

within 24 months of enlistment can have that application process using the fingerprints that were taken at the time of enlistment. This is a very simple, very commonsense solution, and it's too bad that Congress has to take action on this to get this kind of a thing done, but it is dealt with the kind of compassion for patriotism that I think reflects the Members of this Congress, both sides of the aisle, and the people of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 2884 to honor Specialist Frederick and all of our permanent resident servicemembers who seek citizenship.

□ 1315

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the author of this bill, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. To Chairwoman LOFGREN, I want to thank you for your leadership. And certainly to Chairman CONYERS and the ranking member and ranking member of the subcommittee, I want to thank all of you for getting this bill to the floor. Finally, I want to thank the professional staff on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration for working so diligently with my staff to bring this legislation again to the floor of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act truly is a step towards correcting and honoring our non-citizen servicemembers, many of whom continue to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is appropriate, therefore, that we consider this legislation as we approach Veterans Day, honoring all who have risked their lives to protect our own.

I introduced the Kendell Frederick Citizenship Assistance Act to ensure that those who are willing to fight relentlessly on the battlefield to protect our great Nation do not have to also battle through a drawn-out citizenship process. Specifically, H.R. 2884 will assist our noncitizen servicemen and -women on the road to citizenship by making the following needed adjustments:

Requiring the United States Department of Homeland Security to use the fingerprints taken by the Defense Department at induction for citizen applications;

Requiring noncitizen military servicemembers to submit their citizenship applications within 24 hours of enlistment;

Requiring the Department of Defense and DHS to determine a single acceptable format for fingerprint submission;

Requiring DHS to update appropriate application forms for naturalization, the instruction and guidebook for obtaining naturalization, and the DHS Web site when naturalization procedures pertaining to members of the Armed Forces are changed; and

Ensuring efficiency and accountability to Congress by requiring the Government Accountability Office to report on DHS's training of personnel, methods and effectiveness in adjudicating applications by members of the Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation honors the memory of a young man from my district, 21-year-old Army Reserve Specialist Kendell K. Frederick. He was a resident of Baltimore County and a native of Trinidad who was stationed in Iraq and died while trying to journey to another post in order to meet the citizenship application fingerprinting requirement. In other words, if he didn't have to go through the changes that he went through, he probably would still be with us today. And one of the interesting things that was mentioned a little bit earlier, he was part of the ROTC process, but he was also a young man, when he entered the military, he entered and made agreement to serve in the military for 8 years. I mean, even knowing that there was a war going on, he bravely said, I want to serve my country. And he claimed this as his country and still went out there and fought, but he wasn't even a citizen yet of our country.

Namely, after trying for more than a year to become a citizen and having his application delayed at least five times due to miscommunication and misinformation in processing his fingerprints, keep in mind the reason why he was killed was he was on his way trying to get his fingerprints done over there in Iraq. Specialist Frederick had no choice but to travel with a convoy to a base to resolve this issue. Unfortunately, he was killed on the way by a roadside bomb, never realizing his dream of becoming an American citizen. And the interesting thing is that he was in the last vehicle of the convoy.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Frederick embraced a Nation that had failed to fully embrace him by honoring him with citizenship during his lifetime. And it's interesting I think that it was a day or so after he died, then they gave him citizenship. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2884 to make certain that no other soldier who wants to be a citizen will have to jump through unnecessary bureaucratic hoops. These outstanding noncitizen soldiers such as Specialist Frederick have made the choice to give voluntarily to our Nation by fighting the terrorist groups that threaten us, putting their lives on the line, sacrificing their blood, their sweat, their tears, and their lives.

I urge my colleagues to please vote in favor of this legislation. I know his mother is watching, and I know that she will be very moved. This is something that has been a long journey for her. And with that, I thank the gentlelady for your courtesy.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume just for a brief conclusion for this.

I want to thank my colleagues for their work on this. I thank the gentleman for coming to the floor to speak up and speak on behalf of Kendell Frederick and the memory and the legacy that he leaves here for us in this country; one of many who stepped forward to defend this country; one of, tragically, too many who lost their lives. And his life has contributed in a number of ways, one of them being the freedom that he helped to protect and the safety and security of the American people, and another, always this legacy of this bureaucratic snafu that will, I pray, forever be straightened out by this bill, the Kendell Frederick bill.

So I urge adoption of this bill, and I thank my colleagues.

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

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I would just close by noting that the mishandling of this application is just infuriating to read through what happened and to have lost this young man who volunteered for our service in such a way is so distressful. But I think we can take a stand by supporting this bill named in Kendell Frederick's honor to make sure this does not happen to another serviceman or servicewoman and also that his family can know that in addition to serving in Iraq, he served as a model for a change in the law and that they may take some comfort with that.

So I urge passage of the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2884, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3866) to reauthorize certain programs under the Small Business Act for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3866

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Small Business Programs Act of 2007”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Reauthorization of small business programs.

Sec. 3. BusinessLINC grants reauthorization.

Sec. 4. Small Business Development Center Program reauthorization.
 Sec. 5. Women's Business Center Program reauthorization.
 Sec. 6. HUBZone reauthorization.
 Sec. 7. Office of Veterans Business Development reauthorization.
 Sec. 8. Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs extension.
 Sec. 9. National Women's Business Council reauthorization.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS.

Section 20 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 note) is amended—

- (1) by striking subsections (b), (d), and (j);
- (2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (e) as (b) and (c), respectively;
- (3) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated; disaster mitigation pilot program) by striking “2005” and “2006” and inserting “2008” and “2009”, respectively; and

(4) by inserting after subsection (c) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(D) FISCAL YEAR 2008.—

“(1) PROGRAM LEVELS.—The following program levels are authorized for fiscal year 2008:

“(A) For the programs authorized by this Act, the Administration is authorized to make—

“(i) \$80,000,000 in technical assistance grants, as provided in section 7(m); and

“(ii) \$110,000,000 in direct loans, as provided in 7(m).

“(B) For the programs authorized by this Act, the Administration is authorized to make \$29,300,000 in deferred participation loans and other financings. Of such sum, the Administration is authorized to make—

“(i) \$20,000,000,000 in general business loans, as provided in section 7(a);

“(ii) \$8,500,000,000 in certified development company financings, as provided in section 7(a)(13) and as provided in section 504 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958;

“(iii) \$750,000,000 in loans, as provided in section 7(a)(21); and

“(iv) \$50,000,000 in loans, as provided in section 7(m).

“(C) For the programs authorized by title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, the Administration is authorized to make \$4,000,000,000 in guarantees of debentures.

“(D) For the programs authorized by part B of title IV of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, the Administration is authorized to enter into guarantees not to exceed \$6,000,000,000, of which not more than 50 percent may be in bonds approved pursuant to section 411(a)(3) of that Act.

“(E) The Administration is authorized to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements for a total amount of \$7,000,000 for the Service Corps of Retired Executives program authorized by section 8(b)(1).

“(2) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2008 \$20,000,000 to carry out the PRIME program.

“(e) FISCAL YEAR 2009.—

“(1) PROGRAM LEVELS.—The following program levels are authorized for fiscal year 2009:

“(A) For the programs authorized by this Act, the Administration is authorized to make—

“(i) \$90,000,000 in technical assistance grants, as provided in section 7(m); and

“(ii) \$120,000,000 in direct loans, as provided in 7(m).

“(B) For the programs authorized by this Act, the Administration is authorized to make \$29,800,000,000 in deferred participation loans and other financings. Of such sum, the Administration is authorized to make—

“(i) \$20,000,000,000 in general business loans, as provided in section 7(a);

“(ii) \$9,000,000,000 in certified development company financings, as provided in section 7(a)(13) and as provided in section 504 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958;

“(iii) \$750,000,000 in loans, as provided in section 7(a)(21); and

“(iv) \$50,000,000 in loans, as provided in section 7(m).

“(C) For the programs authorized by title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, the Administration is authorized to make \$4,000,000,000 in guarantees of debentures.

“(D) For the programs authorized by part B of title IV of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, the Administration is authorized to enter into guarantees not to exceed \$6,000,000,000, of which not more than 50 percent may be in bonds approved pursuant to section 411(a)(3) of that Act.

“(E) The Administration is authorized to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements for a total amount of \$7,000,000 for the Service Corps of Retired Executives program authorized by section 8(b)(1).

“(2) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration for fiscal year 2009 \$20,000,000 to carry out the PRIME program.”.

SEC. 3. BUSINESSLINK GRANTS REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 8(n) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(n)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “\$6,600,000” and inserting “\$7,000,000”; and
- (2) by striking “2001 through 2006” and inserting “2008 and 2009”.

SEC. 4. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 21(a)(4)(C)(vii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(4)(C)(vii)) is amended by striking subclauses (I) and (II) and inserting the following:

“(I) \$140,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

“(II) \$145,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.”.

SEC. 5. WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 29(k) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(k)) is amended—

- (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(A) \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

“(B) \$17,500,000 for fiscal year 2009.”; and

- (2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking clauses (i) through (iv) and inserting the following:

“(i) For fiscal year 2008, 1.5 percent.

“(ii) For fiscal year 2009, 1.5 percent.”.

SEC. 6. HUBZONE REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 31(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(c)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”; and
- (2) by striking “2004 through 2006” and inserting “2008 and 2009”.

SEC. 7. OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b(c)) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

“(2) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.”.

SEC. 8. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS BUSINESS AFFAIRS EXTENSION.

(a) EXTENSION OF TERMINATION DATE.—Section 203(h) of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-50; 15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking “September 30, 2006” and inserting “September 30, 2009”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 33(h) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657c(h)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2006” and inserting “October 1, 2009”.

SEC. 9. NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 410(a) of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-533; 15 U.S.C. 7110(a)) is amended by striking “2001 through 2003” and inserting “2008 and 2009”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

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

Mr. Speaker, our economy is constantly evolving and changing. For this Nation's 27 million small firms to be successful, our economic policies must be adjusted accordingly.

While we have made great strides in this Congress to make sure the needs of small business owners are met, H.R. 3866 is the final step in reauthorizing small business assistance programs, ensuring the success and growth of small firms.

Today, entrepreneurs are faced with many challenges. They must compete in a global marketplace, deal with rising energy and health care costs, and find ways to access affordable capital. To alleviate many of these burdens, we have passed initiatives in this Congress that provide the overall tools for entrepreneurial success. We have passed legislation that lowers the cost of loans and gives minorities greater access to SBA programs.

Through H.R. 3567, SBA's investment programs were improved and a new source of equity capital was open to entrepreneurs through angel investment. Also, small business contracting programs has been modernized, accountability has been increased, and fraud has been reduced. This makes sure small firms have fair access to the Federal marketplace and allows them to continue growing their companies and creating jobs.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, entrepreneurs were faced with delays in disaster loans, overwhelming amounts of paperwork, and a lengthy application process leaving them frustrated and discouraged. The RECOVER Act ensures that the SBA is prepared, has a large, well-trained disaster response workforce, and that delays and poor service encountered by victims of hurricanes do not happen again.

While critical, these initiatives are just the first step. The Small Business Programs Act of 2007 provides the vehicle for SBA's small business assistance programs to run and meet the needs of entrepreneurs in our changing economy. Most importantly, it gives the SBA the necessary resources to continue helping small businesses start and expand.

H.R. 3866 extends SBA's small business assistance programs for the next 2 years. Also, this bill provides the necessary authority for the SBA to carry out its lending and venture capital programs, ensuring SBA's initiatives are

the premier lending tools for entrepreneurs.

The SBA and its programs are vital to assisting small businesses across this country. Along with the Small Business Development Centers, Women Business Centers, and SCORE, the SBA has worked to meet the rising demand for services at a time when their budget continues to decrease.

These programs have a proven track record of success, but they require sufficient resources to be able to evolve and modernize. Clearly, in order for small firms to adapt to changing economic conditions, small business assistance programs must be adjusted. There is no larger job creator or greater impact on local communities in this country than small firms.

H.R. 3866 arms small business assistance programs with the tools that allow entrepreneurs to continue spurring economic growth.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for the Small Business Programs Act of 2007.

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

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

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the request to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3866, the SBA Programs Act of 2007.

I would like to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for working in a cooperative and bipartisan manner to bring this bill to the House floor today.

The bill we are considering today is a highly technical bill, but one of the Small Business Committee's legislative obligations.

The financing programs in the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 rely on lending by the private sector. Lenders are protected by guarantees issued by the SBA, promising repayment if the small business borrower fails. Congress must impose limits on the authority of the SBA to issue such guarantees. H.R. 3866 establishes limits that will enable the program to operate even if there is unexpected demand.

Given the current credit crunch, it is certainly possible that the SBA will have a spike in demand. The limits adopted in this bill will ensure that, unlike in some prior years, the program will not be the subject of operational restrictions.

I want to point out that supporting these limits will have no budgetary impact. The SBA's guaranteed loan, certified development company, and debenture small business investment company programs also operate at zero subsidy. That means the programs require no appropriation, and losses are covered by fees charged to lenders and borrowers. Maintaining this zero subsidy still enables Congress to provide for significant expansion of the authorization in order to meet demand, while protecting taxpayers.

The microloan programs, which helps entrepreneurs in many low-income

areas and is a valuable job creation tool for a modest investment by the government, also receives an increase in lending authority.

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Given the value of the program, I believe that the modest increase more than pays for itself in providing jobs and developing the entrepreneurial culture that continues to maintain the economic viability of this Nation.

In addition, the committee must provide authorization levels for the Small Business Development Center program. The allocation of funds to various centers is based in part on a comparison of funds appropriated to funds authorized. Without an authorization level, the funding formula cannot work. It also is important to point out that the authorization level for the SBDCs is increased by around 3½ percent. This increase takes into account inflation and the administration's request that the centers provide even more counseling. The other major entrepreneurial outreach program of the SBA, the Women's Business Center program, receives an increase of around 17 percent. Now, while this may at first seem like a lot, the authorization in this bill represents the first time in nearly 8 years that the Women's Business Center authorization levels have been set thus representing an adjustment in alignment with inflation.

Similarly, the PRIME program, which provides additional technical assistance to microloan borrowers, has not received an authorization level since 1999. The authorization of \$20 million in this bill represents an increase of \$625,000 per year, or just enough, again, to keep up with inflation. I want to point out that the SBA requested a budget increase to cover inflation including the rapid rise in the cost of energy. It is only fair to authorize a similar modest increase for SBA's entrepreneurial outreach in education programs.

Other authorizations in this bill also represent either level funding, such as the SCORE program and the drug-free workplace program or represent very modest increases from prior authorization levels such as the \$400,000 increase in funding for BusinessLINC, a valuable program that helps small businesses find contracts to supply large businesses with goods and services.

Two programs received significant boosts in authorization levels, the Office of Veterans Affairs and the HUBZone programs. In time of war, it is important that we provide assistance to our veterans. That includes ensuring that they have the tools necessary to integrate into civilian life through entrepreneurship. On a percentage basis, the authorization increase for the program is significant, but the dollar value is a modest \$2 million. Given the sacrifices our veterans have made, this represents only a modest down payment on the debt we owe to them, our veterans.

As for the HUBZone program, the increase arises from the efforts of the committee to ensure that only firms eligible for participation in the program receive Federal Government contracts. This requires additional onsite verification and thus represents the committee's view to the appropriators to significantly increase funding in that area.

Again, I would like to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ. Although there are significant philosophical differences between Members, I think the past year has demonstrated what can happen when this body tries to work through those differences without acrimony or questioning of the motives of the other side. Much can be accomplished for the American public, and that is what the people elected us to do. So I want to, again, commend the chairwoman for her willingness to work in a bipartisan manner not only in this bill but many bills that we have dealt with in the past.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close if the gentleman is prepared to close.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close. I have no other speakers.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that today's economic environment is increasingly difficult for small firms to thrive in. We have seen record highs in gas prices, unmanageable health care costs and barriers in the way of accessing affordable capital. Now, more than ever, small businesses need assistance programs they can rely on that are well-equipped to meet their needs. With the Small Business Programs Act of 2007 that is exactly what we are giving entrepreneurs.

This legislation ensures that our Nation's 27 million entrepreneurs have access to the business development assistance that they need and deserve. These firms employ one half of our workforce, spur economic development and revitalize our communities. When their businesses are growing and flourishing, the benefits are felt across the country.

With the passage of H.R. 3866, we set program levels for SBA's entrepreneurial assistance initiatives, updating and modernizing them. The primary role of the SBA is to help entrepreneurs who have the drive but need assistance. It is clear that small firms play a crucial role in our economy. By ensuring that these businesses have current and sufficient assistance, we are investing in our communities, helping to create jobs, and benefiting the Nation as a whole.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ranking Member CHABOT for

your collaboration for us to work together in a responsible way, to follow regular order, and I am very proud that every time that we have considered legislation, we have done so in a very inclusive, open way and we can show results. With the passage of this bill, we have passed 15 bills through the House of Representatives. I am very proud of that product. It shows the things that can be done when we respect each other despite our differences. But we show the American public that we are willing to work together on their behalf.

I also would like to take an opportunity to thank the staff that worked on this legislation from the Small Business Committee majority staff, Tim Slattery and Michael Day, and from the minority staff, Barry Pineles, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Mike Smullen. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 3866, the Small Business Programs Act of 2007.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3866, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3866, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)1 of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privilege of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the United States Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against Richard B. Cheney, Vice President of the United States of America, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

ARTICLE I

In his conduct while Vice President of the United States, Richard B. Cheney, in violation

of his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the office of Vice President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has purposely manipulated the intelligence process to deceive the citizens and Congress of the United States by fabricating a threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction to justify the use of the United States Armed Forces against the nation of Iraq in a manner damaging to our national security interests, to wit:

(1) Despite all evidence to the contrary, the Vice President actively and systematically sought to deceive the citizens and Congress of the United States about an alleged threat of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction:

(A) 'We know they have biological and chemical weapons.' March 17, 2002, Press Conference by Vice President Dick Cheney and His Highness Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain at Shaikh Hamad Palace.

(B) '... and we know they are pursuing nuclear weapons.' March 19, 2002, Press Briefing by Vice President Dick Cheney and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem.

(C) 'And he is actively pursuing nuclear weapons at this time . . .' March 24, 2002, CNN Late Edition interview with Vice President Cheney.

(D) 'We know he's got chemicals and biological and we know he's working on nuclear.' May 19, 2002, NBC Meet the Press interview with Vice President Cheney.

(E) 'But we now know that Saddam has resumed his efforts to acquire nuclear weapons . . . Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction. There is no doubt that he is amassing them to use against our friends, against our allies, and against us.' August 26, 2002, Speech of Vice President Cheney at VFW 103rd National Convention.

(F) 'Based on intelligence that's becoming available, some of it has been made public, more of it hopefully will be, that he has indeed stepped up his capacity to produce and deliver biological weapons, that he has reconstituted his nuclear program to develop a nuclear weapon, that there are efforts underway inside Iraq to significantly expand his capability.' September 8, 2002, NBC Meet the Press interview with Vice President Cheney.

(G) 'He is, in fact, actively and aggressively seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.' September 8, 2002, NBC Meet the Press interview with Vice President Cheney.

(H) 'And we believe he has, in fact, reconstituted nuclear weapons.' March 16, 2003, NBC Meet the Press interview with Vice President Cheney.

(2) Preceding the March 2003 invasion of Iraq the Vice President was fully informed that no legitimate evidence existed of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The Vice President pressured the intelligence community to change their findings to enable the deception of the citizens and Congress of the United States.

(A) Vice President Cheney and his Chief of Staff, Lewis Libby, made multiple trips to the CIA in 2002 to question analysts studying Iraq's weapons programs and alleged links to al Qaeda, creating an environment in which analysts felt they were being pressured to make their assessments fit with the Bush administration's policy objectives accounts.

(B) Vice President Cheney sought out unverified and ultimately inaccurate raw intelligence to prove his preconceived beliefs. This strategy of cherry picking was employed to influence the interpretation of the intelligence.

(3) The Vice President's actions corrupted or attempted to corrupt the 2002 National In-

telligence Estimate, an intelligence document issued on October 1, 2002, and carefully considered by Congress prior to the October 10, 2002, vote to authorize the use of force. The Vice President's actions prevented the necessary reconciliation of facts for the National Intelligence Estimate which resulted in a high number of dissenting opinions from technical experts in two Federal agencies.

(A) The State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research dissenting view in the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate stated 'Lacking persuasive evidence that Baghdad has launched a coherent effort to reconstitute its nuclear weapons program INR is unwilling to speculate that such an effort began soon after the departure of UN inspectors or to project a timeline for the completion of activities it does not now see happening. As a result INR is unable to predict that Iraq could acquire a nuclear device or weapon.'

(B) The State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research dissenting view in the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate also stated that 'Finally, the claims of Iraqi pursuit of natural uranium in Africa are, in INR's assessment, highly dubious.'

(C) The State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research dissenting view in the October 2002 National Intelligence Estimate references a Department of Energy opinion by stating that 'INR accepts the judgment of technical experts at the US Department of Energy (DOE) who have concluded that the tubes Iraq seeks to acquire are poorly suited for use in gas centrifuges to be used for uranium enrichment and finds unpersuasive the arguments advanced by others to make the case that they are intended for that purpose.'

The Vice President subverted the national security interests of the United States by setting the stage for the loss of more than 3800 United States service members; the loss of more than 1 million innocent Iraqi citizens since the United States invasion; the loss of approximately \$500 billion in war costs which has increased our Federal debt; the loss of military readiness within the United States Armed Services due to overextension, lack of training and lack of equipment; the loss of United States credibility in world affairs; and the decades of likely blowback created by the invasion of Iraq.

In all of this, Vice President Richard B. Cheney has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as Vice President, and subversive of constitutional government, to the prejudice of the cause of law and justice and the manifest injury of the people of the United States. Wherefore, Vice President Richard B. Cheney, by such conduct, is guilty of an impeachable offense warranting removal from office.

ARTICLE II

In his conduct while Vice President of the United States, Richard B. Cheney, in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the office of Vice President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, purposely manipulated the intelligence process to deceive the citizens and Congress of the United States about an alleged relationship between Iraq and al Qaeda in order to justify the use of the United States Armed Forces against the nation of Iraq in a manner damaging to our national security interests, to wit:

(1) Despite all evidence to the contrary, the Vice President actively and systematically sought to deceive the citizens and the Congress of the United States about an alleged relationship between Iraq and al Qaeda.