any relief for the tens of thousands of airline workers who have been displaced as a result of the events of September 11. These workers are the heart and soul of the industry. It cannot function without them.

Were the need for this legislation any less acute, this issue alone would have caused me to oppose the measure until it could be addressed. But under the circumstances, I feel it would be even more unjust to hold these victims hostage. Again.

We have been assured that this matter will be taken up separately. If that promise is not kept we will bring shame on the House.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation to some people who get precious little praise in this institution. I ask permission to insert in the RECORD a letter to the Speaker from Mr. Leo Boyle, President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, pledging that members of his organization will provide free legal services to any family wishing to participate in the compensation fund. This means that claimants will be able to keep 100 percent of the proceeds.

This is just another example of the selflessness with which people from every walk of life have come together in our common cause.

ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA,

September 21, 2001.

Hon. Dennis Hastert, Speaker
and Hon. Richard Gephardt, Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER AND MR. LEADER: The Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) commends the United States Congress and President Bush for their leadership and decision to put families victimized by our national tragedy first and to ease their pain by expediting appropriate relief to them through the "September 11th Compensation Act of 2001."

ATLA agrees with you that extraordinary situations demand extraordinary responses.

At least seven thousand families are hurting more than any of us can imagine. And, because the first priority of every American should be prompt and full justice for the thousands of families who know first-hand the unspeakable horror visited upon the world on September 11, 2001, members of ATLA will provide free legal services to any family wishing to pursue justice through the fund established by this unprecedented, humanitarian legislation.

ATLA believes that 100 percent of the compensation from the fund should go directly to these families.

The officers and Executive Committee of ATLA have volunteered to be the first attorneys to provide legal services free of charge under this program.

God Bless America.

Sincerely,

LEO V. BOYLE, President
On behalf of the 60,000 men and women of ATLA

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I have a number of procedural and substantive concerns regarding the legislation before us.

In short, there has been almost no semblance of fair or deliberate procedure on the legislation. We had no committee markup. We had no committee hearings on the bill. The bill itself was drafted in the dead of night, and has not been available to most members until a few hours before the vote. This is not the way we should legislate on a minor piece of legislation, let alone a major bill that impacts our entire airline industry.

If this issue is so important, why are we voting so late this Friday evening, without time to review or consider these serious measures? Why not take the time to read this legislation carefully? In our desperation to help our fellow

citizens, I fear we are pushing to judgment without recognizing the complexity or importance of these issues.

In terms of substance, I also have grave concerns about the dollar amount we are giving to airline carriers, \$15 billion—\$5 billion in direct aid and \$10 billion in loan guarantees. First, we have no idea how the Members reached this dollar amount.

Second, we all know that the industry has and will face massive layoffs. More than 100,000 will be laid off in the industry, and Northwest announced 10,000 today. Yet the bill does not guarantee that a single employee will be rehired or will not be laid off.

Third, the bill does nothing to rehire the workers from the ancillary impacted industries—the airport workers, the hotel workers and the like. And what about the sky caps who work at substandard wages? The new security requirements mean they are totally out of the jobs. What does this bill do for them? Nothing.

I support the airline industry—but its needs must be balanced against all of our other priorities. Certainly, the air carriers need assistance but do they need it at the cost of medicare and social security? As much as we think this legislation is needed, we must balance it will all of our priorities, and not sacrifice all of our priorities for the sake of one.

Finally, I would like to speak to the liability provisions of the bill. As Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee, I was intimately involved in the crafting of Title IV, and I am happy to report that I can support this aspect of the legislation.

The key provision creates a victim compensation plan, which provides individuals, present during the September 11, 2001 terrorist-related aircraft crashes at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, or site of the aircraft crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, or the passengers and crews of aircrafts involved in terrorist-related aircraft crashes, with due compensation. The legislation would provide compensation to any individual who was physically injured or killed as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001. Specifically, the legislation authorizes a Special Master, appointed by the Attorney General, to review claims, within 120 days, submitted by claimants.

These claims would include notice of the death of the deceased or the harms suffered by the claimant, where the claim is filed on the behalf of a decedent, information of the claimants possible economic and noneconomic loss, and information regarding collateral sources of compensation the claimant has received or could receive. The submission of this claim would allow the claimants and relatives of the deceased to be compensated. By submitting a claim, the claimant waives the right to file or be a party to a civil action for damages as a result of the events on September 11, 2001. If an individual is a party to or has filed a civil action, that action must be withdrawn 90 days after the regulations regarding this Title are promulgated. 90 days after the date of enactment, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Special Master, will promulgate regulations to carry out this compensation plan.

The Special Master may not include amounts for punitive damages in any compensation packages. In addition, the Special Master will not consider negligence or any other theory of liability. Only one claim may be

filed and no claim may be filed two years after the date of enactment. Twenty days after the Special Master makes a determination of the amount of compensation due, the payment is authorized.

Finally, Section 409(b) of the legislation creates a Federal cause of action for damages arising out of the hijacking and subsequent crashes of September 11, 2001. Thus, individuals who elect not to be part of the victim compensation plan under this legislation have recourse of this Federal cause of action to claim damages. Of course, the availability of this new Federal action. This in no way supersedes recourse to the victim compensation fund, if the claimant so elects.

To help in the effort of aiding victims in receiving compensation, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, has volunteered to provide legal services of its members, free of charge, under this program. I am attaching a copy of the letter to my statement. I commend the association for their extraordinary response to this extraordinary situation.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

In this time of crisis, it is essential that our nation maintain a strong economy for the upcoming challenges we will inevitably face. Having a viable, healthy airline industry is an essential component of a strong American economy.

There are, however, certain flaws in this bill. For instance, there is no language providing for the many thousands of airlines employees and their families that have been laid off. In addition, the provisions allowing for CEO compensation are questionable. How these currently unemployed workers receive nothing in this bill while CEO's are specifically allowed continued compensation based on the previous year is unacceptable. That is not my idea of shared sacrifice to get us through this difficult period. I look forward to debating legislation that provides relief to the airline workers in the upcoming weeks ahead.

Further, there are no specific provisions addressing air transportation safety concerns, that would bolster passenger confidence, and revitalize the industry.

My support for this bill is based on my understanding that an agreement between Minority Leader GEPHARDT and Speaker HASTERT has been made, ensuring Congress will address these important issues in the near future. These issues must be addressed and based on the Speaker's word, will be addressed.

Therefore, for the purposes of bipartisan unity, and based on the promise of future action on issues that will help those most hurt by this tragedy, I will support the legislation for the benefit of our Nation.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for this legislation to preserve the viability of our nation's airlines needed as a direct result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

The U.S. commercial airline transportation system is vital to our economy and our national security. The industry is an essential component of tourism, business transportation, and freight and mail delivery that contributes either directly or indirectly to more than 1 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Furthermore, the primary aircraft and engine manufacturers for U.S. air carriers are also major

U.S. defense contractors. Many of these suppliers would probably become insolvent if the airline industry goes bankrupt.

Delta Airlines operates its second largest hub in the Greater Cincinnati area and Continental Airlines has a hub in Cleveland, so the people of Ohio have a major stake in seeing that these airlines continue to survive. Loss of these hubs would be financially devastating to the state of Ohio and our entire region.

Without the assistance provided in this legislation, many airlines are in danger of bankruptcy in the very near future. Nobody wins in this situation. Not the airlines, not their employees, and certainly not the American public. I urge passage of this important legislation. Thank you.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the bipartisan, level-headed leadership that charted our legislative agenda last week would continue to prevail this week. The commercial airline industry is asking American taxpayers for a \$20 billion bailout. I don't want to see the airline industry dissolve, and I don't want to see thousands of hard-working Americans lose their jobs. But the bill before us today provides a bailout for corporations and their highly compensated executive officers that would have faced insolvency despite the current crisis. Furthermore, the bill does very little for the thousands of employees who are about to lose their jobs over this crisis. It is unconscionable to provide a bailout for the airline industry without simultaneously addressing the more pressing needs of U.S. airline workers.

The package does not include health insurance benefits or job retraining assistance for workers who have been laid off as a result of the loss. With this bill, Congress writes a fat check to the airline industry without any protections for airline workers. I am particularly concerned that we have done nothing to ensure that these workers' and their families' health needs will be met during this difficult time. On top of losing their jobs, their income and their livelihood, these hard working Americans are in danger of losing their health benefits and joining the already-massive ranks of the uninsured.

Fifteen years ago we passed a bill that enabled displaced workers to retain their health insurance for a limited time while they look for other work. But there's a catch—employers may charge employees the full premium, plus an additional 2 percent. Laid-off airline workers thus face a Hobson's choice between making ends meet and protecting their families against the risks of high healthcare bills. This legislation does nothing to save them from having to make that awful choice. At a minimum, we should ensure that part of this generous gift to the industry go toward guaranteeing these workers and their families continued health insurance coverage. I wish that my colleagues would develop the kind of compassion for working people that they have for corporations.

The Joint Economic Committee reports that the airline industry has lost \$1 billion since this national crisis began. Yet, Congress plans to give the industry \$5 billion to cover the incremental losses. This is an extra \$4 billion in taxpayer funds that don't need to be repaid and that don't cover losses from last Tuesday's catastrophe. We must also hold airlines accountable for any mismanagement they engaged in prior to these attacks. The bill before us does not ensure U.S. taxpayers that this is

the case. Instead, it allows the General Accounting Office to look at the funding allocation after Congress has already given them \$20 billion. It will take a subsequent act of Congress to recover any overpayments to the airline industry. We must act responsibly now. We must hold the airlines accountable for their own shortcomings. More importantly, however, we must address the needs of airline employees first. These employees provide the foundation of the airline industry and must be taken into consideration before any CEO walks away with more than his fair share.

Vote no on the Air Transportation System Stabilization Act.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Air Transportation System Stabilization Act. While it doesn't include everything I would have liked to have included in the bill, I nonetheless support its passage because I strongly agree that without immediate government financial support, many U.S. airlines will go bankrupt as a result of the September 11th attack.

As someone who represents a district, which is singularly dependent upon tourism to fuel our local economy, the lack of airline service has been devastating to us. As of September 18, 2001, after four days of virtually no check-ins and a severe drop in hotel room occupancy because of last week's terrorist attacks, layoffs and dramatic cutbacks have already hit hotels in the Virgin Islands.

I believe Mr. Speaker that if we assist the airlines and keep the planes flying much of our economy will recover. We cannot afford to do otherwise or we will all suffer even more.

As a member of the steering committee of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, I am particularly aware of the importance of the airline industry to tourism and to our overall economy. Like it or not, air transportation is the engine that drives our nation's economy and it is especially important if our nation is to return to work and to normalcy. The staggering losses on Wall Street we saw this week illustrates the need for us to act and to act now.

We must also help those workers that will be and have been displaced because of last week's attack. In the coming days, this body must pass legislation to provide additional unemployment compensation to laid-off workers and to extend their health insurance coverage. The leadership in both the House and the Senate has pledged to address this issue very soon and I intend to do all I can to hold them to their word.

If we are to get the public flying again, however, we must address the security at our airports.

I call upon the President to call out the National Guard and the Reserve to have them man security at our airports until such time that we can enact legislation to create a federal airport security force to, as much as is possible, guarantee the safety of the flying public.

Is this a perfect bill? No it is not. Should we be assisting laid-off workers and other segments of our economy such as the hotel industry? Yes we most certainly should. But it is necessary that we act on this bill now, if we are to prevent a critical component of our economy from going out of business. Without the airlines flying there will be no guest to fill the hotels on St. Thomas and St. Croix nor cruise ship passengers to buy the gifts and products in our shops. Lets pass this bill and

then also pass legislation to take care of our workers and provide for the safety of all passengers.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 244, the bill is considered read for amendment, and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. DEFAZIO

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I am in its present form, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DEFAZIO moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2926 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Redesignate sections 106 and 107 of the bill as sections 107 and 108, respectively.

After section 106 of the bill, insert the following new section:

SEC. 107. REQUIREMENT TO COVER CERTAIN EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may only provide financial assistance under this title to an air carrier after the air carrier enters into a legally binding agreement with the President that the air carrier agrees to pay, from any financial assistance received under this title, 100 percent of the costs attributable to providing health insurance coverage for each eligible employee of the air carrier during the 18-month period beginning upon the separation of such employee referred to in subsection (b).

(b) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE.—For purposes of this section, the term “eligible employee” means, with respect to an air carrier, an employee of the carrier who, during the 2-year period beginning September 11, 2001, and ending September 11, 2003, becomes involuntarily separated (except for cause) from employment with such air carrier.

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

TITLE VII—SCREENING OF PASSENGERS AND PROPERTY

SEC. 501. SCREENING OF AIR PASSENGERS AND PROPERTY BY FAA.

Section 44901 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of subsection (a) by striking “The” and inserting “Subject to subsection (d), the”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) SCREENING TO BE CONDUCTED BY FAA EMPLOYEES.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this subsection, the screening of passengers and property under subsection (a) shall be carried out by employees of the Federal Aviation Administration. The Administrator may prioritize the undertaking of screening responsibilities under this section with respect to an airport based on the Administrator's assessment of the security threat to the airport.”.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous

consent that the motion to recommit be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard. The Clerk will continue to read.

The Clerk concluded the reading of the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion to recommit.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute and 15 seconds.

This does two simple things. I know we are going to hear, "The Senate didn't include this. We can't do it."

We can do it. We are the United States House of Representatives. We are the House of the people. We can add these simple provisions, these necessary provisions to this bill and the Senate, when they come back to town on Monday, can add them and we still beat the deadline the airlines have said they have of Wednesday.

It does two things: One, it says any airline that takes billions, or hundreds of millions, of dollars under this bill will have to carry the health insurance of employees they lay off for 18 months. I do not think that is too much to ask. That is the first provision.

The second provision says, and the airline CEOs who seem to be getting a lot here tonight agree with this, they said in committee they think screening should be federalized immediately; they just do not want to pay for it. I remove the provision that paid for it, so we would just in this bill federalize the screening, as the airline CEOs, the security experts, the FAA, all the experts say we need to do to get control. Knives were taken through by a BATF agent in Miami this week, this week, were smuggled through. The screening is still not working. We need Federal control.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit does two things: It deals with the health security of those workers who have been laid off, who are traumatized by the collateral damage through the horror we have witnessed. Secondly, it deals with what the American public wants us to deal. They are not flying those planes to Las Vegas, Florida, Minneapolis or anyplace else because they do not believe they are safe. They want this system federalized. They have had enough of the people sleeping at the security machines. They have had enough of people sneaking by them. They have had enough of the Federal agents going by the system all

of the time. They want it federalized, they want law enforcement officials there, and we ought to direct the FAA tonight to do it. Then we will start to see people get back on the airplanes.

We can talk about it. We can have commissions. We can have studies. This Congress ought to direct the FAA to do this, to federalize this air safety system in this country. Then people will fly again.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I have tremendous respect for Speaker HASTERT whom I believe has done a great job showing a unified stand to the world in the last week. But I represent 20 to 30,000 Boeing employees. The one thing I can tell them is you just cannot ask them to eat good intentions. We cannot be sure that we are going to get anything out of this House except this vote tonight.

To my friends on this side of the aisle, let me suggest to you this to think about when you vote for this motion. Sure, we may see some package that addresses workers' rights. But I have not heard anything from my friends across the aisle that say it is not going to be attached to some poison pill. We need to show respect for the people who need help tonight. Support this motion.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Let us face it, folks, this bill without the motion to recommit leaves the whole question of security for the traveling public in a holding pattern. It is time to get it out of the holding pattern and bring it down to Earth. Because when you ask the American people tonight what their concerns are, it is, is it safe? Is it secure? Will somebody else be sneaking by the minimum wage employees that are out at the airport something that is unsafe?

This is the first measure considered on this floor that does something to address that concern. It will not hold this bill up a bit. Let us approve it and answer the basic concern of the American people. Flying is safe, it can be safe, if we are assured we have the security there and it is not somebody who is concerned with our most basic security who could not get a job somewhere else.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time. In fact, we are talking about security for the people who ride on the planes and security as well for the workers who have been working for the airline industry for the past years. It is not much to ask to provide them some health care for 18 months. We have given the industry dollars, or we are giving the industry dollars to continue. It is not a lot to ask for security for

the fliers and riders on the airplanes who are entrusting their lives and their families to the airline industry.

I ask my colleagues to vote with us on this motion to recommit. I ask them to vote for health care insurance for the workers. Vote for security for the fliers. Put it in the hands of the FAA.

□ 2230

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Las Vegas is offering flights for \$1 to come to Las Vegas, and nobody is taking them. Now, even the gamblers know that the planes are not safe; and we ought to do something, as we are doing with this motion to recommit. But, more important than that, imagine what you would be like if you had a \$15,000 or a \$20,000 or \$30,000 job and you suddenly lost your health insurance, and you had a kid who had some problems, or you had cancer, or you had a husband or wife who had some problems, and you had no way in your unemployment insurance to pay for your COBRA.

When I left the State Department to run for Congress, I had to pick up my own under COBRA. Suddenly you have health insurance benefits and they cost \$750 a month. You cannot do that on unemployment.

Vote for the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) has expired.

Does the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) rise in opposition to the motion to recommit?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alaska is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, we have just witnessed a very difficult, trying time in Washington. I know we cannot speak to the gallery, but tonight I hope our colleagues will join with me in recognizing one of our Urban Search and Rescue Teams from New Mexico, who are here observing our proceedings, for the great job they did at the Pentagon this past week.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, this motion to recommit does have consequences. The unanimous consent under which the Senate took up the bill said that they would vote on the House bill if the

House bill was identical to the Senate bill. The Senate has finished its deliberations under the assumption that the House bill will be identical to the Senate bill. This motion to recommit will negate the unanimous consent agreement.

I find it ironic that less than 24 hours after the President of the United States came here in a joint session and said this was a battle of freedom versus fear, that what I just heard from a number of Members on the other side in arguing for this measure was fear.

I also find it ironic that a number of Members are upset that we are prolonging this debate because they want to catch planes to go home, and they are catching those planes because they believe they are safe, and they are going to fly, and they are going to fly back here for the next session, just as other people should. If, in fact, the attempt to pass this motion to recommit is based upon fear, they are wrong; and this motion should be defeated.

Secondly, the gentleman from Washington has made an urgent appeal that there are a number of people who are being laid off from Boeing and they should be taken care of in terms of their health care. This motion to recommit does not apply to a single Boeing employee. It refers very narrowly to any airline that takes a loan.

I have to tell the gentleman from Washington and the gentleman from Oregon that we are working today to make sure that not just the airline employees who have suffered and are being laid off, but every American who is laid off, should have the ability to get assistance on their health insurance needs if they are laid off.

The way you do that is to go back to the bipartisan legislation that we passed in 1996 called HIPA, which provided a window of opportunity for employees who are laid off to attach themselves to their former employer's insurance. It is true that under current law they have to pay the full cost of that, and what we are going to do is mitigate that cost, not just for the airline employees, not just reaching out beyond this narrow motion to recommit, but to the gentleman from Washington's Boeing employees, but, beyond that, anyone else in the secondary industry or other aspects that get laid off. That is the least we should do. It is not in this bill, but we are going to do it.

Just let me say, Mr. Speaker, that this bill is not perfect. There are a number of flaws in it, and we are going to have to deal with amendments as they come down the pike. But putting this motion to recommit in this bill makes it a fatal flaw; one, in terms of the Senate's unanimous consent agreement, but, secondly, why in the world are airline employees who are out of a job of any higher value than any other American who loses their job because of the consequences that we face?

Let us deal with this on a broad-based basis, and not on this motion to recommit.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Aviation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, tonight we have to deal with facts. The provision in this bill of screening of passengers and properties is a smoke screen. This does not address the problem. Turning this responsibility over to somewhere between 18,000 and 27,000 new Federal aviation employees is not the answer, I can assure you.

What happened on September 11, we had turned over the responsibility to the Federal Aviation Administration. They did not have in place a rule or regulation or directive that stopped box-cutting knives or small knives to be on board airplanes.

Do not make a scapegoat out of the screeners. The screening process has been in limbo since we passed, in 1996, legislation directing FAA who they want to turn this over to, to get a rule out. It has taken 6 years, and today we still do not have a rule out for the certification of screeners; and that is who they want to turn this responsibility over to.

The airlines, yes, they want to give up this responsibility, but they testified yesterday that they would continue to pay for that. They do not want the responsibility; but, yes, they will pay for it. So that is a bogus argument.

We are working on legislation. We are trying to craft legislation that will make the right decision, not knee-jerk decision, spending billions, like they did after the TWA 800 crash when they spent billions. And we heard testimony of equipment ordered by the Congress that is sitting in warehouses not doing the job. Do not make the same mistake. Defeat the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the motion to recommit has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of final passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 174, nays 239, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 347]

YEAS—174

Abercrombie	Allen	Baca
Ackerman	Andrews	Baird

Baldacci	Hinchey	Napolitano
Baldwin	Hinojosa	Neal
Barcia	Hoefel	Obey
Barrett	Holt	Olver
Becerra	Honda	Ortiz
Bishop	Hooley	Owens
Blagojevich	Hoyer	Pallone
Blumenauer	Inslee	Pascarella
Bonior	Israel	Pastor
Borski	Jackson (IL)	Peterson (MN)
Boucher	Jackson-Lee	Pomeroy
Boyd	(TX)	Price (NC)
Brady (PA)	Jones (OH)	Rahall
Brown (FL)	Kaptur	Rangel
Brown (OH)	Kennedy (RI)	Reyes
Capps	Kildee	Rivers
Capuano	Kilpatrick	Rodriguez
Cardin	Kind (WI)	Roemer
Clay	Kleczka	Rothman
Clayton	Kucinich	Royal-Allard
Clyburn	LaFalce	Rush
Condit	Lampson	Sanchez
Costello	Langevin	Sanders
Coyne	Lantos	Sandlin
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Sawyer
Cummings	Larson (CT)	Schakowsky
Davis (CA)	Lee	Scott
Davis (FL)	Levin	Serrano
Davis (IL)	Lewis (GA)	Sherman
DeFazio	Lipinski	Slaughter
DeGette	Lofgren	Smith (WA)
Delahunt	Lowey	Snyder
DeLauro	Luther	Solis
Dicks	Maloney (CT)	Spratt
Doggett	Maloney (NY)	Stark
Dooley	Markey	Strickland
Doyle	Mascara	Stupak
Edwards	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Engel	McCarthy (MO)	Thompson (MS)
Eshoo	McCarthy (NY)	Thurman
Etheridge	McCullom	Tierney
Evans	McDermott	Udall (CO)
Farr	McGovern	Udall (NM)
Fattah	McIntyre	Velazquez
Filner	McKinney	Visclosky
Ford	McNulty	Waters
Frank	Meehan	Watson (CA)
Gephardt	Meeks (NY)	Watt (NC)
Gonzalez	Menendez	Waxman
Gordon	Millender-	Weiner
Green (TX)	McDonald	Wexler
Gutierrez	Miller, George	Woolsey
Hall (OH)	Mink	Wu
Harman	Mollohan	Wynn
Hastings (FL)	Moran (VA)	
Hastings (WA)	Nadler	

NAYS—239

Aderholt	Cooksey	Graves
Akin	Cramer	Green (WI)
Armeny	Crane	Greenwood
Bachus	Crenshaw	Grucci
Baker	Cubin	Gutknecht
Ballenger	Culberson	Hall (TX)
Barr	Cunningham	Hansen
Bartlett	Davis, Jo Ann	Hart
Barton	Davis, Tom	Hastings (WA)
Bass	Deal	Hayes
Bentsen	DeLay	Hayworth
Berkley	DeMint	Herger
Berry	Diaz-Balart	Hill
Biggert	Doolittle	Hilleary
Bilirakis	Dreier	Hoekstra
Blunt	Duncan	Horn
Boehlert	Dunn	Hostettler
Boehner	Ehlers	Houghton
Bonilla	Ehrlich	Hulshof
Bono	Emerson	Hunter
Boswell	English	Hyde
Brady (TX)	Everett	Isakson
Brown (SC)	Ferguson	Istook
Bryant	Flake	Jenkins
Burr	Fletcher	John
Burton	Foley	Johnson (CT)
Buyer	Forbes	Johnson (IL)
Callahan	Frelinghuysen	Johnson, E. B.
Calvert	Frost	Johnson, Sam
Camp	Gallegly	Jones (NC)
Cannon	Ganske	Kanjorski
Cantor	Gekas	Keller
Capito	Gibbons	Kelly
Carson (OK)	Gilchrest	Kennedy (MN)
Castle	Gilman	Kerns
Chabot	Goode	King (NY)
Chambliss	Goodlatte	Kingston
Coble	Goss	Kirk
Collins	Graham	Knollenberg
Combest	Granger	Kolbe

LaHood	Pickering	Smith (NJ)	Cantor	Hulshof	Pascrell	Watson (CA)	Weller	Wu
Largent	Pitts	Smith (TX)	Capito	Hunter	Pastor	Watt (NC)	Wexler	Wynn
Latham	Platts	Souder	Capps	Hyde	Payne	Watts (OK)	Whitfield	Young (AK)
LaTourette	Pombo	Stearns	Capuano	Isakson	Pelosi	Weiner	Wicker	Young (FL)
Leach	Portman	Stenholm	Cardin	Israel	Pence	Weldon (FL)	Wilson	
Lewis (CA)	Putnam	Stump	Carson (OK)	Istook	Peterson (PA)	Weldon (PA)	Wolf	
Lewis (KY)	Quinn	Sununu	Castle	Jackson-Lee	Phelps			
LoBiondo	Radanovich	Sweeney	Chabot	(TX)	Pickering	Baldwin	Hastings (FL)	Paul
Lucas (KY)	Ramstad	Tancredo	Chambliss	Jefferson	Pitts	Becerra	Hilliard	Peterson (MN)
Lucas (OK)	Regula	Tanner	Clay	Jenkins	Platts	Blumenauer	Hinchey	Rush
Manzullo	Rehberg	Tauscher	Clement	John	Pombo	Bonior	Holt	Sanders
Matheson	Reynolds	Tauzin	Coble	Johnson (CT)	Price (NC)	Pomeroy	Brown (FL)	Schakowsky
McCrary	Riley	Taylor (MS)	Collins	Johnson (IL)	Putnam	Portman	Jackson (IL)	Scott
McHugh	Rogers (KY)	Taylor (NC)	Combest	Johnson, E. B.	Quinn	Clayton	Jones (OH)	Sensenbrenner
McInnis	Rogers (MI)	Terry	Cooksey	Johnson, Sam	Rehberg	Clyburn	Kilpatrick	Smith (WA)
McKeon	Rohrabacher	Thomas	Cramer	Jones (NC)	Reyes	Condit	Kucinich	Solis
Meek (FL)	Ros-Lehtinen	Thornberry	Crane	Kanjorski	Reynolds	Costello	LaFalce	Stark
Mica	Ross	Thune	Crenshaw	Keller	Riley	Coyne	Lantos	Strickland
Miller (FL)	Roukema	Tiahrt	Crowley	Kelly	Rahall	Davis (IL)	Lewis (CA)	Stupak
Miller, Gary	Royce	Tiberi	Cubin	Kennedy (MN)	Ramstad	DeFazio	Lipinski	Tancredo
Moore	Ryan (WI)	Toomey	Culberson	Kennedy (RI)	Rangel	Doggett	Markey	Thompson (MS)
Moran (KS)	Ryun (KS)	Traficant	Cummings	Kerns	Regula	Filner	McDermott	Tierney
Morella	Sabo	Turner	Cunningham	Kildee	Rehberg	Flake	Miller, George	Visclosky
Murtha	Saxton	Upton	Davis (CA)	Kind (WI)	Reyes	Frank	Obey	Waxman
Myrick	Schiff	Vitter	Davis (FL)	King (NY)	Reynolds	Goode	Otter	Woolsey
Nethercutt	Schrock	Walden	Davis, Jo Ann	Kingston	Riley			
Ney	Sensenbrenner	Walsh	Davis, Tom	Kirk	Rivers			
Northup	Sessions	Wamp	Deal	Kleckzka	Rodriguez			
Norwood	Shadegg	Watkins (OK)	Delahunt	Knollenberg	Roemer			
Nussle	Shaw	Watts (OK)	DeLauro	Colbe	Rogers (KY)			
Oberstar	Shays	Weldon (FL)	DeLay	LaHood	Rogers (MI)			
Osborne	Sherwood	Weldon (PA)	DeMint	Lampson	Rohrabacher			
Ose	Shimkus	Weller	Diaz-Balart	Langevin	Ros-Lehtinen			
Otter	Shows	Whitfield	Dicks	Largent	Ross			
Oxley	Shuster	Wicker	Dooley	Larsen (WA)	Rothman			
Paul	Simmons	Wilson	Doolittle	Larson (CT)	Roukema			
Pence	Simpson	Wolf	Doyle	Latham	Royal-Allard			
Peterson (PA)	Skeen	Young (AK)	Dreier	LaTourette	Royce			
Petri	Skelton	Young (FL)	Duncan	Leach	Ryan (WI)			
Phelps	Smith (MI)		Dunn	Lee	Ryun (KS)			

NOT VOTING—17

Bereuter	Dingell	Issa	Edwards	Edwards	Ehlers	Lewis (GA)	Sanchez	
Berman	Fossella	Linder	Ehrlich	Ehrlich	Emerson	Lewis (KY)	Sandlin	
Carson (IN)	Gillmor	Pryce (OH)	Engel	Engel	LoBiondo	Sawyer		
Conyers	Hefley	Schaffer	English	English	Lofgren	Saxton		
Cox	Hobson	Towns	Eshoo	Eshoo	Lowey	Schiff		
Deutsch	Holden		Etheridge	Etheridge	Foley	Lucas (KY)	Serrano	

□ 2257

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. DELAY, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. NORTHUP changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. VISCOSKY changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 356, nays 54, answered "present" 2, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 348]

YEAS—356

Abercrombie	Barrett	Bono	Hastings (WA)	Napolitano	Tiahrt	Tiberti		
Ackerman	Bartlett	Borski	Hayes	Neal	Tiberti			
Aderholt	Barton	Boswell	Hayworth	Nethercutt	Toomey			
Akin	Bass	Boucher	Herger	Ney	Traficant			
Allen	Bentsen	Boyd	Hill	Northup	Turner			
Andrews	Berkley	Brady (PA)	Hilleary	Norwood	Udall (CO)			
Armey	Berry	Brady (TX)	Hinojosa	Nussle	Udall (NM)			
Baca	Biggert	Brown (SC)	Hoeffel	Oberstar	Upton			
Bachus	Bilirakis	Bryant	Hoekstra	Olver	Velazquez			
Baird	Bishop	Burr	Honda	Ortiz	Vitter			
Baker	Blagojevich	Burton	Hooley	Osborne	Walden			
Baldacci	Blunt	Callahan	Horn	Ose	Walsh			
Ballenger	Boehlert	Calvert	Hostettler	Owens	Wamp			
Barcia	Boehner	Camp	Houghton	Oxley	Waters			
Barr	Bonilla	Cannon	Hoyer	Pallone	Watkins (OK)			

NAYS—54

Baldwin	Hastings (FL)	Paul						
Becerra	Hilliard	Peterson (MN)						
Blumenauer	Hinchey	Rush						
Platts	Holt	Sanders						
Pombo	Bonior	Schakowsky						
Pomeroy	Brown (FL)	Scott						
Price (NC)	Jackson (IL)							
Putnam	Clayton							
Portman	Clyburn							
Rader	Kilpatrick							
Rothman	Kucinich							
Roybal	Costello							
Rahall	Coyne							
Rahall	Lantos							
Rahall	Strickland							
Rahall	Stupak							
Rahall	Tancredo							
Rahall	DeFazio							
Rahall	Lipinski							
Rahall	Markey							
Rahall	Thompson (MS)							
Rahall	ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2							
DeGette	Kaptur							

NOT VOTING—18

Bereuter	Deutsch	Holden						
Berman	Dingell	Issa						
Buyer	Fossella	Linder						
Carson (IN)	Gillmor	Pryce (OH)						
Conyers	Hefley	Schaffer						
Cox	Hobson	Towns						
Deutsch	Holden							

□ 2306

So 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:

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall number 348, the vote we just had, I inserted my card, pushed "yea" and left the Chamber only to learn from a colleague that I had not voted. I believed that I had voted. I came back in, and the record was closed. I would like for the record to indicate that I would have voted "yea" on rollcall number 348. I was present.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2926, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2500. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The message also announced the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2500) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.