

progress in many industries, but this resolution, in addition to recognizing that, encourages the people of the United States to observe next year as the World Year of Physics in conjunction with the United Nations declaration of 2005 as the International World Year of Physics.

As a physicist, I recognize the physics principles that are part of our everyday lives. From mechanics and gravity to optical technologies that enable our CD players, physics is all around us. Through physics we can explore the depths of the universe and black holes, as well as the tiniest parts of the atom. And what has always fascinated me about my study of the atomic nucleus and also my readings in cosmology is that we humans are basically at the center of that scale. We are about as far removed from the size of an atomic nucleus, as we are from the size of the universe. I think it is just absolutely marvelous that we can explore our world in both the smaller and larger directions and have not reached limits at this point.

This resolution encourages the American public to take note of the physics used every day and encourages them to learn more about it. I hope that the American people will observe the World Year of Physics by supporting physics education and research. I encourage physicists and educators to engage the public, especially the children, in physics to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

I commend the American Physical Society for promoting the World Year of Physics. This is a perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate the importance of physics in our lives, promote public understanding of physics, and express our support for physics research and education.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 301, supporting the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 301 which recognizes the goals and ideals of the World Year of Physics. I want to congratulate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for bringing this resolution forward. I also personally want to say how much I enjoy serving with the gentlemen on the Committee on Science and what a rewarding experience it is to have two physicists on the Committee on Science itself. Some of the more esoteric details we often turn to these gentlemen to help us understand.

Physics, of course, is the discipline that underpins all of science in some way, and so much of our technology deals with the most fundamental understanding of the properties of matter. Emerging fields such as nanotechnology, information technology and biotechnology are substantially based on the results of fundamental discoveries in physics.

The General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics unanimously approved the proposition designating 2005 as the World Year of Physics. This will be the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's remarkable series of scientific papers on the photoelectric effect, the size of molecules, Brownian motion, and, of course, the theory of relativity itself.

This makes 2005 an appropriate year to recognize the importance of physics to the advance of civilization and the important role physics plays in social, cultural and economic development in our society and throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this resolution to my colleagues and ask for their support for its passage by the House.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for their work in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

As I mentioned before, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) has been most helpful in the Committee on Science. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and I, as the two physicists in the Congress, have worked together closely on many issues, including this one. So I want to recognize both of them for their work and for their long history in recognizing the importance of not only physics but science in general.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H. Con. Res. 301.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, physics is all around us. Physics has been highly successful in explaining many of the phenomena governing our natural world; it was a basis for the Renaissance and the enlightenment of western civilization. Through physics we can explore the diverse phenomena from the existence of black hole and to the composition of the atom and nucleus. Understanding mechanics, gravity and propulsion allowed us to develop machinery, bridges and rockets while knowledge about electricity and magnetism and matter led to lasers, light bulbs, telescopes, fiber optics, the internet and the huge market of consumer electronics.

Physics research creates technological innovations, which drives the world's economic growth and markets. It has changed human life for the better. It has made major contributions to cutting-edge technologies such as Nanotechnology, Biotechnology and Information Technology. Physics research will help us to solve major new challenges in homeland security and find new energy sources.

In 2005, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Einstein's theory of relativity. This resolution is the perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate the importance of physics to our lives.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 301.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4754, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 701 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 701

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4754) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: section 108; beginning with "Provided" on page 48, line 13, through the colon on line 19; beginning with "and" on page 57, line 24, through page 58, line 2; section 603; beginning with "or (6)" on page 97, line 21, through the semicolon on line 23; and section 607. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph or section, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph or section may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph or section. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 701 is a traditional open rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4754, the Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2005.

The rule does not restrict the normal open amending process in any way, and any amendments that comply with the standing Rules of the House may be offered for consideration.

H. Res. 701 provides 1 hour of debate in the House on the bill, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The resolution waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. H. Res. 701 waives points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of Rule XXI, prohibiting unauthorized appropriations or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, except as specified in the resolution.

In order to facilitate the consideration of amendments on the floor, the rule gives the Chair the ability to provide priority in recognition to those Members who have preprinted amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Finally, H. Res. 701 provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by noting the work of the subcommittee in bringing this legislation forward to the House floor. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) testified together before the Committee on Rules yesterday in bipartisan support of their work product, and they have done a good job in setting the funding priorities of these departments and agencies within the budgetary limitations we currently confront.

Mr. Speaker, debate time on the rule should primarily focus on the fairness of this rule and the wide open amendment process that it outlines for House debate and consideration. However, I do want to note that this appropriations bill maintains the continuing pledge of the House to meet the challenge of international terrorism and to ensure that law enforcement across the Nation has the resources necessary to combat crime in America.

Funding for the Department of Justice, in particular, is indicative of the Committee on Appropriations' obligation to provide the necessary funds to address terrorism, increase our Nation's intelligence capabilities and maintain a focus on law enforcement threats such as illegal drugs, cybercrime and espionage.

Mr. Speaker, this rule provides for an open amendment process for consideration of the Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary appropriations bill. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to commend the chairman and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations, my good friends, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) for their hard work and cooperation in drafting the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill for fiscal year 2005.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) took an absurdly low Presidential budget request, worked with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) to produce a decent allocation and made the best of a bad situation.

For example, I am pleased that the bill restores funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. The Fiscal Year 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report cut the program by 60 percent to just \$39.6 million, and the President's fiscal year 2005 budget requested \$39.2 million for the program. The M-E-P program serves small businesses, and these small businesses would be severely hurt if last year's cuts were extended.

I have firsthand knowledge of the value and importance of the M-E-P program, because the Massachusetts M-E-P is headquartered in my congressional district. Earlier this year, I joined 157 of my colleagues in a letter to the Committee on Appropriations requesting \$106 million for the M-E-P program. The restoration of this funding in this bill will help ensure the sustainability of our domestic small manufacturing industry and its high-quality jobs, and I want to again thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) for working to support this important program.

But even though the entire fiscal year 2005 CJS appropriations bill provides \$240 million above President Bush's overall request, still some serious deficiencies remain.

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For instance, I am deeply concerned about the lack of funding for the Economic Development Administration. EDA is an agency that is chiefly responsible for providing assistance to urban areas for revitalization. Any cuts to this program, especially in these difficult economic times, will seriously jeopardize the revitalization efforts that are currently under way in urban areas, like Attleboro, Massachusetts, in my congressional district, as it continues to move through the legislative process and into conference negotiations.

I am also disappointed that this bill zeroes out funding for the Small Busi-

ness Administration's 7(a) subsidy program and the SBA's Microloan Technical Assistance program. The microloan program helps low-income and unemployed individuals become self-sufficient. There is strong data showing that the household income for low-income recipients increased by 72 percent over 5 years and that more than half of these entrepreneurs moved beyond the poverty line during that time. The microloan program should be maintained, not sacrificed.

Additionally, Congress created the 7(a) program to help small businesses with the high costs associated with starting a new business. It is the largest SBA financing program and is a real lifeline for small businesses. The gentleman from New York (Ranking Member SERRANO) offered an amendment in the Committee on Appropriations that would have restored funding for this important program. Unfortunately, it was defeated by a party-line vote. Later this afternoon, a bipartisan amendment will be offered to restore funding for this important small business program, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort on behalf of our small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am extremely disappointed that this bill reduces funding for the COPS program and for State and local law enforcement grants. Although the fiscal year 2005 CJS appropriations bill provides \$3 billion for these programs, it is \$103 million less than last year's funding level. While this is an improvement, a vast improvement, over the President's request, which zeroed out many of these programs, I think we can still do better.

These grants are vital for the safety and the protection of our cities and towns all across this country. More than 118,000 officers around the country have been funded through this program. Community policing and neighborhood activism make a real difference in the battle for public safety. During these difficult economic times, our State and local budgets are very, very tight. It is critical that the Federal Government act as a partner in the area of public safety.

In my congressional district, for instance, the COPS program recently provided \$3.75 million for 50 new police officers in Worcester, \$225,000 for three new police officers in Attleboro, and \$75,000 for an additional police officer in Seekonk. Homeland security starts with hometown security, and we should be doing more for the COPS program, not less.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a perfect bill, but it is a good one. The funding deficiencies in this bill I hope can be worked out in the conference, and I am confident that the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) and the gentleman from New York (Ranking Member SERRANO), two Members who I have extremely high regard for, will work

with the other body to provide the necessary funding for these important programs.

I want, once again, to commend the committee for its hard work, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Georgia for yielding time to me.

I would just like to take my time here to discuss an amendment which I am afraid I cannot write so it would be germane to the legislation that will be before us for which this rule has been written, but it does pertain to Commerce-Justice-State, and it pertains to something that is happening in this country.

On September 13, the automatic assault weapon ban is going to expire. If I looked at my calendar correctly, that is 17 legislative days from now. This is a ban which has been in effect for a period of 10 years now in this country. It is supported by the President of the United States, that is, the extension of it. It is supported by both Presidential campaigns; and in my judgment, it is very, very important that we bring this, however we possibly can.

We are talking about semiautomatic weapons. In this case, we are talking about the AK-47, Uzis. We are talking about high levels of ammunition, depletion of guns in rapid time, various aspects that have frankly caused every law enforcement entity that I know of in the United States of America to support this ban.

We also know that there has been a reduction in crime with the use of these weapons since the ban has been in effect. In fact, that reduction has been more than 65 percent since the ban went into effect in 1995. So we now have a situation in which we have proven, I believe, that the assault weapon ban is something that actually makes sense as far as the safety of Americans is concerned.

As far as the right to bear arms and the rights that are prevalent, I believe in those. I believe they should be continued, but I do believe that the assault weapon ban needs to be continued as well.

It also shows that most Americans believe this. If one looks at polls, they virtually in every category, or 75 percent or more of Americans believe that we should continue this assault weapon ban.

I have legislation introduced, and that legislation would do that for 10 years. It does not change another word. It just extends it for 10 years because I believe it has worked well.

My concern is are we going to be able to bring it to the floor in a reasonable period of time that will allow a debate, that will allow a vote on this so we can consider it before the House of Rep-

resentatives, a piece of legislation which seems to be so supported by so many individuals living in America today. I would encourage the leadership to consider this.

I do not frankly think it should be an amendment to an appropriation bill, or an amendment to anything. It should have its own set of committee hearings, its own time on the floor of the House of Representatives and the opportunity to vote for it. So I will not introduce an amendment.

I do appreciate a great deal the time yielded to me by the gentleman from Georgia to discuss this. I would encourage the leadership of the House and the Senate to take a good look at this legislation and make absolutely sure that that date does not come and go without us doing anything about it.

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

We have no other requests for speakers, but let me just close by again saying that while I wish the overall funding level for this bill were higher and I wish there was more money available for the COPS programs and for a number of other small business programs, I nonetheless want to again commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the chairman, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO), the ranking member, for really an excellent job. They have worked together in a bipartisan way, and the entire subcommittee deserves credit for the final product that is before us, a bill which I will support.

Let me also conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying something that I rarely get an opportunity to say, but I gladly say it today, and that is, I support this rule.

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

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

I also want to commend the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman WOLF) and the gentleman from New York (Ranking Member SERRANO) for a very fine job done under strained circumstances. I urge my colleagues to support this rule and support the underlying legislation.

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

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 4754) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and other extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 701 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4754.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4754) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) to assume the chair temporarily.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to bring the fiscal year 2005 Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and related agencies appropriations bill before the House. In this bill, we have taken an austere allocation and done our best to arrive at a bill that funds important national priorities, including counterterrorism, State and local crime-fighting and embassy security. The result is a solid bill, and I encourage the Members to support the bill today; and my understanding is that we will finish the bill today.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) for supporting us. I also want to thank the gentleman from New York (Ranking Member SERRANO) for his help in crafting the bill. I very much appreciate the close and cooperative relationship we have established, and I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member of the full committee, for his assistance.

The recommendation we bring before the House today includes \$39.8 billion in discretionary spending. Program increases are focused on most critical areas including counterterrorism, State and local law enforcement, assistance to American manufacturers,