

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS, 107TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION—Continued

	Bill	House passed	Senate passed	CNF passed	Time elapsed between H/S
Labor/HHS/Education		10/11/01	11/6/01	25 days.
Legislative		7/31/01	7/31/01	11/1/01
Military Construction		9/21/01	9/26/01	10/17/01	5 days.
Transportation		6/26/01	8/1/01	11/30/01	185 days.
Treasury/Postal		7/25/01	9/19/01	10/31/01	54 days.
VA/HUD		7/30/01	8/2/01	11/8/01	3 days.

¹ (Sent to conf 10/31.)

ANNOUNCING INTRODUCTION OF WORKER OPPORTUNITY AND RELIEF COMPENSATION ACT

(Mr. MOORE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and include extraneous material.)

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, the people in the Congress came together with the President and all the American people as a result of the tragedy on September 11 in New York and Washington. I think we need to show that same spirit again when we come together for displaced workers in this country.

The people in this country who lost their jobs as a result of the faltering economy or the horrible event on September 11 do not need a handout. They do not need a tax cut. They need a helping hand just to get through this personal crisis they have suffered as a result of their loss of jobs until they can find a new job. These people are taxpayers and they will work again when they have the opportunity. But until that time, they need health insurance and they need extended unemployment benefits.

I am concerned that the latest press accounts reflect there may be some problem with the stimulus package. If that is the case, we need at the very least to pass a stand-alone provision for these displaced workers. The President has committed to support such a stand-alone provision.

I have introduced today the Worker Opportunity and Relief Compensation Act. I ask for your support for that legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I include a December 7 letter from the President as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, December 7, 2001.
Hon. DENNIS MOORE,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MOORE: In October, I called on Congress to pass meaningful legislation to help Americans who have been affected by the economic consequences of the terrorist attacks. I called for immediate assistance for workers who have lost their jobs, and for tax provisions that would immediately and significantly stimulate the economy to create more jobs.

I made clear that I was open to good ideas for achieving these goals. And I laid out some general principles that are essential components of a meaningful stimulus package:

Tax rebates for lower-income Americans; Acceleration of marginal tax rate reductions; Enhanced expensing of capital expenditures; and Elimination of the corporate alternative minimum tax.

In the two months since I called on Congress to act, many promising ideas to assist

workers have been put forward by both Democrats and Republicans. In November, Chairman Baucus proposed temporary expansions of health care and unemployment benefits for displaced workers. A bipartisan group of moderate Senators also developed a specific proposal for temporary assistance to workers, including a health insurance tax credit. This week, Chairman Thomas and the Republican leadership of the House announced their support for a specific set of temporary expansions of health care and unemployment benefits for displaced workers. Their proposal includes tax credits and mandatory spending, including block grants for health insurance, and extensions and increases in unemployment benefits that could all be implemented quickly.

I believe that the recent proposal from the House Republicans, coupled with the essential components of an economic stimulus bill that I have outlined above, can form the basis of a legislative package that provides the assistance and new jobs that American workers need now. I urge the Congressional Leadership to bring this legislation expanding unemployment and health benefits to my desk by the end of the year. Additionally, I urge Congress to send me legislation regardless of the success or failure of any other elements of the economic stimulus measures now pending. I continue to strongly believe that the best course is to combine assistance for dislocated workers with meaningful tax cuts that will create jobs for American workers.

My Administration stands ready to work with Democrats and Republicans to turn good ideas into law. We have an extraordinary opportunity to rise to the challenge of extraordinary economic times. I hope that Congress can now act quickly.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATIONAL CALL TO SERVICE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, today the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) and I introduced a bill called the

National Call to Service Act. All of us are very aware of what happened on September 11; and as terrible as that day was and those events were, we have also seen some very positive things that have happened since.

We have seen the resurgence in patriotism. We have seen people who are more cordial and certainly have a greater desire to serve the country. In an attempt to harness this energy, the Call to Service Act would enlist 250,000 people, young people and old people alike, to serve our country. There are three aspects I would like to touch on very briefly here today.

First of all, rural and underserved areas often do not get much mention in a bill of this type. However, the National Call to Service Act does make sure that all areas of the country, particularly rural areas, are recognized. One example of this would be the teacher corps which would provide educational awards to attract and keep teachers in rural areas where it is very difficult to attract and keep teachers in such underserved areas. Another example would be public health programs where again rural areas are often neglected and underserved.

The second area of the National Call to Service Act I would like to call attention to is homeland defense. We have many young people who would like to serve the country, but yet do not want to go into full-time military service. This bill would provide young people with an opportunity to serve 18 months of active duty and then 18 months in a reserve status. In return, they get an educational award at the end of their service.

These young people would be used to guard vulnerable areas such as buildings, bridges, nuclear plants, airports and our borders. Also in the event of a national catastrophe involving bioterrorism, we need a great many people who could provide technical assistance in case of a health emergency.

Thirdly, one of our greatest resources in this country at the present time that I believe is greatly underutilized is our senior citizens. We currently have a great number of children who lack a caring adult in their life. They have no role model. We have 18 million fatherless children in the United States today. Roughly one-half of our young people growing up in this country are growing up without both biological parents. Seniors can certainly fill this gap. They can serve as tutors and mentors for these young people. It has been very well established that a good mentoring program can reduce absenteeism

from school by 50 percent, can reduce drug abuse by 50 percent, can reduce teenage pregnancy, violence and dropout rates significantly.

We think that by utilizing our seniors more effectively, we can serve the country well, and particularly the youth of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD), and he will discuss other aspects of the Call to Service Act.

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for yielding; and I come from a State with a good football team, but I am delighted that the greatest mind, at least in my era of following college sports, would see fit to allow a young Member like me to partner with him to do something that in the long run will benefit young people for many, many years to come.

It is difficult to expand on what the gentleman from Nebraska has already said, but this bill gives my generation an opportunity to do something that we have not been able to do. For so long we have been reduced in a lot of ways, and some of us have chosen, to be spectators to conflict involving challenges to our values and freedoms. We are hopeful with our friends on the other side of the aisle and this bill's companion, S. 1792, which was introduced yesterday by Senators McCAIN and BAYH, we are hopeful that this legislation will attract the support of Democrats and Republicans alike in both Chambers.

Mr. Speaker, the district of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and my district could not be any more different than they are. He is from a rural area in Nebraska; I am from an urban area in Memphis, Tennessee. We are hopeful that regardless of who Americans are, where they live, or how they may identify themselves politically, this bill will attract the support of all of our colleagues, largely because it invites involvement.

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) spoke about the need for this and how critical it is; but just to give more specifics, the purpose of the bill is to basically expand the AmeriCorps program. We propose a fivefold expansion of the traditional program, including new opportunities, as has already been mentioned, for senior service, work study and homeland defense. Specifically, over half of the program's expansion would be used to augment homeland defense in the areas of law enforcement and public health. Additionally, the legislation would provide new options for military enlistment, including expansion of the Montgomery GI bill and the establishment of a new 18-18-18 short-term enlistment option.

These provisions acknowledge that the GI bill has not kept pace with inflation, and a growing shortage exists for entry-level service needs. The short-term option would qualify E1 level recruits for an \$18,000 education

bonus after service of 18 months of active duty and 18 months of reserve duty.

Finally, in an ongoing effort to enhance national service, the bill also sets accountability standards and provides for a new demonstration choice voucher plan, not the voucher plan that my colleagues often think about, but a voucher plan providing grants for young people to apply in areas of public service.

We believe the Call to Service Act presents an immeasurable opportunity to seize on those attributes that define us as Americans and make us proud to serve in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time and both Senators for their support; and I hope that all of our colleagues will see fit to support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENDING MAJORITY LEADER DICK ARMEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few minutes to talk about a real stalwart in this House, and to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) for his hard work and to remind our Members about what his leadership and effectiveness have meant to the success of our majority.

When DICK ARMEY first got to Washington, they said his ideas were out of step; but now America has caught up to Dick Armey. He stood firm against communism, and the Iron Curtain failed. He insisted that the welfare system was broken, and millions of Americans are now earning paychecks and have greater self-worth because they have entered the workplace. He took on a tough job of realigning our military base structure and our Armed Forces are more effective today because their bases better support their new mission.

□ 1800

DICK ARMEY said repeatedly that punishing success was not part of the American dream. And he helped Presidents Reagan and Bush pass pro-growth tax cuts that raised our economic security. Many Americans now understand that a rising economic tide lifts all boats because DICK ARMEY explained it to them.

He reminded us that God is a part of all of our lives and millions of people now question why God has been driven out of our national lives. He fought laws that would have weakened our

Constitution, and America remains the freest and most secure country in the world. He said that red tape and unneeded regulations were stifling growth and shortchanging job creation and now, despite the blow from September 11, our American economy is the healthiest, most vibrant and most productive in the world.

He knew that if Republicans clearly explained our goals as the majority party, we would earn broad support from the American people, and the Contract With America helped build the first Republican majority in four decades.

He arrives and departs Washington as fundamentally the same man that stood next to me to take his oath of office in 1985, but the Washington he will leave behind in 2003 is a very, very different place. He is just an ordinary man with extraordinary ideas that helped change America.

Since Republicans earned our House majority, the Federal Government has grown leaner, more efficient and more responsive to individual citizens. These changes happened because people like DICK ARMEY knew we could expect more from our government and they insisted that we do better. Our Republican majority has accomplished great things together, and our Nation is stronger, freer, and enjoys the highest living standards in the world.

Several broad principles guided our efforts: We believed that freedom is not free. We worked to ensure that our Armed Forces and the agencies protecting America had all the tools necessary to defend our country. We believed that government answers to the people. We worked to make the Federal Government more responsive, more efficient and more effective in performing its work. We believed that families are entitled to keep more of what they earn. We worked to be careful stewards of their tax dollars and insisted that every dollar was spent as wisely and effectively as it could be.

So, Mr. Speaker, let me say to DICK ARMEY, thank you, DICK, very much, for everything you have done to keep America strong and free. You can be truly proud of what the House has achieved under your leadership. There is no doubt that we will continue improving our Nation over the course of your final year. We must treasure and build upon our gift from previous generations. They left us a great country with a big heart, broad shoulders and the courage to chase hundreds of millions of dreams.

Today, the beacon of freedom is burning brightly. We need to stoke the flame, lift the lantern higher and lead freedom-loving people onward to a better and more fulfilling life.

I want to extend DICK ARMEY my deep thanks for everything he has done to make that happen. Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me offer a special thank you to Susan Armey for allowing America to borrow her husband all these years. Our country is a better