

fair access to U.S. telecommunications. I am concerned that the anti-discrimination policy contained in the bill does not go far enough in ensuring fair access to service and in allowing fair access to group claims and protections in the event that consumers feel that they and their neighbors have been discriminated against.

I also continue to remain concerned that this bill does not contain a stronger network neutrality provision—which would prevent Internet providers from discriminating against Internet content—whether through pricing or speed of delivery. The Internet has been a communication medium that has flourished due to the fact that content has moved freely and equally without interference from network providers. Financial incentives to move some content through the Internet faster than other content would undermine the innovation that has spurred competitive Internet content and services. It is my opinion that the network providers should not be the ones in charge of favoring one application over another—consumers should be in charge of that.

A broad coalition of groups opposes this bill for a variety of reasons, including the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Telecommunications Offices and Advisors, and the National Governors' Association. Other groups share in the concern about the need for strong network neutrality provisions, including a broad coalition representing AARP, the American Library Association, colleges and universities across the country, and many others. I share in their concerns and that is why I rise today to oppose passage of this bill.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006—CONFERENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, from the beginning, the Bush Administration's policy on Iraq has been based on distortions and misjudgments. Prior to the invasion, I fought to prevent this war. I parted with most members of Congress and cast a vote against the resolution authorizing the use of military force in Iraq. The President misled the American people into believing there was a link between Iraq and the terrorist attacks of September 11.

I understand the frustration and heartbreak that have led many Americans to conclude that it is now time for us to remove ourselves from this misguided quagmire and bring our troops home. That is why I have called on the President to change course. America simply cannot continue indefinitely to pay the high costs in both lives and dollars to stay on the same failed course in Iraq.

In December 2005, I voted for H.R. 1815, the FY 2006 Defense Authorization bill, which the President signed into law in January 2006. Section 1227 of that bill, United States Policy on Iraq, states that it is the sense of Congress that "calendar year 2006 should be a period of

significant transition to full Iraq sovereignty, with Iraqi security forces taking the lead for the security of a free and sovereign Iraq, thereby creating the conditions for the phased redeployment of United States forces from Iraq."

It is time for the President to implement this policy. We should not have American troops in the middle of a civil war. President Bush is wrong to say that we should stay the course in Iraq. We need a new direction in Iraq.

The President must present a strategy to Congress to draw down American troops from Iraq and return them home to their families. This strategy must ensure that our National Guard troops are the first to come home, as they were never intended as our primary force for overseas military missions. We need our National Guard troops to be home and available for our local needs.

Military experts have recommended a draw-down of 10,000 troops per month. Although we should not announce a specific timeline for troop withdrawal, it is reasonable to expect that we should have half of our combat troops home by the end of 2006, and all of our combat troops home by the end of 2007. Even with such a drawdown of American troops in Iraq, this supplemental appropriations is necessary in order to insure the proper funding of our military operations during such a draw-down.

Bringing our troops home allows us to achieve certain necessary objectives. First, we will bring our troops home safely to their families and remove them from being in the middle of a civil war. Second, we should send an important message to the Iraqi government to take responsibility for their government—after they ratified a new constitution, held elections, and installed a new government—because American troops cannot and should not remain in Iraq indefinitely. Third, we would remove a powerful propaganda and recruitment tool for Al Qaeda that the United States is an occupation force. Fourth, we would be able to stage our troops outside of Iraq to work with our allies and the international community to fight the war against international terrorism. The repositioning of our troops would help us to regain our focus on the war on terror. Finally, bringing our troops home would help us preserve the strength of our all-volunteer military by improving troop morale and boosting our efforts to improve recruitment of new soldiers.

I have repeatedly called for a change in America's policies so that we can bring our troops home as soon as possible. In December 2004, I visited our troops in Iraq. I thanked them for their service and listened to their stories. It was a moving experience for me. I honor the sacrifices they and their families are making each day.

The men and women of our armed forces are demonstrating tremendous dedication to our nation through their performance in Iraq. These brave soldiers have put their lives in harm's way for our country, and we are forever grateful for their service.

This bill also contains crucial provisions, which I support, that would provide nearly \$20 billion for Hurricane Katrina relief, including funds for housing, community planning and development, flood control, and small business loans. In addition, the House should take up H.R. 4197, a comprehensive Hurricane Katrina recovery bill introduced by the Congressional Black Caucus.

I am encouraged that the bill provides nearly \$500 million to address the ongoing genocide in southern Sudan and Darfur. These funds are critical to meeting the immediate needs of victims of the Darfur crisis, such as shelter, health care, and access to water and sanitation. Sudanese government-backed Arab militias have slaughtered hundreds of thousands of villagers, and they have burned entire villages. Up to two million refugees have fled this genocide to neighboring countries, but the small, poorly-equipped, and underfunded African Union (AU) force cannot offer them adequate protection. This bill provides needed funding to help transition the AU peace-keeping operation to a United Nations mission. It is also encouraging that in April the House passed H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, which I co-sponsored, and which I urge the Senate to take up without delay.

Mr. Speaker, this emergency supplemental is a necessary measure that will provide essential support for our troops in their arduous mission in Iraq, vital funding for the global war on terror, and desperately needed assistance for our own Gulf region and the many Americans who have been uprooted by Hurricane Katrina.

MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2006 (S. 2803)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, the recent tragedies of the Sago and Aracoma Alma mine disasters have been a difficult lesson in the efforts to improve mine safety regulations effectively and permanently. I rise today in strong support of long overdue coal miner safety legislation. Unfortunately, the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006, S. 2803, while an improvement over current law, neglects to address three simple, much-needed reforms that could save lives.

I cannot support the bill before us today because I support stronger improvements to miner safety—which have been supported by miners, miner families, and industry. This legislation would be made stronger with three additional requirements: Provision of no less than a 2-day supply of breathable air for trapped miners; Assurance that within 15 months, communications and tracking devices will be available to find and communicate with trapped miners; regular inspections of miners' individual oxygen packs, known as self-contained self-rescuers, by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Congress can do better for working men and women by adopting these three provisions. In fact, since this bill passed the Senate, reports have indicated that these reforms could be easily implemented at very little cost. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership would not allow these simple and agreeable provisions to be offered as amendments to the bill.

The Bush administration has failed to make miner safety a priority and instead has proposed budget cuts and deregulation. Despite

six U.S. mine tragedies and more than 30 miners' deaths this year already, the President did not request funding for additional safety enforcement personnel in his Fiscal Year 2007 budget. This proposal is after years of budget cuts to the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration, MSHA, resulting in a decline of 170 full-time employees at MSHA and a decline of 217 employees in coal enforcement. In addition, President Bush has appointed former mining executives to the top political positions at the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

I will continue to support efforts to implement stronger miner safety laws. I oppose this bill and urge my colleagues in joining with me to fight for stronger regulations that will save lives and to fight for our working men and women.

A TRIBUTE TO WALTER T.
MOSLEY III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Walter T. Mosley III, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments. Walter T. Mosley III serves as Chief of Staff and Counsel to New York State Assemblyman William F. Boyland, Jr. Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Mosley served as Legal Counsel to the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly, Hon. Clarence Norman, Jr. from 2001 to 2005. In this capacity, he served as advisor to the Deputy Speaker on legislative and public policy issues related to statewide and borough-wide initiatives.

Mr. Mosley's current responsibilities include proposing and recommending legislative items and statewide sponsorship requests, serving as the assemblyman's consultant to social programs and economic development projects within central Brooklyn. He also serves as his re-election consultant, and manager of his staff, both in Brooklyn and Albany, New York.

Prior to accepting his current position with the New York State Assembly, Mr. Mosley served as a political consultant on several local and countywide campaigns, and in 2004, was assigned by the Democratic National Committee to work on behalf of Senator JOHN KERRY's presidential campaign. From 1998 to 2001, Mr. Mosley was a Legislative and Oversight Analyst and Investigator for the New York City Council's Office of Oversight and Investigations. In that capacity, Mr. Mosley issued a number of citywide reports and studies on several public policy issues for the City Council.

Mr. Mosley is involved with many community activities, which include his personal work with literacy programs, youth and civic organizations that have made him keenly aware of the importance of helping others while providing opportunities for individuals to reach their full potential. Presently, Mr. Mosley serves as Chairman and Volunteer Mentor to "Future Giant," a non-profit Harlem/South Bronx community based organization formed to support and mentor adolescents and young

adults; Board Member, Bedford YMCA; Chairman of the Economic Development & Job Creation Committee for Community Board 2; Board Member, CUSH Campus Schools in Brooklyn, NY; Mentor, Penn State Fast Start Program for incoming freshmen from New York City; and an active member of the Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP.

Recently, Mr. Mosley co-founded and is a managing partner for the consulting firm, Advent Consulting Group, LLC where he helps to advise and organize not-for-profit groups in New York City.

In his spare time, Mr. Mosley serves as a volunteer youth coach with the Brooklyn Skyhawks Football Club and as a participating coach with the National Football League's Junior Players Development Program. Mr. Mosley is a member of the oldest African-American fraternal organization in America—Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

In addition to his volunteer work, Mr. Mosley actively fundraises for the internationally acclaimed HIV/AIDS advocacy group, The "Balm in Gilead," where he participates yearly in their annual marathon. Mr. Mosley sincerely hopes the level of his commitment not only helps to generate funding and awareness in the fight against HIV/AIDS, but will encourage other young adults to join in his efforts to raise money and awareness towards the fight against this horrible disease. This year, Mr. Mosley intends to run in the New York City Marathon to raise funds for the Bedford YMCA. As a result of his tireless work and efforts, Mr. Mosley is the recipient of numerous community awards and recognitions.

CONCERNING THE THREE
SUICIDES AT GUANTANAMO BAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker there has been no organization, no strategy and no plan for the handling of the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. They have been in prison for years and years, with no hope of being formally charged. They are given none of the rights afforded prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention nor are they given the rights of criminal suspects in the U.S. justice system. In fact, out of the roughly 500 detainees at Guantanamo Bay, only four have been charged with war crimes. And, since these detainees are classified as enemy combatants, they can be held until the Iraq war is over. Since no one can accurately determine when the war will end, the prisoners could be detained for an indefinite amount of time.

Mr. Speaker, I visited Guantanamo Bay in 2003. I saw firsthand the conditions of the prisoners and the facilities in which they were being held. These prisoners were being held in small cells for over a year without any hope of having their day in court—or even being formally charged with a war crime. With this desperate atmosphere, it is not surprising that there have been at least 41 unsuccessful suicide attempts by 25 detainees since the United States began taking prisoners to the base in January 2002.

I find it inexcusable that my own country has not demonstrated more concern for the

basic Constitutional rights of these prisoners. If there is legitimate evidence of crime, these prisoners deserve a speedy trial.

Mr. Speaker, we must be a positive example to the world. We must prove to all those who would challenge our way of life that a worthy Democracy that upholds the rule of law even in the time of conflict, can exist. If we are to convince the world that terrorism is wrong and freedom is right and just, then as the most powerful voice of liberty, the United States of America must start acting as a leader and as an example.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency I was not in attendance in the House between June 12th and June 14th, and during that time I missed a number of roll call votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 250 through 262, 270, 273, 283, 286 and 287, and I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 263 through 269, 271, 272, 274 through 282, 284 and 285.

I ask unanimous consent that this be entered into the RECORD in the appropriate place.

TRIBUTE TO MARK ABBOTT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mark Abbott, Dean of the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University, on his nomination to the National Science Board. Oregon has long benefited from Dean Abbott's impressive scientific knowledge and I am delighted that he will now have the opportunity to share this insight with the rest of the country.

We in Congress have already benefited from Dean Abbott's scientific expertise. In July, 2002, he testified before the House Committee on Science's Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards about satellite data management at NOAA from the perspective of the Earth science community.

During his time at Oregon State, Dean Abbott's research has been focused on the interaction of biological and physical processes in the upper ocean. He has been a pioneer in the use of satellite ocean color data to study coupled physical/biological processes and he has also advised the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation on ocean information infrastructure. Dean Abbott was also recently appointed a co-chair of the State of Oregon's Climate Change Integration Group. This panel, appointed by Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, has been charged with tracking the State's progress on greenhouse gas emission reductions and looking at future economic and societal implications of climate change.