

military with the best equipment technology has to offer. We are one of the greatest Nations on this earth, but yet it took parents and other individuals to get our military up-armored Humvees and better body armor. Now we need Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles and the debate is on again.

"First of all, these vehicles were available for years before this war began, but yet we are just now realizing the need for them. This is shameful, and there is no excuse for it. I would like one person to look me and other mothers in the eye and explain why our sons were not in the these vehicles. According to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, approximately 700 American heroes would be alive today if they had been in an MRAP, my son included.

"I'm not smartest or most educated woman in the world, but it doesn't take a genius to figure out that there should be no debate over supplying our military with these vehicles.

"IEDs seem to be one of the most effective weapons terrorists have against our troops. Money should not be an issue. This country has been selfish long enough. It shouldn't matter how much it costs. If you are going to ask our military to put their lives on the line for our freedoms, then again, money should not matter. We as a country can go without perfectly paved roads and other such luxuries we seem to think we need for awhile. We gripe about the cost of gas, milk and cup of coffee. If Americans would quit being selfish, maybe funding this war wouldn't be so hard.

"Our Congress and Senate need to stop the finger pointing, back biting, back stabbing and name calling and do their jobs. Work together. As hard as that sounds, the rest of us in the 'real world' have to do it every day.

"It is also time for what I believe is a silent majority to stand up and be heard. Since the death of our son, we have heard from people all over the country who appreciate what he did for his country. They also appreciate what our military is doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. But we as a country only hear from the ones who complain the most. The rich and famous, who don't know what they're talking about, get to tell their opinions, but not those of us who support our sons and daughters who have volunteered to serve this country.

"I had long conversations with my son while he was in Iraq. I was one of the lucky Moms who got to talk to her son quite frequently. He told me of the good things they were doing, for example opening schools, hospitals, clinics and helping recruit men into the Iraqi Army. The vast majority of the Iraqi people in the area Jeremy was in, loved and appreciated the Marines. They understood why we are there. He told me how the locals were voluntarily giving info on the terrorists and their activities and that neighborhood watch programs had been started.

"Do we hear of this? No. Because it isn't sensational enough and it doesn't get votes.

"This war has had a lot of mistakes made, but to me it's neither here or there. We are there and there are good things being done. I want no more excuses and explanations. Write the check with no attachments and give our men what they need. MRAP's should have been there from the beginning and should be there now. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates is asking for more money for MRAP's. This is a no brainer and there should no excuse for thousands to be built. I as a Mother do not care what the obstacles are. We built ships faster than this during World War II. It can be done if we want to. Don't attach pork and other stupid stuff to it either. Just do it. Until we finish our job in Iraq and Afghanistan these vehicles shouldn't be under debate and should be top priority in the manufacturing industry. If you had done this in the first place, my son and many others would be alive today. He was in a Humvee every day he was in Iraq as are thousands of others.

"Jeremy was a bigger man at 21 than any of the men and women that are running this country. He went to war without hesitation or reservation. He did his job well and was sorely overworked and underpaid. I ask that you all start earning your paycheck and do what is right. As my son said, 'We are doing good things here and we need to finish.'

Please honor our military and give them the equipment and time in Iraq and Afghanistan that they need. Please save another Soldier or Marine in a Humvee by putting them in MRAP's.

"The Iraqi people where my son was appreciated him and his fellow Marines. Too bad our own politicians don't. Quit using words of support and do it with deeds."

I realize my time is expired, and I thank the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SUTTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PASSAGE OF THE DEEPWATER BILL

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House of Representatives resoundingly supported efforts to strengthen the management of the Coast Guard's \$24 billion, 25-year Deepwater procurement effort by passing the Integrated Deepwater Program Reform Act, H.R. 2722, which I authored, and they voted by a sum of 426-0 for that bill.

I want to again thank Congressman JAMES OBERSTAR, the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for his leadership on this legislation. I thank the ranking member of the full committee, Congressman MICA, and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Congressman LATOURETTE, for their work on this bill.

And certainly I thank the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, BENNIE THOMPSON, for his wise counsel and his efforts to get the bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I'm confident that the enactment of H.R. 2722 will help restore the trust of the American people in the ability of the United States Coast Guard to manage taxpayers' resources and to hold contractors accountable for the quality of the assets that they produce.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the House and with my colleagues in the Senate, particularly Senator MARIA CANTWELL, the chair of the Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee, to take the steps necessary to put legislation forward to strengthen the Coast Guard's management of Deepwater on the President's desk.

The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, which it is my honor to chair, continues to work diligently to oversee not only the Deepwater project but, indeed, all of the operations of the United States Coast Guard.

Yesterday, the subcommittee held a hearing to examine the Coast Guard's administrative law system, which weighs allegations of misconduct or negligence to determine whether a mariner's credentials should be suspended or even revoked.

The subcommittee received testimony from two former administrative law judges suggesting that during their tenure they worked in an atmosphere that did not support their exercise of judicial independence in the consideration of their cases.

Additionally, serious allegations were raised that, if true, would imply that improper actions may have been committed to direct an ALJ to decide matters in the Coast Guard's favor.

Such testimony is obviously deeply disturbing, and again, I emphasize, if true, we suggest that the scales of the Coast Guard's justice and administrative law system are not evenly balanced.

While we continue investigating the allegations raised, I do know that any administrative law system must not only ensure that there is no impropriety in the conduct of administrative proceedings but that there is not even the appearance of unfairness in the system.

I now believe that the administrative law system reviewing cases against mariners should be separated from the

Coast Guard, and I look forward to continuing to work with the ranking member of the subcommittee and with all subcommittee members to consider how best to achieve that objective.

Our subcommittee will conduct a second oversight hearing this week. Tomorrow, we will examine the Coast Guard's marine safety program. This hearing will provide a comprehensive examination of whether the Coast Guard personnel have the expertise, the experience and the continuity necessary to effectively inspect vessels, license mariners and develop the regulations that will make vessels safer and protect our natural environment.

The Coast Guard is our thin blue line at sea and a critical part of our Nation's homeland security system. The Deepwater bill passed by the House and the oversight hearings held by the subcommittee this week will help to ensure that this thin blue line is as strong as it possibly can be and that the service is working effectively and efficiently to meet the highest expectations of the American people.

Again, I applaud the passage of the Deepwater bill and express my gratitude for the dedication of the great men and brave women that serve in the Coast Guard.

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

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BRADY of Texas 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 New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SCHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I asked to speak this evening on SCHIP, the bill that was passed today. Unfortunately, I was unable to be there during the day here on the House floor during the debate, but I wanted to speak about the importance of it to me personally and why I think it is important to this Nation.

Two years ago this month, or just around this month, having served 31 years in our military, my 4-year-old daughter, my only daughter, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor and given 3 to 9 months to live. We began a series of brain operations and then chemotherapy.

Down the street in Children's Hospital, we began that treatment, and about January when we were done and began to think about what to do with the rest of my life, having then retired from the military to live with my daughter on an oncology ward, it became very important to me to remember what I saw when we began that chemotherapy treatment.

We were in a small room like anybody else who has been in a hospital. We had a roommate. It was a young 2½-year-old boy here from Washington, D.C., who had entered the hospital that day because he had been diagnosed with acute leukemia.

And for about 6 hours as my daughter was undergoing her first chemotherapy, vomiting about, as I remember, 19 times that day, we could not help but overhear through this thin curtain that separated the bed from my daughter's social workers who came and went, working with the parents of that young child to see if he might remain there in the hospital to be treated for his cancer. And they had to do that because he was uninsured.

Here I had been in the navy for 31 years, and the one time I had a personal challenge, and I had many professional challenges, this Nation gave my daughter an opportunity.

I took her pathology slides everywhere, Children's, Mass General, John Hopkins, Children's in Philadelphia, and then we sought the best out to give her an opportunity, having been challenged for just 3 to 9 months to live.

I went away to an 11-month war and never worried that my daughter and my wife would be taken care of. I don't understand how that young child, 2½ years old, sitting in that room next to my daughter did not have the same opportunity. Where was the Nation for him?

So, therefore, I just rose to speak today that why I entered the race for Congress after 31 years in the military

was not, as many assumed, because of the Iraqi war, that tragic misadventure, but rather, it was to give every child the same opportunity mine had.

Hubert Humphrey said it well: The moral test of a government is how well it takes care of those in the dawn of life, the children; those in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those in the shadows of life, the sick, the disabled, the handicapped.

But for me, it was more personal. This Nation was here for me. I owe it. And I intend to pay it back by continuing to work for programs like SCHIP where that young 2½-year-old boy, uninsured, had to wait for the social workers to convince an administration that he might have the opportunity to live.

That's why SCHIP to me is so important.

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

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

REVISIONS TO ALLOCATION FOR HOUSE COMMITTEES

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

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, under sections 211, 301(b), 304(a), 305(b), 314(d), 320(a), and 320(c) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a revision to the budget allocations and aggregates for certain House committees for fiscal years 2007, 2008, and the period of 2008 through 2012. This revision represents an adjustment to certain House committee budget allocations and aggregates for the purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, and in response to the bill made in order by the Committee on Rules, H.R. 3162 (Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007). Corresponding tables are attached.

Under section 211 of S. Con. Res. 21, this adjustment to the budget allocations and aggregates applies while the measure (H.R. 3162) is under consideration. The adjustments will take effect upon enactment of the measure (H.R. 3162). For purposes of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended, a revised allocation made under section 211 of S. Con. Res. 21 is to be considered as an allocation included in the resolution.

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES

(Fiscal years, in millions of dollars)

House committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Current allocation:						
Energy and Commerce	–1	–1	134	132	89	87