

chance to grant relief to millions of Americans toiling under an unjust minimum wage, but later this week we will also have the opportunity to grant relief to the millions of Americans who are suffering from debilitating and life-threatening diseases by passing the bipartisan Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

In Connecticut, I was proud to have overseen passage of the Nation's first law investing State funds in life-saving stem cell research. But our \$100 million success story in Connecticut was a bit-sweet one, since our effort was made necessary only by the Federal Government's failure to act.

Mr. Speaker, I will be even prouder to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle this week to support legislation that will buttress the hopes of millions of Americans with the tangible support and resources of their Federal Government, and I hope that this unprecedented show of support here in the people's House will give our President cause to reconsider his unfounded and unpopular decision to oppose this life-saving initiative.

WAR IN IRAQ OF BENEFIT TO NO ONE

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

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States is going to urge a troop escalation in Iraq. I must protest this for the following reasons:

This war was wrong from the beginning. Our focus should have been Afghanistan. We had a real opportunity to bring freedom and change to Afghanistan. Instead, we diverted our attention to Iraq with disastrous results.

More troops will not bring the United States more support from the Iraqis, but it will bring our troops and the people of Iraq more misery, more fighting, more injuries and more death.

We are spending our children's future in this war.

There are no benefits to either the United States, to Iraq or to the world.

RIGHTING A WRONG FOR OUR WORKING FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that what will be going on today is righting a wrong for working families in America, and that is raising the minimum wage.

It has been a full 10 years since President Clinton was able to raise the minimum wage to help the people who work for us on a daily basis. With all the increased costs we have today, of housing, of health care, it is just impossible for people to be able to make it. In Ohio, we have seen people suffer because the minimum wage has not been relevant to what is going on in their life.

Many years ago, Henry Ford was criticized for saying that he paid his workers better than others, and his logic was his workers would be able to buy the cars that they manufactured. We want the people today to be able to have the right to be able to buy the things that they need, certainly for their families. So raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do.

DEMOCRATS MAKE GOOD ON THEIR PROMISE TO TAKE AMERICA IN A NEW DIRECTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats promised that if the American people trusted us with control of Congress, we would take America in a new direction. So far, we have made good on our promise to break the link between lobbyists and legislation, and we reinstated pay-as-you-go budgeting.

But our work is not done. We are now in our first 100 hours of legislation, and already we have passed legislation that will make America more secure by implementing the independent 9/11 Commission recommendations.

Today, we will give Americans a much-needed pay raise by increasing the minimum wage; later this week, we are going to begin making health care more affordable by giving the Federal Government the ability to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices; and tomorrow we are going to give hope to millions of Americans by allowing stem cell research. Next week, we will also move down the path to energy independence by ending subsidies to Big Oil and investing in renewable energy.

Democrats promise to deliver so we can take America in a new direction.

ELECTION OF MINORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 45) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 45

Resolved, That the following named members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Everett, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Moran of Kansas, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Johnson of Illinois, Mr. Graves, Mr. Bonner, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. King of Iowa, Mrs. Musgrave, Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Boustany, Mr. Kuhl of New York, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Conaway, Mr. Fortenberry, Mrs. Schmidt, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. McCarthy of California, and Mr. Walberg.

(2) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Saxton, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Everett, Mr. Bartlett of Maryland, Mr. McKeon, Mr. Thornberry, Mr. Jones of North Carolina, Mr.

Hayes, Mr. Calvert, Mrs. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia, Mr. Akin, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Miller of Florida, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. LoBiondo, Mr. Cole of Oklahoma, Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. Turner, Mr. Kline, Mrs. Miller of Michigan, Mr. Gingrey, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Franks of Arizona, Mrs. Drake, Ms. McMorris Rodgers, Mr. Conaway, and Mr. Davis of Kentucky.

(3) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR.—Mr. Petri, Mr. Hoekstra, Mr. Castle, Mr. Souder, Mr. Ehlers, Mrs. Biggert, Mr. Platts, Mr. Keller, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Kline, Mr. Inglis of South Carolina, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Price of Georgia, Mr. Fortuño, Mr. Boustany, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Kuhl of New York, Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. David Davis of Tennessee, and Mr. Walberg.

(4) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mr. Hall, Mr. Hastert, Mr. Upton, Mr. Stearns, Mr. Deal of Georgia, Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Norwood, Mrs. Cubin, Mr. Shimkus, Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico, Mr. Shadegg, Mr. Pickering, Mr. Fossella, Mr. Buyer, Mr. Radanovich, Mr. Pitts, Mrs. Bono, Mr. Walden of Oregon, Mr. Terry, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Rogers of Michigan, Mrs. Myrick, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Burgess.

(5) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Baker, Ms. Pryce of Ohio, Mr. Castle, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Royce, Mr. Lucas, Mr. Paul, Mr. Gillmor, Mr. LaTourette, Mr. Manzullo, Mr. Jones of North Carolina, Mrs. Biggert, Mr. Shays, Mr. Gary G. Miller of California, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Hensarling, Mr. Garrett of New Jersey, Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida, Mr. Barrett of South Carolina, Mr. Renzi, Mr. Gerlach, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Price of Georgia, Mr. Davis of Kentucky, Mr. McHenry, Mr. Campbell of California, Mr. Putnam, Mrs. Blackburn, Mrs. Bachmann, and Mr. Roskam.

(6) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Mr. Burton of Indiana, Mr. Shays, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Mica, Mr. Souder, Mr. Platts, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Turner, Mr. Issa, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. McHenry, Ms. Foxx, Mr. Bilbray, and Mr. Sali.

(7) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY.—Mr. Smith of Texas, Mr. Shays, Mr. Souder, Mr. Tom Davis of Virginia, Mr. Daniel E. Lungren of California, Mr. Rogers of Alabama, Mr. Jindal, Mr. Reichert, Mr. McCaul of Texas, Mr. Dent, Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Bilirakis, and Mr. David Davis of Tennessee.

(8) COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Burton of Indiana, Mr. Gallegly, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Royce, Mr. Chabot, Mr. Manzullo, Mr. Tancredo, Mr. Paul, Mr. Flake, Mrs. Jo Ann Davis of Virginia, Mr. Pence, Mr. McCotter, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Barrett of South Carolina, Mr. Mack, Mr. Fortenberry, Mr. McCaul of Texas, Mr. Poe, Mr. Inglis of South Carolina, and Mr. Fortuño.

(9) COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY.—Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Coble, Mr. Gallegly, Mr. Goodlatte, Mr. Chabot, Mr. Daniel E. Lungren of California, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Keller, Mr. Issa, Mr. Pence, Mr. Forbes, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Franks of Arizona, Mr. Gohmert, and Mr. Jordan.

(10) COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES.—Mr. Saxton, Mr. Gallegly, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Gilchrest, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Cannon, Mr. Tancredo, Mr. Flake, Mr. Renzi, Mr. Pearce, Mr. Brown of South Carolina, Mr. Fortuño, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, Mr. Jindal, Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Cole of Oklahoma, Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. Shuster, Mr. Heller of Nevada, Mr. Sali, and Mr. Lamborn.

(11) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Mr. Sensenbrenner, Mr. Smith of

Texas, Mr. Rohrabacher, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Bartlett of Maryland, Mr. Ehlers, Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Biggert, Mr. Akin, Mr. Bonner, Mr. Feeney, Mr. Neugebauer, Mr. Inglis of South Carolina, Mr. McCaul of Texas, Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, Mr. Gingrey, Mr. Bilbray, and Mr. Smith of Nebraska.

(12) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. Bartlett of Maryland, Mr. Graves, Mr. Akin, Mr. Shuster, Mrs. Musgrave, Mr. King of Iowa, Mr. Fortenberry, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Heller of Nevada, Mr. David Davis of Tennessee, Ms. Fallin, Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. Jordan.

(13) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Mr. Young of Alaska, Mr. Petri, Mr. Coble, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Gilchrest, Mr. Ehlers, Mr. LaTourette, Mr. Baker, Mr. LoBiondo, Mr. Moran of Kansas, Mr. Gary G. Miller of California, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Brown of South Carolina, Mr. Johnson of Illinois, Mr. Platts, Mr. Graves, Mr. Shuster, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Gerlach, Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, Mr. Marchant, Mr. Dent, Mr. Poe, Mr. Reichert, Mr. Mack, Mr. Kuhl of New York, Mr. Westmoreland, Mr. Boustany, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Miller of Michigan, Mrs. Drake, Ms. Fallin, and Mr. Buchanan.

(14) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Mr. Stearns, Mr. Burton of Indiana, Mr. Moran of Kansas, Mr. Baker, Mr. Brown of South Carolina, Mr. Miller of Florida, Mr. Boozman, Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite of Florida, Mr. Turner, Mr. Bilbray, Mr. Lamborn, and Mr. Bilirakis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, further reading of the resolution is dispensed with.

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MAJORITY MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 46) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 46

Resolved, That the following named Members and Delegate be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Spratt, Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Taylor of Mississippi, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Reyes, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Smith of Washington, Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, Mr. McIntyre, Mrs. Tauscher, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania, Mr. Andrews, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Marshall, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Udall of Colorado, Mr. Boren, Mr. Ellsworth, Ms. Boyda of Kansas, Mr. Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Ms. Shea-Porter, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Loeb sack, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Sestak, Ms. Giffords, Ms. Castor.

(2) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR.—Mr. Kildee, Mr. Payne, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Ms. Woolsey, Mr. Hinojosa, Mrs. McCarthy of New York, Mr. Tierney, Mr. Kucinich, Mr. Wu, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Bishop of New York, Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Sestak, Mr. Loeb sack, Ms. Hirono, Mr.

Altmire, Mr. Yarmuth, Mr. Hare, Ms. Clarke, Mr. Courtney, Ms. Shea-Porter.

Mr. PALLONE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LIFTING MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS OUT OF POVERTY

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

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Mr. Speaker, \$2.32 for a gallon of gas, \$2.99 for a gallon of milk, \$20 or \$25 for a single day of childcare. These are real prices and, too often, real choices that working Americans face every day.

In Vermont, and across America, we have had a proud tradition of self-reliance and sense of community. We need to combine these two values, self-reliance on the one hand and community on the other, by rewarding work and making work pay.

We send a message every day to our citizens and our workers that we value work and that government has a role to play in ensuring opportunity to everyone willing to contribute. It is time we matched that message with our own leadership.

It is no accident that in Vermont and more than 20 States around the country, Republicans and Democrats, working together, have led in the effort to reward work with a reasonable minimum wage above our national minimum last set nearly a decade ago.

There are few more important tasks before us than addressing the growing economic gap between America's wealthiest citizens and low income workers.

Last year, millionaires were given tax breaks that put an average of \$40,000 in their pockets, and yet middle class workers who earn less than \$20,000 received just two dollars. Two dollars—for the whole year. That is rewarding wealth rather than work.

Today a full-time minimum wage worker earns just \$10,712 annually—more than \$2,000 below the poverty line for a family of two. Asking millions of our neighbors to work full time without a wage above poverty is wrong.

I believe that Congress must raise the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour to help life every minimum wage worker out of poverty.

Today and together, we can begin to restore a balance, by rewarding work and not just wealth, acknowledging we are all in this together.

FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 508 of House Resolution 6, I call up the bill (H.R. 2) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to

provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2

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 "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. MINIMUM WAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) except as otherwise provided in this section, not less than—

"(A) \$5.85 an hour, beginning on the 60th day after the date of enactment of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007;

"(B) \$6.55 an hour, beginning 12 months after that 60th day; and

"(C) \$7.25 an hour, beginning 24 months after that 60th day;"

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. APPLICABILITY OF MINIMUM WAGE TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206) shall apply to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) TRANSITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the minimum wage applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)) shall be—

(1) \$3.55 an hour, beginning on the 60th day after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(2) increased by \$0.50 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act and every 6 months thereafter until the minimum wage applicable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under this subsection is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 508 of House Resolution 6, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) each will control 90 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Maryland.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am extraordinarily happy to rise in support of this legislation. This legislation is very late in coming to this floor as a free-standing bill. It is, however, never too late to do the right thing.

This legislation, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, is long overdue. I believe it will pass this House today with broad bipartisan support, as the 9/11 bill did yesterday, making our country safer.

At long last, Mr. Speaker, this House is just hours away from finally passing a clean increase in the Federal minimum wage and sending this legislation to the Senate, where we devoutly hope the Members of the other body will do the same without delay.