

were disappointed that more of our colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle didn't vote to override the veto. However, we will give them the opportunity soon and often to change that vote, stand with America's children, and reject the President's veto.

DEMAND THAT HOUSE APPOINT CONFEREES ON VA APPROPRIATIONS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, more than 4 months ago the House passed an appropriations bill designed to provide benefits for our soldiers and veterans. H.R. 2642 passed the House by an overwhelming 409-2 vote. A similar bill went through the Senate 92-1. But since then, nothing has happened.

It has been 131 days since we passed the legislation, and still nothing has been sent to the President's desk for him to sign. The Senate appointed conferees to hammer out a compromise between the two bills 6 weeks ago. But the House leadership? Nothing has been done.

The question is why. Why would the new majority play politics with the health care of our brave men and women in uniform? There is no reason, a month into this fiscal year, that the bill is unresolved.

I ask all my colleagues, all 408 of them who voted for this bill, to demand that the House appoint conferees. Stop doing nothing. Do what needs to be done to meet the needs of our men and women in uniform.

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED NATIONS ON UNITED NATIONS DAY

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a happy note. It is a happy birthday today, the birthday of the United Nations. It was 62 years ago when 50 countries gathered in the great City of San Francisco, California, to make the cause of international peace and security a global mantra and launched the United Nations. It was a good idea then, and 62 years later, it is still a good idea.

In a world that is tense with war, the U.N. fights for peace every day. Where hunger plagues the poor, the U.N. provides food aid to more than 80 million people every day, every year. In 166 nations that suffer devastating poverty, the U.N. offers proactive programs to buttress economic development. And, most important of all, the U.N. deploys 100,000 peacekeepers around the world on missions vital to stabilization of regions under threat of conflict.

The answer to global distress is found in solving the problems that are the root causes of poverty, the lack of health care, shelter and legislation.

The U.N. is the only organization worldwide dedicated to this grand mission.

I congratulate the United Nations for its hard work, and ask Members of this body to support and invigorate America's commitment to this vital international organization.

SUPPORT THE SCHIP REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of reauthorizing the Children's Health Insurance Program. President Bush, as you know, has callously denied health care for 10 million poor children due to his misplaced priorities.

More than 800,000 children in my home State of California depend on the Healthy Families Program. More than half of those children happen to be Hispanic. The health of millions of children will be endangered and millions more will continue to suffer if we do not reauthorize this program.

We in Congress have an incredible opportunity to do what is right for our children, especially those children who are disadvantaged and come from low-income families. All children, regardless of race, income or geography deserve a healthy start in life.

It is time to end this false allegation that undocumented immigrants are receiving this coverage. Ten million children are counting on us to do the right thing. We have a moral obligation to protect the health and well-being of all of our children.

IRAQI CONTRACTS WITH IRAN AND CHINA CONCERN UNITED STATES

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a very disturbing report has come out that Iraq has agreed to award \$1.1 billion in contracts to Iranian and Chinese companies to build a pair of enormous power plants. That is what the Iraqi Minister of Electricity said on Tuesday. Word of the project prompted serious concerns among American military officials who fear that Iranian commercial investments can mask military activities at a time of our heightened tension with Iran.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when young Americans are dying in Iraq and when the U.S. is spending billions of dollars in Iraq, this makes absolutely no sense at all. The Iraqi Electricity Minister said that the Iranian project would be built in Sadr City, a Shiite enclave in Baghdad that is controlled by followers of the anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr. He added that Iran had also agreed to provide cheap electricity from its own grid to southern Iraq and to build a large power plant, essentially free of charge, in an area between two Shiite holy cities.

The expansion of ties between Iraq and Iran comes as the U.S. and Iran clash on nuclear issues and about what American officials had repeatedly said was Iranian support for armed groups. This is an outrage and should not stand.

THE PRESIDENT'S MISPLACED PRIORITIES: WHAT WE COULD DO HERE WITH MONEY GOING TO IRAQ

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, President Bush proposed that our Nation spend another \$196 billion in Iraq next year. Today we will spend \$330 million fighting the war in Iraq. Imagine that. Every day, \$330 million in taxpayer dollars is going to Iraq.

Just imagine for one moment what we could do here in the United States with that money instead. We could hire an additional 1,700 Border Patrol agents to work our borders for an entire year. We could provide health care to 50,000 more veterans so they receive the essential health care treatment that they need. We could enroll 46,000 more children in Head Start for 1 year, so they can receive early childhood education. If we took 1 day of funding from the Iraq war, we could help nearly 800,000 families keep their heat on this winter through the LIHEAP program. We could provide 270,000 more children health care coverage through the CHIP program.

Mr. Speaker, while President Bush has no problem sending billions of dollars to Iraq, he is neglecting essential needs here in America. The Democratic majority in this Congress refuses to follow that lead.

BUSH NEGLECTS DOMESTIC PRIORITIES TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON WAR IN IRAQ

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush vetoed a bill earlier this month that would provide health care coverage to 10 million American children, he said the spending was excessive. The bipartisan bill invested \$35 billion more in children's health over a 5-year period. Three weeks later, President Bush announces that he needs \$196 billion to fight the war in Iraq over the next year. If \$35 billion for children's health is excessive, what exactly is his request for the war?

I know the President believes that Congress is his personal ATM machine, but article I of the Constitution says different, and we will not rubber-stamp his funding request for the war.

As we have in the past, Democrats will continue to exert pressure on the administration to change course in Iraq so that we can begin to bring the

troops home. There is no military solution to the war; yet the Bush administration refuses to put pressure on the Iraqi Government to enact the political reforms that are necessary to bring about stability in the country.

While we push the administration to change course in Iraq, we also remain firm in our conviction to pass the children's health care bill that covers 10 million American children.

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S HERITAGE ACT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 765, I call up the bill (H.R. 1483) to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1483

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSIONS AND TECHNICAL CHANGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended—

(1) in each of sections 107, 208, 310, 408, 507, 607, 707, 811, and 910, by striking “September 30, 2012” and inserting “September 30, 2027”; and

(2) in each of sections 108(a), 209(a), 311(a), 409(a), 508(a), 608(a), 708(a), 812(a), and 909(c), by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”.

(b) OHIO & ERIE NATIONAL HERITAGE CANALWAY.—Title VIII of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-333; 110 Stat. 4267, 114 Stat. 31) is amended—

(1) by striking “Canal National Heritage Corridor” each place it appears and inserting “National Heritage Canalway”;

(2) in section 803—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “808” and inserting “806”; and

(D) in paragraph (6) (as redesignated by subparagraph (B)), by striking “807(a)” and inserting “805(a)”;

(3) in the second sentence of section 804(b)(1), by striking “808” and inserting “806”;

(4) by striking sections 805 and 806;

(5) by redesignating sections 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, and 812 as sections 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, and 810, respectively;

(6) in section 805(c)(2) (as redesignated by paragraph (5)), by striking “808” and inserting “806”;

(7) in section 806 (as redesignated by paragraph (5))—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Committee” and inserting “Secretary”;

(B) in subsection (a)(3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “from the Committee”; and

(ii) in the first sentence of subparagraph (B), by striking “Committee” and inserting “management entity”;

(C) in subsection (e), by striking “807(d)(1)” and inserting “805(d)(1)”;

(D) in subsection (f), by striking “807(d)(1)” and inserting “805(d)(1)”;

(8) in section 808 (as redesignated by paragraph (5))—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking “Committee or”; and

(B) in subsection (c) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “Committee” and inserting “management entity”.

(c) NATIONAL COAL HERITAGE AREA AMENDMENTS.—Title I of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 is amended as follows:

(1) In section 103(b)—

(A) by striking “comprised of the counties” and inserting “shall be comprised of the following:

“(1) The counties”; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as so designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) the following new paragraphs:

“(2) Lincoln County, West Virginia.

“(3) Paint Creek and Cabin Creek within Kanawha County, West Virginia.”.

(2) In section 104, by striking “Governor” and all that follows through “organizations” and inserting “National Coal Heritage Area Authority, a public corporation and government instrumentality established by the State of West Virginia, pursuant to which the Secretary shall assist the National Coal Heritage Area Authority”.

(3) In section 105—

(A) by striking “paragraphs (2) and (5) of”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “Resources within Lincoln County, West Virginia, and Paint Creek and Cabin Creek within Kanawha County, West Virginia, shall also be eligible for assistance as determined by the National Coal Heritage Area Authority.”.

(4) In section 106—

(A) by striking “Governor” and all that follows through “and Parks” and inserting “National Coal Heritage Area Authority”; and

(B) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “State of West Virginia” and all that follows through “entities” and inserting “National Coal Heritage Area Authority”.

(d) CONTINUATION OF AGREEMENT.—The contractual agreement entered into by the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of West Virginia prior to the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 104 of title I of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 shall be deemed as continuing in effect except that such agreement shall be between the Secretary and the National Coal Heritage Area Authority.

(e) SOUTH CAROLINA HERITAGE AREA AMENDMENT.—Section 604(b)(2) of title VI of Division II of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(O) Berkeley County.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASTOR). Pursuant to House Resolution 765, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in House Report 110-405, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1483

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 “Celebrating America’s Heritage Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—AUTHORIZATION EXTENSIONS AND VIABILITY STUDIES

Sec. 1001. Extensions of authorized appropriations.

Sec. 1002. Evaluation and report.

TITLE II—ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Subtitle A—Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area

Sec. 2001. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2002. Purposes.

Sec. 2003. Definitions.

Sec. 2004. Designation of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

Sec. 2005. Management plan.

Sec. 2006. Evaluation; report.

Sec. 2007. Local coordinating entity.

Sec. 2008. Relationship to other Federal agencies.

Sec. 2009. Private property and regulatory protections.

Sec. 2010. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 2011. Use of Federal funds from other sources.

Sec. 2012. Sunset for grants and other assistance.

Subtitle B—Niagara Falls National Heritage Area

Sec. 2021. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2022. Purposes.

Sec. 2023. Definitions.

Sec. 2024. Designation of the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area.

Sec. 2025. Management plan.

Sec. 2026. Evaluation; report.

Sec. 2027. Local coordinating entity.

Sec. 2028. Niagara Falls Heritage Area Commission.

Sec. 2029. Relationship to other Federal agencies.

Sec. 2030. Private property and regulatory protections.

Sec. 2031. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 2032. Use of Federal funds from other sources.

Sec. 2033. Sunset for grants and other assistance.

Subtitle C—Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area

Sec. 2041. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2042. Purposes.

Sec. 2043. Definitions.

Sec. 2044. Designation of Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.

Sec. 2045. Management plan.

Sec. 2046. Evaluation; report.

Sec. 2047. Local coordinating entity.

Sec. 2048. Relationship to other Federal agencies.

Sec. 2049. Private property and regulatory protections.

Sec. 2050. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 2051. Use of Federal funds from other sources.

Sec. 2052. Sunset for grants and other assistance.

Subtitle D—Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area

Sec. 2061. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2062. Purposes.

Sec. 2063. Definitions.

Sec. 2064. Designation of Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area.

Sec. 2065. Management plan.

Sec. 2066. Evaluation; report.

Sec. 2067. Local coordinating entity.

Sec. 2068. Relationship to other Federal agencies.

Sec. 2069. Private property and regulatory protections.

Sec. 2070. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 2071. Use of Federal funds from other sources.