

In section 2204(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike the dollar amount and insert “\$2,757,249,000”.

In section 2204(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert “\$1,496,532,000”.

In section 2204(a)(2), strike the dollar amount and insert “\$293,858,000”.

In section 2304(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert “\$710,173,000”.

In section 2404(a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike the dollar amount and insert “\$10,253,464,000”.

In section 2404(a)(1), strike the dollar amount and insert “\$898,483,000”.

Title XXXI, subtitle A, add at the end the following new section:

**SEC. 3105. OTHER ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES.**

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for fiscal year 2008 for energy security and assurance programs necessary for national security in the amount of \$6,000,000.

Make the following technical amendments:

(1) Page 302, lines 13 to 20, move the margins 2 ems to the right.

(2) Page 332, line 20, insert “in” before “subparagraph (B)”.

(3) Page 478, lines 12 to 15, move the margins 2 ems to the right.

(4) Page 513, line 22, strike “(I)” and insert “(i)”.

(5) Page 514, line 20, strike “(I)” and insert “(i)”.

(6) Page 623, line 19, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

(7) Page 669, line 16, strike “(I)” and insert “(i)”.

(8) Page 734, line 10, strike “redesignation” and insert “redesignating”.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 403, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, my manager's amendment which is before us this moment makes a series of technical and conforming changes, all of which have been set forth for the Members throughout the day, and I ask all the Members to support it.

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I just want to thank my chairman, Mr. SKELTON, the gentleman from Missouri, for such a wonderful job on this bill. We are totally in agreement with the manager's amendment and support it.

Mr. SKELTON. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my friend (Mr. TIM MURPHY).

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to ask for your help in this colloquy to identify an alternative that will allow the commissary and exchange stores to remain open at the Army's Charles E. Kelly support facility in Oakdale, Pennsylvania.

Although this installation will close as a result of the base realignment and closure process, there will remain a strong demand for these stores that are so critical to the vitality and welfare of any military community.

In the case of the Kelly support facility, the population of activity duty, reservists and retirees in western Pennsylvania, and the adjacent areas of Ohio and West Virginia, is estimated to be nearly 70,000, with another 100,000 family members. I would hope that a way can be found to project this critical benefit for these great Americans who have faithfully served our Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman for a response.

Mr. SKELTON. I thank the gentleman for raising this very important issue. I assure the gentleman from Pennsylvania that I will assist him in pursuing new options for protecting these important benefits at the Kelly support facility.

□ 2230

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I also want to thank the gentleman for including report language including the development of a new model for a combined commissary and exchange store. I believe a new strategy for combining these stores can be a valuable tool in protecting these benefits.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I agree. A combined commissary and exchange store may be the key to the future military resale activities at installations such as at the Kelly Support Facility.

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Finally, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your support. I would also like to thank Chairman MURTHA for his help and commitment and my Pittsburgh colleague and friend, MIKE DOYLE, and also Mr. ALTMIRE for help on this project. I am pleased to be working with all of my colleagues on this important issue and look forward to continuing our work together.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in House Report 110-151.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, at this time, we are nearing the end of all the debate. We have finished all the amendments.

Mr. Chairman, my heart is filled with gratitude for the other Members, for our ranking member, Mr. HUNTER, and to our amazing staff. The American people should know what a wonderful staff we have in putting together this defense bill. So many of them have stayed up late at night, early in the morning, all night long to write and make sure that we have the t's crossed and the i's dotted, to make sure that the young men and young women, as well as those who lead the young men and young women, have the tools with which to keep our country safe and, of

course, free. We have a great deal of gratitude for all of them, and I just can't thank them enough.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to my friend from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend for yielding. I just want to join with our chairman, IKE SKELTON, in thanking all of our staff, who have done a wonderful job in bringing together hundreds of issues at the subcommittee level, at the full committee level, and now on the House floor, and in these difficult times.

In these partisan times, when we all have to wear our partisan hat at times, this committee, which I think is the most bipartisan committee in the House of Representatives, has done a good job. We have provided good tools, good equipment, good resources for the people that wear the uniform of the United States, and a lot of that should be credited to our chairman, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON.

Many thanks, IKE, for your great work on this bill. I am sure we will have a great vote on it tomorrow, after we present you with an irresistible motion to recommit. I look forward to closing out the bill with you tomorrow. I know you will drive it successfully through the conference.

Thank you for everything that you have done in stitching this thing together. It is important for our troops, and I think we have done a pretty effective job today of moving it down the line. Many thanks.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the gentleman's comments and grateful for his work.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRALEY of Iowa) having assumed the chair, Mr. ALTMIRE, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1585.

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

There was no objection.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE THELMA DRAKE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable THELMA DRAKE, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 15, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that a judicial subpoena for documents, issued by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, has been delivered to my Virginia Beach, Virginia District Office.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by rule VIII.

Sincerely,

THELMA DRAKE.

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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS CENTERS NEEDED IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me take the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge the crisis that many of us see occurring with the brave men and women that return from fighting in Iraq and fighting in Afghanistan.

We have just finished a very thoughtful and collaborative effort to address the serious questions of our military and the Department of Defense, and the good news is that this bill has impacted or emphasized more on the needs of families.

I look forward to working with this body to develop more post-traumatic stress centers in underserved areas where military personnel will be returning to their homes. We already know the dastardly conditions that our military face in Iraq and Afghanistan, the long hours and tediousness of the DMZ and many other places around the world.

Our military personnel are suffering, and I look forward to working with this committee, the Veterans Affairs Committee, to ensure that centers like the Riverside Medical Center in Houston, Texas, can be a site for post-traumatic stress for our soldiers returning home so that their physical needs and their mental needs can be serviced. I look forward to this.

I believe we can do better by our soldiers as we move forward on helping them improve their mental health.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMENDING SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Southwest Airlines and their 30 years of service to the Permian Basin. For the past three decades, Southwest Airlines has provided friendly and affordable air services in and out of Midland International Airport. With over 13 daily departures to six cities in three States, the people of the Permian Basin are free to move about the country.

On my many flights on Southwest Airlines, I am always struck by the friendly, good natured flight attendants, agents and pilots that make up the employees of this airline. There is an unmistakable sense of pride that comes with working with Southwest that can be seen in the faces of the pilots to the ground crew.

I am honored to represent the many employees of Southwest Airlines that are headquartered at Midland International Airport and look forward to 30 more years of friendly and accommodating service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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OPPOSE THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, as always, it is such an honor to be part of this body when you know the sacrifices that have been made by so many just to allow us to be here at this time in history.

There is a defense bill that we will be talking about some in the next 60 minutes, but in leading up to that, I wanted to address a bill that was on the suspension calendar earlier this week and was pulled from the suspension calendar, and I have been told it probably will be coming up very soon.

Like so many things that have been done in this body that has unintended consequences, the Second Chance Act is very well intentioned. As a former

judge, I know well that we have got to do a better job of rehabilitating, of educating, with drug treatment and alcohol treatment for those that are incarcerated in our prisons. There is just no question that we should do a better job with those things.

Unfortunately, this well-meaning bill, the Second Chance Act, goes so far beyond what is helpful. This bill will provide more benefits to felons than are available to those risking their lives in the service of our United States military.

For example, this bill apparently will provide over \$360 million. I say apparently will provide over that amount, because one provision says "such sums as may be necessary." There is no way to know how much money that may be. But, in any event, this bill, for example, seems to leave medical care potentially unending after confinement.

I realize as a Republican I was in the minority in our Judiciary Committee hearing, so I attempted to limit the medical care to 6 months after a criminal was released from prison for the extent of the medical care. That was voted down by the majority, who believed that we should leave it open-ended.

I was in the United States Army for 4 years, and I can tell you that unless you retire with over 20 years of active military service or you are disabled as a result of your military service, you have no medical care waiting for you at the end of your service. That means if a military member who serves less than 20 years wants a chance at free medical, he will need to commit a serious enough crime to get him locked up.

When a military member is sent to serve on one of the many unaccompanied tours of duty, his family suffers greatly, particularly if this is a Reservist or a National Guard member. However, under this Second Chance Act, which is really more of an "Infinite Chance Act," we will provide taxpayer dollars to help with transportation for an inmate's family to get to and from the prison. Grant dollars are there for that.

□ 2245

If you are in the military on an unaccompanied tour and you would like to have your children nearby, you are out of luck. However, if you are a confined felon, under this bill there will be tax dollars in the way of grants to pay for nurseries or preschools at the prison so you can have your children close to you.

If you are a U.S. servicemember away from home and long to provide your family or your children the technology to ease the distance between you and to ease the loneliness, you either must reach into your small amount of pay, or you could commit a felony and get locked up because there are millions of dollars in this Second Chance bill for grants for technology or tapes or DVD or players, even cell phones, things that help bridge the distance.