lost loved ones and to those who are struggling to recover from their injuries. The days, weeks, and months since that dark day have been a time of healing for the Virginia Tech community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Nation. I am moved by the outpouring of compassion and generosity that have been displayed since this tragedy.

Virginia Tech University established the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund in order to aid in the healing process and generate financial support for those affected. Thousands of individuals gave graciously in the hope of assisting the victims' families in their time of need. In fact, Virginia Tech has distributed millions from the fund to the families of the 32 deceased victims and 47 injured students.

The least that this Congress can do in assisting these families is to exempt payments made from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund from Federal taxes, and I would like to thank Congressman BOUCHER for his leadership in crafting this bill and bringing it to the floor.

□ 1600

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER), a good friend and colleague, for his leadership in introducing this legislation. It's been a pleasure to work with him.

And it is, I think, fair to say on behalf of not only all members of the Virginia delegation, but all Members of Congress, our heart goes out to the families of the victims and to the Virginia Tech Community who suffered this horrendous tragedy. This is just a small way that we can make right a part of that by ensuring that the generosity of thousands of Americans across the country to the Virginia Tech Hokie Spirit Fund will see that money in its entirety go to the benefit intended by those who donated it and for the purposes designated by the family members of the victims of this tragedy. So again, I thank Congressman BOUCHER.

I want to thank Congressman CANTOR for his leadership on the Ways and Means Committee, as well as the effort that Congressman MCCRERY, our ranking member, and Chairman RANGEL made in bringing this legislation to the floor as promptly as possible.

And I want to also thank the staff of the Ways and Means Committee, and the staff of Congressman BOUCHER and myself for the hard work that they put in to making sure that this was done and done in a way that would benefit the families of the victims of this tragedy.

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

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I recognize myself for 1 minute to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of this measure. It would simply make payments to the victims of the tragedy that occurred in April of this year at Virginia Tech tax exempt to the recipients of those payments. Congress responded in a similar way following the Oklahoma City and 9/11 tragedies, and we ask that the House accord similar tax status to the payments that were recently made from the Hokie Spirit Memorial fund.

I want to thank all who have assisted in the construction of this measure. Particular thanks to my colleague, Mr. GOODLATTE, for his leadership and hard work in bringing this measure to the floor today. And thanks again to the Chair and the subcommittee Chair of the Ways and Means Committee and their very capable staff for the excellent assistance and cooperation they provided to us.

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, when an act of random cruelty bewilders us and pulls us down, exceptional displays of generosity, courage and heroism can serve as a potent counterforce. They comfort and replenish the bereaved, and they remind us of the extraordinary selflessness our people are capable of. Nowhere has this been truer than in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech massacre.

We saw numerous examples of students and faculty risking and giving their lives to spare others of the murderer's wrath. We saw a shaken Hokie Nation come together to begin a long healing process. But we also were moved by the outpouring of support from a deeply sympathetic Nation. Donors from across the country pumped over $7 million into the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund, which makes direct contributions to the victims and their families, as well as to scholarships in the victims' names.

Sadly, recipients have to pay taxes on their donations, an injustice that we hope this bill will promptly correct. There can be no denying that the kind folks who made contributions did not intend to enrich the Federal government's coffers.

For many of the families and victims still suffering from the tragedy, this funding is urgent. As the grisly images and unprecedented horror of the Virginia Tech massacre recede further from the public's view, we mustn't turn our backs on Hokie Nation.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4118, a bill that will exclude from gross income, payments received by the grieving families and victims of the tragic Virginia Tech massacre from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund.

Madam Speaker, April 16, 2007 is a day that will forever be seared into the collective memory of the American people as a day of terror, tragedy, loss, and mourning. It was a day when we were reminded of the frailty of life; and a day when we were reminded how much we, as a Nation, value the sanctity and freedom of our schools, colleges, and universities. For on that day, we learned that because of the murderous intentions of one person, the lives of 32 students and faculty members at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University had been snuffed out. One of the victims of this tragedy, Matthew La Porte, was a 20-year-old student from Dumont, New Jersey, and a constituent of mine.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, and in response to the generosity of people across the country, Virginia Tech founded the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund. Many donors contributed to this fund in memory of the victims of the massacre, and in support of those who survived it. Today, the fund has received contributions of over $7 million. And while no amount of money can ever replace the loss of a loved one, this legislation will ensure that all of the victims, families of victims, and survivors of this tragedy receive payments from this fund without interference from the Internal Revenue Service.

Madam Speaker, it is during times of great tragedy that the kindness and generosity of the American people is most apparent. It is in that spirit of generosity, and in the memory of all the victims of the Virginia Tech massacre, that I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 4118.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4118, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to exclude from gross income payments from the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund to the victims of the tragic event at Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 710, CHARLIE W. NORWOOD LIVING ORGAN DONATION ACT

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 837) providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendment to H.R. 710, with amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 837

Resolved, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 710, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment with the following amendments:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT ACT.

Section 301 of the National Organ Transplant Act (42 U.S.C. 274e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following: ''The preceding sentence does not apply with respect to human organ paired donation.'' ; and

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(4) The term 'human organ paired donation' means the donation and receipt of human organs under the following circumstances:

''(A) An individual (referred to in this paragraph as the 'first donor') desires to make a living donation of a human organ specifically to a particular patient (referred to in this paragraph as the 'first patient'), but such donor is biologically incompatible as a donor for such patient.

''(B) A second individual (referred to in this paragraph as the 'second donor') desires to make a living donation of a human organ specifically to a second particular patient (referred to in this paragraph as the 'second patient'), but such donor is biologically incompatible as a donor for such patient.

''(C) Subject to subparagraph (D), the first donor is biologically compatible as a donor of a human organ for the second patient, and the second donor is biologically compatible as a donor of a human organ for the first patient.

''(D) If there is any additional donor-patient pair as described in subparagraph (A) or (B), each donor in the group of donor-patient pairs is biologically compatible as a donor of a human organ for a patient in such group.

''(E) All donors and patients in the group of donor-patient pairs (whether 2 pairs or more than 2 pairs) enter into a single agreement to donate and receive such human organs, respectively, according to such biological compatibility in the group.

''(F) Other than as described in subparagraph (E), no valuable consideration is knowingly acquired, received, or otherwise transferred with respect to the human organs referred to in such subparagraph.''.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that details the progress made towards understanding the long-term health effects of living organ donation.

SEC. 4. NO IMPACT ON SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND.

Nothing in this Act (or an amendment made by this Act) shall be construed to alter or amend the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) (or any regulation promulgated under that Act).

Amend the title so as to read: ''An Act to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to provide that criminal penalties do not apply to human organ paired donation and for other purposes.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, we're here today to pass the Charlie W. Norwood Living Kidney Donation Clarification Act. And like many of my colleagues, I was pleased when this bill finally first passed the House in March, and I'm happy to report now that we have an agreement with both Chambers of a provision that can pass and be signed by the President into law.

We all suffered a great loss with Dr. Norwood's loss, and we know he was the recipient of a lung transplant himself and was a committed champion of these causes while serving in Congress. So in addition to helping thousands of Americans today in a way to enhance the prospects of living donations, this bill will be a fitting tribute to Dr. Norwood and his efforts.

I also want to thank the Energy and Commerce Committee staff who've worked diligently on this for months, Jessica McNiece, Pete Goodloe, Katherine Martin and Ryan Long, getting this bill in a condition where it can be signed into law.

As many of my colleagues know, this legislation will clarify the procedure commonly known as paired organ donation to make clear that it is legal and, in doing so, will provide hope to thousands of Americans who now are waiting for transplants, particularly kidney transplants, across the United States. Paired organ donation will make it possible for thousands of people who wish to donate a kidney to a spouse, a family member or a friend but find that they're not medically compatible, still allowing them to become living kidney donors.

As of this afternoon, there are fully 97,000 candidates for organ donations waiting on the national waiting list. But there are only 28,931 transplants performed in total of 2006, and only 6,730 were from living donors. Clearly, we've got work to do.

This resolution will take a significant step towards reducing the number of patients on the waiting list and give much more hope for others to hope that, and know that their wait will not be endless.

It's imperative we make absolutely clear that there's no intent by Congress to bar this procedure. Simply put, we want this legislation to save lives immediately, and it will do so when enacted.

I also want to take a moment to salute and thank Dr. Connie Davis, who's a constituent and a friend and a very knowledgeable transplant physician from the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition to her years of caring for local transplant donors and recipients, she's advised me and others on transplant issues as chairwoman of the American Society of Transplantation, the largest organization in the world representing professionals engaged in the field of solid organ transplantation. And her help has been invaluable in putting this legislation together and making sure that those 90,000 patients get access.

So for those thousands of patients waiting today who spend costly and often arduous time on dialysis treatment, their time on the waiting list can be significantly shortened with passage of this bill.

And I want to thank my colleagues across the aisle who worked on this, Nathan Deal and others.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation, which was originally introduced by my dear friend, the late Congressman Charlie Norwood, and has now been renamed the Charlie W. Norwood Living Organ Donation Act. As a lung transplant recipient, Charlie believed in organ donation. This good piece of legislation will help facilitate life-giving organ donation by clarifying the intent of the National Organ Transplant Act to protect the commonsense practice of paired organ donation.

A paired donation occurs when a donor who is willing to give an organ to a family member or a friend, but is biologically incompatible, donates to another patient, who also has an incompatible donor. By cross-matching two or more incompatible donor recipient pairs, more patients can receive organs and more donors can give them.

The changes we're making this afternoon help conform the bill to an amendment that was offered in the Senate during consideration. The amendment helps to ensure this bill can adapt to advances in science should organs other than kidneys be eligible for paired donation.

As we pass this bill today and later send it to the President for his signature, we honor a great Member of this House and carry forward some of his goals.

I would like to thank Mr. INSLEE for his leadership on this issue, and I would urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to another colleague of the Georgia delegation, Dr. PHIL GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the gentleman from Washington, our friend, Representative INSLEE, and of course Representative NATHAN DEAL.

I am proud to be here to support this resolution, H.R. 710, in honor of our colleague, the late Dr. Norwood. Representative INSLEE described the magnitude of the issue. I wasn't even aware that there were, as a physician, maybe I should be, but over 90,000 people who are on a waiting list, and a fourth of them each year get transplants, and only a very small number get a transplant from a living donor, as Representative INSLEE pointed out. And of course Representative DEAL just explained to us exactly what this cross-living donor program, how it would work. So it is an easy bill, Madam

Speaker, to support for our late and dear friend and colleague, Dr. Charlie Norwood.

Earlier this year we passed a bill honoring Dr. Norwood by naming a VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, the heart of his congressional district, in honor of the great work that he did on behalf of our veterans.

I think my colleagues, Madam Speaker, know that Charlie Norwood served as a dental officer in Vietnam, in combat, got two Bronze Stars, I think a medical combat award. He was a great spokesperson on behalf of our veterans.

But also, in regard to health care, before I was even thinking about running for this great office that I hold now, Madam Speaker, Charlie Norwood had that Patient Bill of Rights. I think a lot of my colleagues would remember that. Madam Speaker, you indeed probably were here at that time. And so this is just another opportunity for us, not just to honor Dr. Norwood, but to realize that he worked so diligently on behalf of veterans issues and health care issues. So it's a great honor to be here today.

And I'll tell you, on a personal note, my colleagues, Madam Speaker, I have a senior legislative assistant, Josh Waller, whose dad, Jerry, last year died while on a waiting list for a liver transplant. That was awfully painful for me to watch that happen to the dad of one of my great staff members. So this is a wonderful opportunity for us to do something really good for these people that Representative DEAL, Representative INSLEE described that are on these waiting lists, that suffer dialysis. And as Representative DEAL pointed out, the Senate amendment just changed it a little bit so that other organs, other than kidneys, indeed, Dr. Norwood himself, as Representative INSLEE pointed out, was the recipient of a lung transplant. Unfortunately, it did not work for him. But God bless him. And I'm proud to be here today to support this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I urge the unanimous adoption of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 837.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1733

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) at 5 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE ON H.R. 2082, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I move to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2082) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. HOEKSTRA

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hoekstra moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2082 be instructed, to the maximum extent possible within the scope of the conference, to—

(1) eliminate any House or Senate provisions providing for earmarks as defined in clause 9(d) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives; and

(2) insist on provisions authorizing the maximum level of funding permissible for human intelligence collection activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

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

Madam Speaker, this motion to instruct is about priorities. America continues to face threats. We are engaged in a global struggle against radical jihadists. For a time of war, for a time of threats like this, the priorities of portions of this intelligence bill are completely misplaced in critical areas.

The motion to instruct would make our priorities clearer by eliminating provisions providing for earmarks and by ensuring the maximum level of funding for increasing human intelligence collection.

Our intelligence programs should be based on only one primary consideration: what best ensures that the intelligence community is able to do its job in the best interest of the national security of the United States.

This motion would ensure that we are appropriating and authorizing funding on a bipartisan basis to critical human intelligence programs based on the merit of these programs and the intelligence we learn from them.

The unclassified National Intelligence Estimate's key judgments released publicly just yesterday illustrate how important intelligence gathering is to our national security. As we take a look at where we want to put our priorities, it is clear from what we have learned and what we understand in this committee the importance of putting resources, the necessary resources on human intelligence, and to remove them from earmarks, Members' pet projects, which don't necessarily always go through the rigorous process necessary to ensure that the funding for these projects and these programs is appropriate.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for this motion to instruct to make sure that we put the resources where they will make maximum benefit to the intelligence community.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this motion is not about policy. It is not even about priorities; it is about politics. This bill that we passed, this bill that passed the House, the bill we are talking about tonight, is legislation that sets unprecedented levels of commitment for our intelligence community, to the professionals who are charged with keeping this country safe. It sets the priorities for human intelligence. It sets record levels and expenditures from the House so that those professionals that are charged with keeping us safe, keeping this Nation secure, have the necessary resources to do that job.

This legislation also prioritizes the issue of diversifying the intelligence workforce. This legislation protects this country. This legislation prioritizes those issues that are vitally important that we pass here tonight.

So for those reasons and because for the first time in history we have had care and process with this legislation, setting record levels of expenditures for our intelligence community, I urge all my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the motion.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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