

As Chairman of the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, I am pleased that the bill includes \$17.6 billion for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) funding. NASA's work in human space exploration, space and earth science, and aeronautics plays an important role in advancing our knowledge, expanding our economy and inspiring Americans both young and old. I believe NASA performs important research which allows us to better understand our climate, our planet and the universe beyond.

I am pleased that the Committee funds NASA's Science Mission Directorate at \$5.7 billion, an increase of \$180 million over the President's request. This increase will help reverse the recent decline in funding for science at NASA. NASA research helps us better understand the universe at large, but it also greatly contributes to our knowledge of our own planet.

I am especially encouraged that the Committee recognized the recommendations of the National Research Council's recent Decadal Survey on Earth Science by targeting \$60 million towards the highest priority missions recommended in that survey, as well as ensuring that work on critical climate instruments that were de-manifested from the National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) can continue. The Committee specifically noted the importance of the Total Solar Irradiance Sensor (TSIS), which is being built by the University of Colorado's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics in my district, and instructs NASA to continue to support this program. TSIS will ensure that we continue to receive important information on the sun and how it interacts with our climate—a data stream that has been continuous since 1979 and has contributed to our understanding of climate change.

I am also pleased that the Committee increases NASA's aeronautics budget by \$146 million over the President's request. Progress in aeronautics is crucial to the health of the Nation's air transportation industry, which in turn is critical both to the continued strength of our domestic economy and to our international competitiveness. The additional funding will help NASA contribute meaningfully to the development of the Nation's Next Generation Air Transportation System, which will enhance the capability of our air transportation system to handle the enormous increases in air travel projected over the next 20 years. Moreover, this bill recognizes that aeronautics R&D at NASA can help develop more environmentally compatible commercial aircraft, with significantly lower noise, emissions, and energy consumption compared to aircraft in commercial service today, and the bill provides funding to support that R&D.

This bill also provides significant funding for the President's exploration initiative at NASA by providing the President's full request of \$3.9 billion. I support the President's Vision for Space Exploration and believe human space exploration is a worthwhile undertaking. The funding in this bill will keep the Crew Exploration Vehicle on track in FY 2008. However, I am concerned that the administration's current plan for the shuttle replacement system, the crew exploration vehicle (CEV), is not scheduled to be finished until 2015. This will leave a potential 4 to 5 year gap when the United States will be dependent on other

countries to travel to and from the International Space Station. It is within the administration's power to send over budget requests in FY 2009 and FY 2010 to address this gap within the context of a balanced overall NASA program, and I hope that the administration will do so.

I am pleased that the Committee increases NASA's education programs to \$217 million, up \$64 million over the President's request. This increase will provide additional funds for the Space Grant program, which helps undergraduate students participate in cutting-edge research, and in the process trains and inspires the next generation of scientists. The Committee also provides \$2 million for the NASA Aeronautics Scholarships program, which encourages more students to pursue graduate degrees in aeronautics. I helped create this program in the 2005 NASA Reauthorization Act and am pleased that the Committee has recognized its importance.

The Committee provides \$6.7 billion for space operations, which is a \$100 million cut relative to the President's request. I understand that the Committee had difficult decisions to make, but I am concerned about the impact that these cuts will have on the International Space Station's reserves posture, as well as on the upcoming Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) procurement. I hope that it will be possible to address these problems when the House and Senate move to conference on this legislation.

Funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), which has one of its two laboratories based in my district in Colorado, is also an improvement on past years. I am pleased that the Committee met the President's request of \$500 million for research, which will help fund components of the Innovation Agenda, such as nanotechnology and materials science.

I also support the bill's inclusion of \$109 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and \$93 million for the Advanced Technology Program (ATP). MEP serves small- and medium-sized manufacturing companies nationally to enhance their ability to compete globally. Every federal dollar appropriated for MEP leverages \$2 in state and private-sector funding, which means that a small federal investment of \$109 million translates into more millions of dollars in benefits for the economy in terms of jobs created and retained, investment, and sales. ATP helps businesses develop high-risk, high-reward research into commercial applications that often have wider social benefits.

And, because of its importance for my own Congressional District, I am glad to note that the NIST budget includes \$129 million for construction and specifically \$28 million for the extension of building 1 at the Boulder facilities. NIST's Boulder laboratories were built in the 1950s and are in critical need of modernization to ensure the continuation of world-class research.

After several years of disappointing funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), I am pleased that this bill will set NOAA back on the right track. The Committee funds NOAA at \$3.950 billion, an increase over both the President's budget and the fiscal year 2007 spend plan. There is certainly still room for improvement, but I hope that this is the first step forward for increasing NOAA funding.

The office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), which funds the important work being conducted in the NOAA labs in my district, is funded at \$410 million in the bill—an increase of \$52 million over the President's request and \$46 million over the FY 2007 spend plan. This funding will help NOAA continue to perform vital research in climate change and other areas.

In particular, I am encouraged that the Space Environment Center is being funded at the President's request of \$6.2 million. While this funding is still below the \$7.2 million that the SEC received in FY 2002, it is an increase over what Congress appropriated in FY 2006 and indicates that the Committee realizes the important work that the SEC does on space weather monitoring and prediction.

The bill also includes important funding for law enforcement, at both the federal and state level.

It rejects the President's proposal to slash the COPS program by 94 percent and instead provides \$725 million, \$183 million above 2007. This includes funding for such items as: \$100 million for the COPS hiring program; \$175 million for expanding DNA analysis and forensic crime lab capacity; and \$85 million for beefing up enforcement in "meth hot spots," places where meth is a serious problem.

Similarly, the bill includes \$600 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants to assist local law enforcement agencies and which the President's budget proposed to terminate. It also includes continued funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance program (SCAAP), which assists state and local governments with the costs of jailing undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes not related to their immigration status—another vital program the President's budget proposed for elimination.

The bill also rejects proposed cuts in the Violence Against Women programs and includes vital support for competitive youth mentoring grants, delinquency prevention grants, and Justice Accountability Block Grants.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill that provides funding for many important purposes. It is good for Colorado and good for the country, and it deserves approval.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 980 PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE COOPERATION ACT OF 2007

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, the first responders of our Nation deserve our great respect and admiration for their commitment to keep the public safe from harm. They play a vital role in securing our communities against our time's many threats to peace. I fully support our public-safety community in its increasingly complex and difficult task.

The measure before the House, H.R. 980, would allow the Federal Government to assert itself on an issue that has typically been left to State legislatures. H.R. 980 would establish a national system of collective bargaining for most of the Nation's public safety officers, including but not limited to, law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other emergency service

personnel (such as EMTs and other first responders) employed by State and local Governments.

This legislation does not pass good policy muster for a variety of reasons. Foremost among those reasons is its utter disregard for the 10th Amendment rights of States. My home State of North Carolina has exercised its State rights and chosen to prohibit collective bargaining rights. It has been a Right-to-Work State since 1947. Under the provisions of this bill, North Carolina could no longer exercise its constitutional rights, but would be forced to comply with unprecedented Federal mandates.

The legislation also does not include protection for secret ballot elections. Public-safety workers would be at the whims of strong-arming union-boss tactics. But despite the threat to the interests of States and their public safety workers and the fact that it supersedes State and local authority, this bill was pushed through the House under a suspension rule.

Fortunately, there is a decent chance this law will be ruled unconstitutional because of the Federal Government's overstepping its bounds and imposing a Federal mandate on States. This bill would preempt State authority to regulate the collective bargaining rights of its State and local public safety employees. While the bill asserts that States would not be preempted, this assertion only applies to States with comparable or greater rights than those required under this legislation. In other words, if a State doesn't match or exceed what the Federal Government wants, it is preempted.

H.R. 980 infringes on State rights and it expands the Federal Government's scope and role by creating an onerous national standard for public safety employee labor laws. But there is no real case for enacting this bill—currently 48 States have labor laws governing these workers and 29 of those States would already meet the proposed standard. The dark side of these 29 States that meet the standard is the 21 States that would have to create new labor laws or face Federal Government intervention of imposed regulations.

Moving away from how this affects States, H.R. 980 does not provide protections for individual public-safety employees who do not want to unionize—especially in States that do not currently allow such unionization. States often have good reason to prohibit such unionization of public-sector employees. Collective bargaining and the process that surrounds it can cause strife in the workplace that might otherwise undermine Americans' public safety. Although current law already prohibits strikes in the public sector, such prohibition has at times been violated during the collective bargaining process.

North Carolina is one of the States that has laws barring monopoly collective bargaining for public safety employees. It would be significantly affected by this bill's mandates. Since North Carolina's laws do not meet these new burdensome standards, the State is faced with two choices: enact or amend its laws that conform to the Federal standard; or have Federal labor law, administered by the Federal Government, govern the rights of its State and local firefighters and public safety officers.

With such an imposition, Democrats are empowering the Federal Government to supersede State's rights and set a minimum standard that must be observed, in an area where

48 States already have some form of allowance present. We do not need to expand the Federal role in this issue and it is unclear whether or not this would be constitutional under the Tenth Amendment.

For decades, States have exercised their constitutional right to make public-sector employment laws that each State found reasonable. With the passage of H.R. 980, the States would be forced to comply with Federal standards that might not reflect the values of the State and its citizens. This is just one more example of how the majority insists on inserting the Federal Government into more and more aspects of our lives. I believe a no vote on this bill is a protest against continued intrusion into issues best left to States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, on July 23, 2007, I missed rollcall votes 687–690. Regrettably, my flight from California to Washington, DC was cancelled and I had to take a flight that got me here after votes. Had I been here, I would have voted “yes” on votes 687, 688, and 689, and “no” on vote 690.

Rollcall vote 687: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 404, Federal Customer Service Enhancement Act;

Rollcall vote 688: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 553, Mourning the passing of Lady Bird Johnson;

Rollcall vote 689: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, H. Res. 519, Honoring the life and accomplishments of Tom Lea on the 100th anniversary of his birth;

Rollcall vote 690: On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 558, Providing for consideration of H.R. 3074, the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies, FY 2008.

THREATS TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY: DEPORTATION POLICIES THAT FORCE FAMILIES APART

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, conversations on this very important topic are necessary to recognize the consequences of criminally convicted U.S. residents deported to Latin America and the Caribbean. I commend Chairman ENGEL for taking an interest and exploring the challenges that our deportation policies have imposed on the region. I look forward to working with you and the Committee, as you examine this issue.

Recently, the Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) visited the U.S. Congress. They spoke with several members and met with committees regarding the issues affecting the region. One major concern for them is the impact of thousands of criminally convicted deportees from the United States to the nations

of the Caribbean. At times these individuals are repatriated without notice to the receiving country, regardless of the impact their arrival will have upon the societies to which they are being sent. The adverse impact of this practice is not only felt in the Caribbean, but in our communities as well, due to the financial burden it places on the families left behind without means of support.

The CARICOM members are not asking for a change in the policy, but adjustment to how it is executed. The CARICOM members understand that residence permits are a privilege granted to non-citizens contingent on their good behavior. Clearly, the commission of a crime does not constitute good behavior. However, mothers and fathers are being separated from their families without making the appropriate provisions for the welfare of children who remain in our country. Those repatriated sometimes have no support units in their country of citizenship and are forced into a life of poverty, as well as stigmatized for being deported. In addition, the families they leave behind are left with huge legal bills or in situations where they have to fend off poverty. It is my contention that poverty is a threat to the national security of the United States.

The Human Rights Watch in their July 2007 Report entitled “Forced Apart Families Separated and Immigrants Harmed by United States Deportation Policy,” stated that since 1996 approximately 1.6 million families have been torn apart by the U.S. deportation policies. The top ten countries of origin for non-citizens removed on criminal grounds represent Latin America and the Caribbean. Mexico being the most affected of these nations; with over 500,000 Mexican nationals being repatriated between FY 1997 and FY 2005. Haiti, the poorest nation in our hemisphere, is among the top ten with over 3,000 individuals being returned to that nation. Many parents explained that their children, the vast majority of whom had been left in the deporting country, faced extreme hardships, both emotionally and financially. These are American children that are forced into situations where they have to abandon school to support their families. These are American children sometimes forced to live in single-parent households or households without a parent. Ushered into a life of poverty. Poverty not only pricks our conscience, but it shortchanges our future as well. Society ultimately pays for poverty through a less productive workforce; more crime, higher use of welfare, greater drug addiction and other social ills.

We need to support initiatives to integrate repatriated individuals into their new society. Often they have spent their entire life in the United States and lack a support system in the receiving country. Recommendations that need to be explored include funding to expand or establish resettlement programs. These programs should be geared to setting up transition centers where individuals are afforded basic resources such as food, clothing and shelter. Job training programs and social service type institutions need to be reinforced in the region, since upon deportation, many of them drift into homelessness, and with no job prospects, they end up doing crime as a means of survival.

There needs to be the creation of a system to track and monitor high-risk criminal deportees. In some situations criminals are repatriated and no formal processing takes place in