

help our firefighters manage the demands of the 21st century. These programs include response activities to all types of national catastrophes; exposure of hazardous materials; and increased emergency medical services. This bill also authorizes the USFA to assist the Nation's fire services by improving equipment and sharing best practices to address fire suppression and prevention.

This bill was passed by a voice vote by the Science and Technology Committee with bipartisan support, and has been endorsed by the International Association of Firefighters.

I urge a "yes" vote on the previous question and on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 4847, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4847.

□ 1041

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4847) to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MITCHELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 4847, the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization

Act of 2008, a bill I introduced with the original cosponsor, my good friend from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY.

Firefighters are often the first to arrive at an emergency scene and the last to leave. Whether it is putting out a house fire or a wild fire, or responding to a terrorist attack or car accident, we depend on firefighters every day. But firefighters also depend on us; they depend on the public and their elected officials to make sure that they have the resources, the equipment, and the training they need to do their job. Without those tools, we put them and all of us at risk.

The U.S. Fire Administration is an invaluable resource for our Nation's firefighters and the communities they protect. Through training, data collection, fire education for the public, and support for fire-related research and development, the USFA provides critical tools and leadership to the Fire Service.

Fire is one of nature's most destructive forces. In 1973, when USFA was created, over 6,000 Americans died each year in fires and another 100,000 were injured. Through the leadership of USFA and others, the number of people killed by fires each year is now between 3,000 and 3,500, with approximately 16,000 people who were injured. We can all be proud of the significant reduction. However, 3,000 Americans a year is still too many, especially when so many of these deaths and injuries are from our most vulnerable populations, children and the elderly.

In addition, the Nation still suffers over \$11 billion per year in direct losses due to fire, and the trend for this number is going up, not down. With statistics like these, it is clear that fire continues to be a major problem for the U.S. H.R. 4847 reauthorizes this important agency for 4 years at funding levels that will enable USFA to carry out fully its mission.

□ 1045

At a hearing with the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee held last fall, we heard the priorities of the Nation's fire service communities for USFA. This bill directly reflects their priorities.

This bill authorizes the USFA to focus on the pressing challenges of fighting fires in the wildland-urban interface, and fires involving hazardous materials, as well as advanced topics of emergency medical services.

Back home in Arizona, one of the toughest challenges our firefighters face is wildfires in the wildland-urban interface. This is an important year for wildfires. We have had a pretty wet winter which means a great deal of shrubs and bushes have grown at lower elevations. When the summer months heat up and the vegetation dries out, those shrubs and bushes will turn into tinder that can start a fast-moving wildfire in urban areas. Those fires threaten homes and lives. Fighting wildfires in urban areas requires spe-

cial training, and I am proud that this legislation enhances fire administration training for wildland-urban interface fires.

Firefighters today are called upon to respond to an ever-broader range of emergencies. This authorization bill gives USFA the authority to make sure its training program keeps pace with the increasing challenges to the fire service.

The bill also addresses an important priority of the fire service in USFA, and that is to update the National Fire Incident Reporting System, or NFIRS. This system provides important data on fire events to policymakers at all levels of government. The current system is slow to report the data to the National Fire Data Center, and does not capture data on every fire, thus limiting its value to users. H.R. 4847 would direct USFA to update NFIRS to a real-time reporting, web-based system.

The bill also directs the U.S. Fire Administrator to continue USFA's leadership in firefighter health and safety. Every year over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. H.R. 4847 directs USFA to educate local fire departments about national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety, and to encourage local departments to adopt these standards. This provision will help reduce the tragic loss of life the fire service suffers each year in line-of-duty deaths by promoting good practices in a variety of fire emergencies.

I also understand there have been some concerns that this provision would affect the jurisdiction of NIOSH, the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. I would like to reassure my colleagues that it is not my intent for this bill to have any effect on NIOSH or any other agency of the Department of Health and Human Services.

H.R. 4847 is the product of bipartisan collaboration, and is supported by major fire service organizations, including the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Firefighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, National Fire Protection Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

The resources and leadership of the USFA are an essential part of the ability of the fire service to protect our cities, towns and communities. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4847, the U.S. Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008 reauthorizes USFA's activities in training, fire education and awareness, data collection, research and standards development and promotion. This legislation also authorizes \$291 million in Federal funds for fiscal years 2009

through 2012 for the USFA. This authorization level, Mr. Chairman, is consistent with previously authorized levels and it only includes a very modest growth in funding that is capped at 3 percent in any of the fiscal years for the bill.

Mr. Chairman, as the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation, I am pleased to have worked with my colleague from Arizona, Mr. MITCHELL, over these past few months to bring this bill, H.R. 4847, to the House floor today.

I am also pleased that this bill has gone through the regular order process. That is a refreshing phrase, Mr. Chairman, but I am certainly pleased that it went through regular order. In fact, in October, the Science Committee's Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation, of which I am the ranking member, we held a hearing on reauthorizing USFA, and H.R. 4847 was unanimously reported out of our subcommittee earlier this year.

On February 27 of this year, the full committee, the full Science Committee, reported the bill after accepting both Republican and Democratic amendments that I think have improved the bill.

The mission of USFA is to limit economic and life loss "due to fire and related emergencies, through leadership, advocacy, coordination and support."

This organization provides vital assistance in the areas of training, fire education and awareness, and it awards grants to a number of our local fire departments across this country. We all have them in every district of all 435 Members. These activities have made a substantial impact over the last 30 years.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that because of the work of the USFA, smoke alarms are now standard issue in residences across the country. Over a million firefighters have received advanced training, and firefighter equipment and safety continually improves.

USFA should be proud of its record of achievement. However, it is also clear that certainly there are still improvements that can be made. In the last 10 years, deaths related to fires have decreased by approximately 25 percent, from nearly 5,000 in 1996 to 3,675 in 2006. Although that decrease in fire-related deaths is commendable, the United States still has one of the highest death rates from fires in the industrialized world.

Additionally, despite decreases in the numbers of fires, direct damage costs are increasing and have surpassed \$10 billion per year. The number of fires have gone down, but the damage from them has gone up to \$10 billion per year. In an average year, Mr. Chairman, fires caused as much damage in the United States as have hurricanes. The reauthorization of USFA will allow the agency to continue to improve our preparedness and to reduce our vulnerability to fires.

Unfortunately, last year we saw wildfires that literally ravaged south-

ern California, and we need to develop a more cohesive way of combating these fires. I am happy to see that this legislation specifically addresses the issue of fighting fires in what we refer to as an urban-wildland interface by implementing methods to better respond and prepare for fires that move from wildlands to suburban and indeed urban areas.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, I am particularly pleased that this legislation now includes an amendment that I offered at full committee. It will allow the USFA administrator to perform studies related to the management of emergency medical services at the scene of a fire. Our brave firefighters, men and women, are called upon to extract victims from car crashes, building fires or collapses, and other emergencies, so it is critical that patients receive consistent care under medical direction.

While I do not expect USFA to pursue studies into the medical care EMS patients should receive, I believe my amendment, which was accepted by the full Science Committee, will give the administrator the authority to conduct studies into training, system design, on-scene patient management while making sure to work with appropriate Federal agencies and existing medical services in these local communities.

Mr. Chairman, the current bill is an important and well-crafted step forward for the USFA, and it represents months of diligent work by both the majority and the minority members and staff of the Science Committee. I want to make sure to commend the great staff of both the minority and the majority.

This legislation has been a bipartisan accomplishment of our committee. That is pretty much standard practice in the Science Committee, I am proud to say, Mr. Chairman. And it is being supported not only unanimously by the committee, but by a number of fire-related advocacy groups, including the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Firefighters, the International Fire Service Training Association, the National Fire Protection Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, and the National North American Fire Training Directors.

Mr. Chairman, I could go on, but my staff didn't list any more.

I certainly want to say, Mr. Chairman, this is an outstanding bill and I urge all my colleagues to support it, H.R. 4847, because this bill will enable the USFA to continue its record of achievement, as well as prepare firefighters for the challenges that they will undoubtedly face in the future.

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), the chairman

of the Science and Technology Committee.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. MITCHELL for yielding to me, and I want to thank him for the introduction of this important and outstanding piece of legislation.

As my friend Dr. GINGREY said, this is a bipartisan piece of legislation coming out of what I hope is thought of as a bipartisan committee. I want to thank him, as well as Mr. WU, for their work as the subcommittee chairman and ranking member. I want to thank Mr. HALL for his help in getting this bill out as the ranking member of the committee.

We have passed more than 30 bills and resolutions out of the Science and Technology Committee, all of which have been bipartisan, and all but one have been unanimous. This is another one of those unanimous bills. I think that happens because we are working together to try to do it the right way. We had a good subcommittee hearing. We had a subcommittee markup, a full committee markup. When you do it that way, you get the type of third-party endorsements that Dr. GINGREY talked about.

We have the endorsement of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Firefighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the National North American Training Directors, the International Fire Service Training Association, and the Congressional Fire Service Institute. That is quite a lineup to demonstrate the support for this good bill.

I also want to thank the members of the committee for their work as this bill was crafted. Ms. RICHARDSON was particularly helpful in bringing her experience of firefighting from a coastal area, and made us realize that a curriculum in marine and port firefighting was important.

This is a good bill done the right way, and I thank all parties for their participation.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to place into the RECORD an exchange of letters between the Committee on Science and Technology and the Committee on Homeland Security.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, March 28, 2008.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2007. Though H.R. 4847 implicates the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security, I will not seek a sequential referral of this bill because I share your interest in assuring that this legislation is brought to the House floor in an expeditious manner. Agreeing to waive consideration of the bill should not be construed as the Committee on Homeland Security waiving its jurisdiction.

Further, the Committee on Homeland Security while forgoing a sequential referral of

this bill, reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this or similar legislation. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Homeland Security for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 4847 or similar legislation.

In addition, I ask that you please include this letter and a copy of your response acknowledging the Committee on Homeland Security's jurisdictional interest in this bill and indicating your support of our agreement in the committee report on H.R. 4847 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY,
March 28, 2008.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding the consideration of H.R. 4847, the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008. I appreciate your willingness to forgo a sequential referral on this measure so that it may move expeditiously to the Floor.

While the Committee on Science and Technology has been given sole jurisdiction over every U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) bill since the USFA's creation, we recognize that the Committee on Homeland Security has an interest in H.R. 4847 based on your jurisdiction over functions of the Department of Homeland Security relating to research and development (House Rule X(1)(i)(3)(E)). Research, development, and demonstration programs and projects at the Department of Homeland Security remain within the shared jurisdiction of the Committee on Science and Technology due to our jurisdiction over "scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects, therefor" (House Rule X(1)(o)(14)). I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Homeland Security does not waive its jurisdiction. In addition, I will support any request you may make to have conferees to a conference committee on those sections of H.R. 4847, or any similar legislation.

The exchange of letters between our two committees will be inserted in the legislative report on H.R. 4847 and the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve my time.

□ 1100

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 3 minutes to Mr. PASCRELL, the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, to all of those on both sides of the aisle who made it possible for the reauthorization bill to come to the floor today, I say thank you, and all the services.

The U.S. Fire Administration, through FEMA, provides the leadership, the coordination, and support services for fire prevention and control, which is critical. I mean, we still lose

100 firefighters, on average, every year. That certainly is unacceptable to any of us on this floor. And we need to work even harder to make sure that our firefighters have the resources and the wherewithal to do the job we ask them to do.

If you remember the Fire Act we passed before 9/11, this was a response to the very basic needs of the 32,000 fire departments throughout the United States and the one million firefighters. That legislation broke ground because it was a response to needs that we've neglected. We can't expect that every local community in this country has the resources to supply and provide the training and the state-of-the-art equipment to the fire departments throughout America, and so that Fire Act has been so successful.

There is literally \$3.5 billion in applications in the Fire Act, and a tremendous amount of applications for SAFER every year. And we have devised, both of us, on both sides of the aisle, probably the best format of how to judge the competitive applications. We've asked the firefighters to step up to the plate, judged by their peers. But the Fire Administration is partner with all of these peer firefighters who review the applications. In the Fire Act and SAFER bill, this is very unusual, the money goes directly to the departments so that the States cannot skim and the local government cannot skim. So, this is a real competition, and I believe that's how all Federal funds should be used. That's my own personal opinion.

The Fire Administration has been a true partner for 34 years. The roles and responsibilities of the fire service have evolved for the 1.1 million men and women in fire and emergency services, over 316,000 career firefighters, almost 317,000, and the 824,000 volunteers.

What I am so thankful for, in terms of the U.S. Fire Administration, Mr. Chairman, is that the U.S. Fire Administration has brought the volunteers and the career firefighters together. This is invaluable.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from New Jersey has expired.

Mr. MITCHELL. I yield an additional minute to the gentleman.

Mr. PASCRELL. I cannot express how important this is. All the competition that existed before 2000, we've gotten out of it, and thanks to the Fire Administration. They are working together, the career firefighters and the volunteer firefighters.

This is a very important legislation that is going to save lives. And isn't this what we're here for, to do what we can on a Federal level, realizing it's always going to be the local efforts that are going to be most important. But we have a responsibility, and it seems to me today, Mr. Chairman, that we're stepping up to the plate.

I want to commend Members on both sides, the good doctor and my good friend from the Southwest part of the

country. This has brought us together, this legislation, and it is good legislation.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I will continue to reserve my time.

Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time is remaining on both sides?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona, his time remaining is 18 minutes. The gentleman from Georgia, his time remaining is 22 minutes.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield as much time as she may consume to Ms. RICHARDSON, the gentlelady from California.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support today of H.R. 4847, which is the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act.

This reauthorization of this vital legislation demonstrates Congress' commitment to enhance the protection of our citizens throughout this great Nation to prevent any harm that might come to loss of life or property due to devastation caused by fires. Included in this legislation is an amendment that I offered at a full committee markup that I'd like to reiterate and clarify at this time.

Inclusive in H.R. 4847 is an amendment that does not create a new standalone course regarding port and marine firefighting. In fact, much effort was taken by my staff, the Republican side, committee staff, as well as the various agencies, to ensure that we would take conscious action in not creating additional costs for the agencies and/or programs that are right now really not funded to the levels we would like to see.

The intent of the amendment is to take the unique content of port and marine firefighting activity and to incorporate that information into existing classes. Why, you might ask? This Congress' goal of using, in an efficient manner, resources that we have, we also want to integrate information to best prepare our firefighters to respond to disasters.

And you might ask the question, why? In the United States alone, we have over 126 shipping ports, all of which are critical to the movement of goods and the general health of our economy. The volatility of the products that are being shipped and the new increased size of these shipping vessels causes problems to our firefighters in terms of responding. So, when you consider a district such as mine that borders along the Port of Long Beach and also the Port of Los Angeles, one of the things that we learned in the wake of Katrina, we learned in the San Diego fires, and we also learned with September 11th is that firefighters are brothers and sisters. You might have rural firefighters who respond to an urban disaster; likewise, urban firefighters might be called to respond to a rural disaster.

And so, one of the things that we've learned in these incredible complex disasters that we've had over the last couple of years is that inoperability, the

ability for rural and urban firefighters to have the same information and to be prepared in the midst of a disaster because it's one thing to play Monday night quarterback when everything can be planned in advance, but when we have a disaster, it is too late at that point for our firefighters to be trained on how do you respond to an extended vessel, or how do you respond to an LNG disaster, or how do you respond to anything else that might be occurring. And so, with that, it is my pleasure to work with, we had great leadership by Mr. MITCHELL here in this effort of the reauthorization bill.

Because we never know what our firefighters might be facing, I, unfortunately, lost a firefighter in California just last week. So, I would be remiss at this moment not to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Representative BARTLETT and Representative ROHRBACHER, for their support of this amendment.

I intend, through conference with staff and the appropriate members of the Department of Homeland Security, USFA, and the Superintendent of the Fire Academy to ensure that we have the right curriculum that can be incorporated that can benefit all firefighters to ultimately protect our citizens in a better way.

In closing, I want to again commend our colleague, Representative MITCHELL, for his leadership on this issue, and also Chairman GORDON for his commitment on the Science and Technology Committee to move beyond all of the limits and the challenges that we have, and to make sure that Americans are protected every day.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to Mr. WU, the gentleman from Oregon. He is the chairman of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee. And I want to thank Chairman WU for moving this bill so quickly through the subcommittee.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to recognize the leadership of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL) for working diligently on this important piece of legislation, for reaching across the aisle and working with the gentleman from Georgia, and for his leadership in shaping this important piece of legislation. In fact, it was, indeed, through efforts like this that Congress first formed the United States Fire Administration in 1974 because of then reports that there are over 12,000 deaths each year in this country, and over 300,000 fire injuries. And through the hard work of the USFA, and others, we have been fortunate to see that number drop dramatically.

We are now a much safer Nation thanks to improved awareness of fire

safety practices, increased use of smoke detectors and sprinklers, and other fire safety measures. Still, about 3,000 people die each year of fires, and 10,000 more are injured. We also still see too many firefighters die in the line of duty. And I want to recognize Mr. PASCRELL, the gentleman from New Jersey, for his diligent work over many years to decrease that unconscionable number.

We have a lot more work to do. The USFA supports local fire departments in a variety of ways. It offers training and career development to thousands of mid-level firefighters, fire chiefs, and other emergency management officials.

USFA is a great way for the Federal Government to help coordinate efforts for local firefighters. USFA also develops fire education and awareness curriculum material to be used in training citizens across the country. It aims these messages at groups which suffer the highest fire casualties, such as the young and the elderly.

While Congress is working to reauthorize and build on this program, the President, unfortunately, is cutting the budget for USFA. Indeed, the President's fiscal '09 budget cuts USFA by more than 5 percent.

As firefighters learn to respond to new issues, such as fires and the wildland-urban interface, terrorist events and harmful materials incidents, we need to provide sufficient funds to train and prepare them for these situations.

Firefighters risk their lives every day so that they can protect ours. Passing this legislation is one way that we can not only show, but tangibly demonstrate our deep appreciation.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the underlying bill. I again recognize the leadership of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield to the ranking member of the full committee, the Science Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL). I yield to him as much time as he might consume.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I won't take all that much time.

I've heard it said that water and fire are wonderful friends and fearful enemies, and I'm sure that's been said a lot of times today. And we know the terrible devastation that both of these can bring.

Thousands of people die in the United States every year due to fire, and many more are injured. The total would be even higher if it weren't for the dedication and the service of our Nation's fire men and women.

I don't know how you can say enough about our Nation's firefighters. I would say this: It's kind of a shame that it took a 9/11 for people to really fully appreciate firefighters and men and women that defend us and defend our property and our lives. I just think they're treasures of the country, and

it's good for this Congress to honor them every chance we get. And that's why I'm very pleased that the Committee on Science and Technology has taken the time to deliberate and produce a bill that will greatly contribute to the effectiveness of the United States Fire Administration, and by extension, the local men and women who serve us so very well.

I'd like to thank the gentlemen from Arizona and Georgia for their leadership on this bill, as well as the rest of the colleagues on the committee for their work. And I, of course, urge passage of H.R. 4847 and yield back the balance of my time after once again saying that it's unusual that it would take some kind of devastation like we had in our sister State over here to really bring the full appreciation of men and women who, day and night, face the fires and face protection of our property and our goods. I'm honored to be a part of recognizing them and saying to them one more time from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you, we appreciate what you're doing, and we look forward to the fact that you're going to be able to continue to do it.

□ 1115

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to Mr. MATHESON, the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Chairman, once again the Science Committee brings to the House floor a bill that makes sense, that was developed in a bipartisan way. It's a great tradition of this committee, and I think Members on both sides of the aisle on that committee know what a great committee it is to work on.

And I want to thank Congressman MITCHELL, in particular, for taking the lead on this issue, because his approach really fits into the Science Committee approach about how we look at issues, and we try to work together in a bipartisan way to make progress. And that's why I'm happy to stand up and offer my support for this bill today.

In the grand scheme of things, one of the reasons why I think this is incredibly important is that the United States has one of the highest fire-related death rates among all industrialized nations. Think about that. With all the technology we have in this country, all the safety measures, we still rank so poorly among industrialized nations in terms of fire-related deaths. And this legislation takes a step in terms of trying to address that problem.

Now, I come from a western State, the State of Utah; and in the West, we have particular danger in terms of forest fires. This legislation fully funds the National Fire Incident Reporting System, which is going to help the U.S. Fire Administration prevent future forest fires. Currently, we're only able to capture data from 50 percent of wildfires, which just is not enough.

By improving the incident reporting system, the U.S. Fire Administration

will be able to speed up the reporting data, generating a more comprehensive database. In practical terms, that's going to mean better analysis, greater fire prevention, and fewer lives lost.

And, in particular, this bill, if enacted, will expand the program to include training in wildland-urban interface areas. And this is an issue that's particularly important in western States where, as population growth has taken place, there has been greater development of housing that's moved more into where the forest exists; and that's a critical problem during these wildfire incidents is how we deal with fire issues in that very sensitive area.

Most of my congressional district faces this problem, and my congressional district is not unusual compared to most of the West. I believe better training in terms of this wildland-urban interface will be a huge asset to Fire Departments in similar areas.

So Mr. Chairman, I want to again thank you for your leadership on this issue. I thank Chairman GORDON and ranking member HALL. I thank Chairman WU from the subcommittee. I thank Congressman MITCHELL for his leadership. I know Mr. GINGREY's been a leader on this issue as well. And again, the Science Committee, as usual, comes up with a bill that makes sense. I'm sure it will be adopted today, and I urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, if I might ask my good friend from Arizona how much time, first of all, does he have left, and does he have additional speakers.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona, the time remaining for him is 8 minutes. And the gentleman from Georgia, the balance of time remaining for him is 20½ minutes.

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you. We have some additional speakers that are on their way.

Mr. GINGREY. At this point, Mr. Chairman, I will continue to reserve the balance of my time. But if the gentleman needs some time from our side, we will be glad to yield it to him.

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, we do have a couple more speakers. They are on their way.

Mr. Chairman, if I may, I appreciate the good words that people have come and said before this body. We've made significant strides in reducing fire-related deaths and injuries since Congress first created this agency in the 1970s. But again, as we've noted, and all the speakers have noted, there are still more than 3,000 Americans that die every year from fires, and many more injured. And despite the decreases in the number of fires, the cost, as we said, is continually rising. And, in fact, it's roughly the same cost, the damage of fires is roughly the same cost as caused by hurricanes.

We know that the Fire Service provides critical assistance in protecting our communities from emergency events. From house fires to terrorist

events to natural disasters, firefighters, as we've noted, are not only the first on the scene, but many times the last to leave.

As the wildfires in California last fall demonstrated, the Fire Service plays a vital role in protecting our communities, and that's why we introduced H.R. 4847, to reauthorize the U.S. Fire Administration and provide additional resources for our Nation's firefighters.

The U.S. Fire Administration is an invaluable resource for over 1.3 million firefighters and emergency personnel around the country. Through training, educational materials, data collection and other services, the USFA provides tools and leadership to firefighters and communities that they serve.

H.R. 4847 will reauthorize the USFA, funding its critical work until the Fiscal Year 2012. This bill will ensure that our firefighters are trained to handle modern-day challenges facing today's first responders, including, as we have mentioned before, firefighting in the wildland-urban interface and responding to hazardous material incidents.

The bill is supported by, and we've listed a whole list of these before, all of these national associations that deal with firefighting.

This bill is the product of bipartisan collaboration and had considerable input from the Fire Service community.

We encourage you to help support firefighters in your district by ensuring that everyone has the resources they need by supporting this important legislation.

I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I will yield to myself such time as I might consume.

I was recently in Iraq. I've been a number of times, of course, to Iraq, and Afghanistan. And also just recently, I saw a news special back home highlighting one of our great heroes from the Middle East who was burned severely. His injuries, I think, were the result of an improvised explosive device, and he was an occupant of one of the up-armored HUMVEES or the new MRAP vehicles. I think, indeed, it was an up-armored HUMVEE.

And while he was not injured by shrapnel or a projectile, there was a fire, and there was a significant fire. And of course, as he was pulled from the burning vehicle, he sustained severe, severe injuries to his person from the fire. And he described how he just, he knew what to do. He rolled, he tried everything in his power. But of course, thanks to what happened to him at Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany, and then eventually at Walter Reed and Bethesda, he's alive and well and has a family and children. And this little news clip featured him playing with his kids. But you could certainly see the ravages that that fire inflicted upon his body, and the scarring of course. What a brave—I wish I could remember his name, Mr. Chairman, be-

cause it was, talk about a profile in courage.

But it just made me think about, as we've been discussing here today, and you talk about what these firefighters do and how important they are. And actually, as we know, 40 percent of the workload in Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom has been carried by our Guard and Reserve, many of whom are firefighters who, you know, they've been trained. And thank God for that. And I'm very hopeful. I want to look into this further. I'm sure that our military, our regular Army and Marine Corps, they're all well-trained in that. But that just goes to show you how important it is, not just to save a life, but try to bring that life back and so they can rejoin their family and friends in society, go back to their job.

One of the statistics that I think both Mr. MITCHELL and I mentioned in regard to the fact that the latest year that we had numbers, there was still something like 37,380 people that lose their lives every year in fires in this country.

Well, you know what? That's about the number, we're at 4,000 now, that have lost their lives in this 4½, 5-year war. And of course there were practically 3,000 lives lost, many of them from fire, a lot of them firefighters themselves, on 9/11. So it just brings home the message that fire is an awful thing. It is an awful thing. It might not kill you immediately, like one of these high powered projectiles, but it can certainly destroy one's life.

And so what we're talking about here today is so important, and that's why this bill is so important.

I just wanted to make those remarks, Mr. Chairman.

I, at this time, don't have additional speakers waiting for time, but I would like to reserve the balance of my time. And I still make the offer to yield to the gentleman from Arizona if he needs some more minutes.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I would, again, like to yield as much time as he may consume to Mr. WU, the gentleman from Oregon, who is the chairman of the Technology and Innovation Subcommittee. I, again, want to thank him for all the efforts he's put into this bill.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, again, I would like to recognize the leadership of the gentleman from Arizona for working so hard on this important legislation, this legislation which was developed in regular order in both subcommittee and full committee.

The gentleman from Georgia, my ranking member, we held hearings last October at the subcommittee level, and then we had a full committee markup, and the bill was drafted in full consultation with both majority and minority members and majority and minority staff.

Much has been made of the work that will be done on the wildland-urban interface and the fuel loads and the biomass loads there, and the hazardous

materials, and that is very, very important.

I also want to draw attention to the sections of the bill that directs the USFA to educate local fire departments about voluntary consensus standards for firefighters health and safety. And many fire groups, especially the National Association of Firefighters, very strongly believe that adherence to these standards can help reduce the number of firefighters who die each year in the line of duty.

□ 1130

This bill has been endorsed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Firefighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the North American Fire Training Directors, the International Fire Service Training Association, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute; and I would like to specifically thank all of the firefighters from home in Oregon who helped me with this legislation in shaping it and bringing it to this point on the House floor.

And with that, I would again like to commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL) for his leadership on this important legislation.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I will continue to reserve my time.

Mr. MITCHELL. I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Thank you, Mr. MITCHELL. I will not consume much.

I do want to applaud the work of the Science and Technology Committee on reauthorizing this program that has been remarkably effective.

Fire is remarkably destructive, but we have made great strides under this program. In 1973, there were more than 6,000 Americans who died each year in fires, another hundred thousand were injured. Largely because of this program and the training and other support, we are now about to the point where about 16,000 a year are injured and between 3,000 and 3,500 die each year. That is obviously still too much, but is remarkable progress.

And among the most dangerous work that anyone can do is fighting fires. The number of deaths each year among firefighters is a large number, and even more are injured every year. A great many firefighters never complete their term of service before qualifying for retirement because they suffer from disabling injuries.

This bill does provide for additional training for fighting fires, particularly where wild areas come into contact or where urban areas and wildland areas meet. It helps training for fires that involve hazardous materials as well as giving advance training in emergency medical services. And it does, as Mr. WU just pointed out a moment ago,

provide for moving towards a voluntary consensus for firefighters' health and safety.

This will help reduce that number of firefighters who die each year and who suffer from grievous injuries in doing very courageous work in protecting us and protecting our property.

Mr. MITCHELL. I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will remind the gentleman from Arizona he has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I would rise today in strong support of the underlying bill which reauthorizes one of the most effective agencies in the Department of Homeland Security. H.R. 4847 provides \$70 million annually to the Fire Administration through 2012 to ensure long-term funding stability for this critical agency.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. MITCHELL, and the chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, Mr. GORDON, for their leadership on this issue and for working with me to bring this legislation to the floor today.

Mr. Chairman, the statistics are sobering. Every year, over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. In 2005, the National Fire Protection Association reported 3,675 civilian deaths, nearly 18,000 civilian fire injuries, and over \$10 billion in direct losses due to fire. The United States Fire Administration plays a critical leadership role in leading local fire departments to dramatically reduce these numbers.

Mr. Chairman, I, along with all of the other speakers who have come before you in support of this legislation, encourage its passage.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I will continue to reserve.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, we have no further speakers.

Mr. GINGREY. How much time do we have, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN. At this point in time, the gentleman from Arizona's time has totally expired. The time remaining for the gentleman from Georgia is 16½ minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. I would be happy, Mr. Chairman, if the Chair would allow, to yield up to 5 minutes for the gentleman from Arizona to close. But I want to make my closing remarks, of course, before that.

The CHAIRMAN. After the gentleman from Georgia concludes his remarks, he may then yield time to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GINGREY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

To close on my side, again, let me just simply say as I did before, it has been a great pleasure to work with Mr. MITCHELL on this bill. It has been an even greater pleasure to meet with the many firefighters and fire chiefs who I have consulted with over the past few months: our own fire chiefs in my

county and city, Cobb County, Georgia; Marietta City, Georgia; Chief Jackie Gibbs, Chief Becky Dillenger. I see them literally every week in the district and the great work that they do, and it makes me awfully proud to be up here representing not only them but the other eight counties in my district. They know that we are fighting to help them protect us, and that's a comforting feeling.

H.R. 4847 is a very good bill. And this is the least that we, in this body, can do to support our Nation's fire services. And I want to again say I hope that we will have as many Members that are present today, close to 430, I hope, voting "yes" for 4847 to support this bill.

At this time, I am prepared to yield as much time as the gentleman from Arizona needs for the purpose of his closing.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

And first, I would like to thank Mr. GINGREY and all of his staff for the support they've given this important piece of legislation. And it's the least we can do, here in Congress, to provide the resources necessary for our first responders to react, the education that's involved, the training, particularly in areas that are very important, like in Arizona and California where there is a wildfire/urban interface.

As I said earlier, we have had a very wet winter in Arizona. It's good and bad. It brings out the wild flowers; it brings out a lot of green. But at the same time, in the lower elevations it brings out a lot of dry tender which just really is very dangerous this time of year.

So I would like to thank everyone, the staffs on both sides, the committee chairman, the subcommittee chairman, everyone who dealt with this particular issue.

And I, again, want to thank all of the firefighters, the professional people who are involved, who gave us what they felt is necessary to move this bill forward and to give them the tools that they need.

This piece of legislation will last until 2012. At that time, of course, we will have more input. Hopefully, we won't have as many disasters or types of disasters, but there will be new things that we need to learn and train for.

So I appreciate, again, everyone's efforts in this, and I know that the people around this country who are protected by these first responders also appreciate what we are doing for them today.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in part A of House Report 110-563. That amendment in the

nature of a substitute shall be considered read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The loss of life due to fire has dropped significantly over the last 25 years in the United States. However, the United States still has one of the highest fire death rates in the industrialized world. For 2006, the National Fire Protection Association reported 3,245 civilian fire deaths, 17,925 civilian fire injuries, and \$11,307,000,000 in direct losses due to fire.

(2) Every year, over 100 firefighters die in the line of duty. The United States Fire Administration should continue its leadership to help local fire agencies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

(3) Members of the fire service community should continue to work together to further the promotion of national voluntary consensus standards that increase firefighter safety.

(4) The United States Fire Administration provides crucial support to the Nation’s 30,300 fire departments through training, data collection, fire awareness and education, and other activities for improving fire prevention, control, and suppression technologies.

(5) The collection of data on fire and other emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy makers and emergency responders to identify and develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving the United States Fire Administration’s data collection capabilities is essential for accurately tracking and responding to the magnitude and nature of the Nation’s fire problem.

(6) The research and development performed by the Federal Government and non-government organizations on fire technologies, techniques, and tools advance the capabilities of the Nation’s fire service to prevent and suppress fires.

(7) The United States Fire Administration is one of the strongest voices representing the Nation’s fire service within the Federal Government, and, as such, it should have a prominent place within the Federal Government.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.

Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

“(E) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(F) \$72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010;

“(G) \$74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011; and

“(H) \$76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012.”.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “terrorist-caused national catastrophes” and inserting “national catastrophes”;

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking “forest” and inserting “wildland”;

(3) in subparagraph (M), by striking “response tactics and” and inserting “response, tactics, and”;

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively; and

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following new subparagraphs:

“(I) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting large-scale fires or multiple fires in a general area that cross jurisdictional boundaries;

“(J) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires occurring at the wildland-urban interface;

“(K) response, tactics, and strategies for fighting fires involving hazardous materials;

“(L) advanced emergency medical services training;”.

(b) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 7 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual report filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline for filing is after the expiration of the 18-month period that begins on the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, and in every third annual report thereafter, the Administrator shall include information about changes made to the Academy curriculum, including—

“(1) the basis for such changes, including a review of the incorporation of lessons learned by emergency response personnel after significant emergency events and emergency preparedness exercises performed under the National Exercise Program; and

“(2) the desired training outcome of all such changes.”.

(c) AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 7(f) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2206(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is authorized to provide assistance to State and local fire service training programs through grants, contracts, or otherwise.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE ON-SITE TRAINING THROUGH CERTAIN ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is authorized to enter into a contract with one or more nationally recognized organizations that have established on-site training programs that prepare fire service personnel to meet national voluntary consensus standards for fire service personnel and that facilitate the delivery of the education and training programs outlined in subsection (d)(1) directly to fire service personnel.

“(B) RESTRICTIONS.—The Administrator shall not enter into a contract with such organization unless such organization—

“(i) provides training that leads to certification by a program accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization; or

“(ii) at the time the Administrator enters into the contract, provides training under such a program under a cooperative agreement with a Federal agency.

“(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 4 percent of the amount authorized to be appropriated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17 of this Act.”.

(d) INCIDENT COMMAND TRAINING COURSE FOR FIRES AT PORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, in consultation with the Superintendent of the National

Academy for Fire Prevention and Control, shall consolidate and integrate into the current Academy curriculum a course on incident command training for fire service personnel for fighting fires at United States ports and in marine environments, including fires on the water and aboard vessels. Such course shall not relate to border and port security.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPGRADES.

(a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Section 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UPDATE.—Of the amounts made available pursuant to subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of section 17(g)(1), the Administrator shall use no more than an aggregate amount of \$5,000,000 during the 3-year period consisting of fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 to carry out activities necessary to update the National Fire Incident Reporting system to an Internet-based, real-time incident reporting database, including capital investment, contractor engagement, and user education.”.

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking “assist State,” and inserting “assist Federal, State,”.

SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND DISSEMINATION.

(a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking “RURAL ASSISTANCE” in the heading and inserting “RURAL AND WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE ASSISTANCE”;

(2) by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “(1) The Administrator”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Administrator is authorized to assist the Nation’s fire services, directly or through contracts, grants, or other forms of assistance, for activities and equipment to improve fire prevention and control in the wildland-urban interface.”.

(b) DISSEMINATION.—Section 8 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) DISSEMINATION.—Beginning 1 year after the date of the enactment of the United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, the Administrator, in collaboration with the relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government, shall make available to the public information regarding United States Fire Administration funded activities to advance new knowledge and best practices in firefighting, through a regularly updated Internet database.”.

SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.

“The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire services of national voluntary consensus standards for firefighter health and safety, including such standards for firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by educating fire services about such standards, encouraging the adoption at all levels of government of such standards, and making recommendations on other ways in which the Federal government can promote the adoption of such standards by fire services.”.

SEC. 8. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e)) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) COORDINATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable, the Administrator shall utilize existing programs, data, information, and facilities already available in other Federal Government departments and agencies and, where appropriate, existing research organizations, centers, and universities.

“(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the Administrator's activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with any matter related to programs of fire prevention and control with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.

“(3) COORDINATION OF FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall provide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to assure coordination of the Administrator's activities with State and local government agencies, departments, bureaus, or offices concerned with programs related to emergency medical services provided by fire service-based systems with private and other Federal organizations and offices so concerned.”.

(b) FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES BEST PRACTICES.—Section 8(c) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Administrator is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts or grants, studies of the operations and management aspects of fire service-based emergency medical services and coordination between emergency medical services and fire services. Such studies may include the optimum protocols for on-scene care, the allocation of resources, and the training requirements for fire service-based emergency medical services.”.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Administration” and inserting “Administration, who is the Assistant Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency”;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) as paragraphs (7), (8), and (9), respectively;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) ‘hazardous materials’ has the meaning given such term in section 5102(2) of title 49, United States Code;”;

(6) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) ‘wildland-urban interface’ has the meaning given such term in section 101(16) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511(16)).”.

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to that amendment shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member des-

ignated in the report, shall be considered read, debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. PASCRELL

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 110-563.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. PASCRELL:

Page 3, strike lines 23 through 25 and insert the following new paragraph:

(1) by amending subparagraph (H) to read as follows:

“(H) response, tactics, and strategies for dealing with national catastrophes, including terrorist-caused national catastrophes and incidents that involve weapons of mass destruction;”;

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, in the reauthorization act of 2008, this amendment provides that the National Fire Academy training program could train fire service personnel in response tactics and strategies for dealing with natural catastrophes, including terrorist-caused national catastrophes and incidents that involve weapons of mass destruction.

I want to thank the cosponsor of the underlying bill, Representative HARRY MITCHELL from Arizona, for presenting a very strong piece of legislation that will reauthorize the United States Fire Administration for another 5 years.

I also want to thank the chairman of the Science Committee, Congressman GORDON, for his leadership in considering all of the necessary elements of this legislation with the end result being a strong, comprehensive bill.

The underlying bill would authorize \$293 million through fiscal year 2012 for the U.S. Fire Administration, which is a vital agency charged with reducing debt and economic losses because of fire emergencies. I want to make clear that this is a small price to pay when considering the thousands of lives we lose each year to fire emergencies and the billions of dollars we spend to fight them.

Throughout my years in Congress, I have always been passionate for funding our Nation's fire departments and firefighters, the Fire and Safety grants that this Congress has provided in the funds supplied through this reauthorization. I feel especially strong about this reauthorization because it also includes provisions that help guide the fire academy on how to best train our

Nation's firefighters for the added and the increased challenges they face every day. My amendment addresses this issue by simply updating the training program at the National Fire Academy to include national catastrophes related to terrorism.

We saw on 9/11 our Nation's heroic firefighters were among the first responders on the scene trying desperately to rescue as many people as possible in that horrific act of terror. Clearly, we all understand that the responsibilities of our Nation's firefighters became greater on that day as they now have to train for emergency response to catastrophic terrorist attacks, including the foreboding threats of incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. Many of these types of courses already exist at the fire academy, but the future of these critical courses for these firefighters should never be put in doubt and need to be codified.

My amendment simply puts these practices into law and sends a message to the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Fire Administration that this issue continues to be important to the Congress and the protection of our constituents.

I thank the sponsor, Mr. MITCHELL, the chairman, Mr. GORDON, once again for all of their work.

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time under the rule but I am in support of the gentleman's amendment, not in opposition to it.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

□ 1145

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, the men and women of our Nation's fire services are among the very first responders to an extraordinary wide range of accidents, injuries, and disasters. And the gentleman from New Jersey, he knows as well as anybody in this body. He was right there. His district's right there, very close to the scene of 9/11. And I think that his amendment is very, very appropriate because this was a fire caused by a terrorist attack. Unlike the Murrah Building attack at Oklahoma City, which was an incidence of domestic violence by our own, if you will, homegrown terrorists, this situation that occurred on 9/11 is the reason why I'm sure the gentleman from New Jersey has brought forth this good amendment. And he is so right to point out that firefighters will also be the first to the scene when many of these catastrophes happen.

Hopefully, it won't occur in this country again. We've been blessed. I think there has been a lot of hard work on the part of this Congress and this administration to protect our country on our soil from another terrorist attack. Thank God so far it hasn't happened. But that doesn't mean you don't

train for and prepare for it. And those firefighters that went to work that day, they were well trained, but I'm sure they weren't expecting a terrorist attack. And in such an event like that, their first job, of course, always is to heroically save lives. But fire services will also act to minimize the damage and property loss that a terrorist strike or ensuing events may cause. I mean, as the amendment addresses, there may be biological weapons of mass destruction, and there could have been, right behind the two planes, maybe another plane with a terrorist coming into the city in parachutes with nuclear or biological weapons, a sarin gas attack. God knows what could have happened in the subways of New York City. So the United States Fire Administration works hand-in-glove with other components of the Department of Homeland Security, and Chairman THOMPSON is here on the floor right now, to ensure that our Nation's fire services have access to the best training and resources available.

So I'm proud of the U.S. Fire Administration's work to date to improve our resiliency and our preparedness, yes, for terrorist events, natural disasters, and, of course, the daily accidents and fires that occur in communities across the country.

Mr. Chairman, I wholeheartedly support the gentleman's amendment. I urge all my colleagues and expect all my colleagues to support his amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will remind the gentleman from New Jersey that he has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank my friend from Georgia.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I also want to say thank you to Mr. GINGREY for his support of this amendment, which we know will make this a much stronger bill and a better bill.

So I thank you very much for the amendment and all the support that it's receiving.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, it now gives me a tremendous sense of honor to introduce also the gentleman from Mississippi, my good friend, who is also the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee. No one, no one has worked harder to bring all of the agencies together in this effort to protect our country and to protect our families and our neighborhoods.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield the balance of my time to Chairman THOMPSON.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support of the amendment offered by my good friend, a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. PASCRELL. The gentleman from Paterson, New Jersey, is a leader on the committee and in Congress on first responder issues.

As a former volunteer firefighter and graduate of the Mississippi Fire Academy, I understand that many firefighters are unable to travel to the National Fire Academy's campus in Maryland to partake in training. The Fire Academy recognizes this need. By harnessing technology, the Fire Academy partners with existing local and State training academies to reach more first responders.

The Pascrell amendment addresses one key area of training: terrorism response training. Specifically, the amendment seeks to ensure that fire service personnel get training on response tactics and strategies for dealing with "terrorist-caused national catastrophes and incidents that involve weapons of mass destruction." Such incidents can be very complex and require response from many public safety agencies across multiple jurisdictions.

Today, the Fire Academy has a terrorism curriculum in place. The Pascrell amendment will ensure this continuation.

It has been nearly 7 years since the attacks of 9/11, and, thankfully, we have not been attacked since. However, Mr. Chairman, the threat is still very real. As Members of Congress, it's our collective responsibility to ensure that responders in our communities are fully trained, equipped, and staffed to answer the question call.

Once again, I encourage my colleagues to support the Pascrell amendment as well as the underlying bill.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. SALI

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 110-563.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. SALI:

Page 9, line 24, strike "section" and insert "sections".

Page 10, after line 11, insert the following:
"SEC. 38. TRAINING AGENCIES ON IMPORTANCE OF CLEARING BIOMASS IN WILDLAND AREAS TO PROMOTE FIREFIGHTER SAFETY."

"In collaboration with the relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government, the Administrator shall develop and provide information and training to relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government on the importance of clearing biomass in wildland areas of Federal lands to promote the safety of firefighters."

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Idaho.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Chairman, firefighting is a high-risk, high-consequence activity, and the agencies that are involved in managing wildland-urban interface have always had strong firefighter safety and training programs. Firefighter safety is their highest priority. In fact, the 1995 Federal Fire Policy sets the order of priorities for wildland firefighters as, number one, public and firefighter safety; number two, protection of resources; number three, protection of property.

The safety, health, and welfare of firefighters and the general public are becoming increasingly linked to the decline in the health of forested ecosystems. The most effective means of reducing burgeoning fire suppression costs, protecting community values, restoring forest and grassland health, and improving firefighter safety is an aggressive fuel treatment program. How land managers apply the fuels reduction program will have the greatest impact on the safety of wildland firefighters.

Threats to human life are compounded by the fact that more and more people are living in homes near fire-prone forests, placing themselves and the firefighters who try to protect them at greater risk.

My amendment allows the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to develop and distribute information on the importance of clearing biomass from Federal lands. This commonsense amendment requires USFA to work in consultation with other Federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM to ensure that USFA provides the best possible recommendation. As we come upon what many are predicting to be another deadly and costly fire season, this information will be as vital as ever. We must provide our Federal employees, who are the best in the world, all the tools they need to keep our communities and themselves safe from catastrophic wildfires.

The Federal hazardous fuels reduction program can be a very good thing for wildfire fighters. If it is done properly, the program can reduce the most extreme of the hazardous fuels and make the working environment for wildland firefighters much safer.

The Federal Government has invested millions of dollars in a hazardous fuels reduction program to mitigate the risks, costs, and consequences of wildfire across millions of acres of publicly owned wildlands. The knowledge gained as to relative effectiveness of different types of treatments and the overall effectiveness of those treatments will have much greater value for protecting and promoting firefighter safety when that information is shared. The United States Fire Administration should be an important vehicle for disseminating this information, and this amendment will help to make that a reality.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SALI. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Do I understand the gentleman's amendment is designed specifically to increase firefighter safety within the wildland-urban interface?

Mr. SALI. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman. Do I further understand that the gentleman's amendment does not intend to expand the clearing of biomass beyond current force management practices outside of the wildland-urban interface?

Mr. SALI. Mr. Chairman, this is intended to promote sharing of information. It doesn't have anything actually to do with the actual clearing of the biomass. It just deals with the information that's gained, and it would be in the wildland-urban interface for the results of that fuels treatment.

Mr. WU. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. SALI. I yield.

Mr. WU. So all that information or other things to be done would be focused on the wildland-urban interface?

Mr. SALI. That's the purpose of this amendment too.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman.

And if the gentleman would further yield, the language that has been traditionally used, it refers to "fuel load," and the gentleman's amendment, I believe, sometimes uses "biomass," and the gentleman has sometimes referred to fuel load.

Is the gentleman using "biomass" in this sense, in the traditional sense that "fuel load" has been used in similar legislation?

Mr. SALI. I believe that that is correct.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SALI. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman's time has expired.

Does any Member seek time in opposition to the proposed amendment?

Mr. MITCHELL. Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1200

Mr. MITCHELL. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and the generosity of his time.

Mr. Chairman, in this decade, wildland fires have consumed 50 million acres in this country. While the term "wildland fires" brings to mind uninhabited areas in our Nation's parks, forests, and rural areas, wildland fires have done tremendous damage to urban and suburban development as well. I think that was the reason for the colloquy between Mr. WU from Oregon and Mr. SALI from Idaho.

Last fall, western States were hit particularly hard by wildland fires that

encroached into developed areas and destroyed homes, businesses, and livelihoods. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Idaho addresses that concern. The amendment allows the Administrator of the USFA to distribute information on the importance of clearing in these areas biomass materials from Federal lands, not out in the interior of a National Park. That was a point that was made in the colloquy.

The amendment requires USFA to work in consultation, of course, with other Federal agencies to ensure that USFA provides the best possible recommendations. Removing hazardous fuels, biomass materials, from Federal forests and lands will help to prevent, and more importantly, to limit these forest fires as they begin to encroach on urban areas. So if you leave these materials susceptible to forest fires, the consequences, as Mr. SALI pointed out, can be disastrous.

So, Mr. Chairman, I support wholeheartedly his amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 110-563.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. LANGEVIN:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF FIRE SPRINKLERS.

Congress supports the recommendations of the United States Fire Administration regarding the adoption of fire sprinklers in commercial buildings and educational programs to raise awareness of the importance of installing fire sprinklers in residential buildings.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1071, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to introduce an amendment that highlights the critical importance of deploying fire sprinklers in all commercial buildings. My amendment encourages the installation of fire sprinklers in commercial buildings and supports educational programs about installing them in residential buildings as well.

Five years ago, a tragedy struck in my home State of Rhode Island when a fire tore through the Station Nightclub in West Warwick. It was certainly a terrible awakening for all of us about the importance of fire safety. That fire,

which killed 100 people and injured 200 more, could have been prevented, Mr. Chairman, if fire sprinklers had been installed throughout the building. Almost every Rhode Islander knows someone whose life was changed forever by that terrible night, and we all learned a very hard lesson on the importance of installing fire protection equipment in our homes, workplaces, our schools, and recreational buildings. I hope that with a renewed focus on installing fire sprinklers and other safety devices, that we can prevent a tragedy like the one in West Warwick from ever occurring again.

There is no question that fire sprinklers save lives. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association has no record of a fire killing more than two people in a public building equipped with a fully operational automatic fire sprinkler system.

So, to this end I have introduced a piece of legislation called the Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act, H.R. 1742, which would amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide an incentive to business owners for retrofitting existing buildings with lifesaving sprinklers. This legislation, which right now has 114 cosponsors, will reduce the tax depreciation time for retrofitting sprinklers in nonresidential real property from 39 years down to only 5. So a significant time reduction. Again, from 39 years down to only 5 years for this tax depreciation to take advantage of the retrofitting of sprinklers.

While it's clear that fire sprinklers save lives, Congress has to date not taken a position on the importance of this important technology. So I believe that it is critical that we lend our voice to this issue and hopefully save another community from ever experiencing the devastating losses that West Warwick did.

So while we may not always be able to prevent fires from occurring, we certainly can minimize the damage they cause and the lives that they take. My amendment that I am offering today is a sense of Congress, and takes us one step closer toward that goal.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I strongly support reauthorizing the United States Fire Administration, and I would like to commend Chairman GORDON for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. This bill will allow the U.S. Fire Administration to continue to provide support services for fire prevention, firefighter training and education, and emergency medical services activities. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment as well, H.R. 4847.

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim time in opposition. However, we are very supportive of the gentleman's amendment, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, millions of United States houses today contain smoke alarms. They have been credited with saving thousands of lives. Yet, smoke alarms can only warn the occupants of a fire. They cannot contain or extinguish a fire. Fire sprinkler systems provide the means to limit fire growth and therefore save lives and property. We already mentioned \$10 billion a year, I think, in property damage, 3,600 lives lost every year.

Studies by the USFA have shown that the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems could save thousands of lives and millions of dollars in property taxes. Bottom line. So together with their Federal partners, USFA has reported a potential 82 percent reduction in fire deaths if fire sprinklers, along with smoke alarms, were installed in all residential dwellings. With the cost of a home sprinkler system in new construction being estimated as low as \$1.50 a square foot, or as low as 1 percent of the total cost of the house, and of course, many insurance companies offering discounts up to 15 percent on houses that contain sprinkler systems, it is clear that the benefits in lives and property saved far outweigh the costs.

The amendment from the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) supports the efforts of the U.S. Fire Administration to improve the awareness of the effectiveness and availability of residential sprinkler systems.

Mr. Chairman, I wholeheartedly support the gentleman's amendment, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield back my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his supportive comments and look forward to working with him on passage of this amendment.

At this time, Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Mr. LANGEVIN for all of his critical work on this too often neglected issue of fire sprinklers. I applaud this amendment for encouraging the installation of fire sprinklers in all commercial buildings and supporting educational programs about installing them in residential buildings. A very critical issue here.

We must take every opportunity to promote the use of fire sprinklers, as the gentleman from Georgia just pointed out, which is why we introduced the Campus Fire Safety Legislation to require mandatory responses. Every university now, every college, every community college, whether it is a college building or a dormitory, any building connected to that university or institution has an obligation to tell the parents and the students what is their record on fire safety. No students should be sent to any university, any university or any college, unless their parents and they themselves know what the record is, if there are sprin-

klers installed, if there are smoke detectors installed. We lost three who were killed in the Seton Hall fire in New Jersey, 58 were injured. Since 2000, 108 people have died in campus fires. There are 20 campus-related fire deaths in the last 2 years.

Mr. Chairman, I want to bring the attention to everyone on this as part of the educational process. I want to thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for introducing this amendment. It makes sense, and I hope everybody will support it.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Rhode Island has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SALAZAR) having assumed the chair, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, 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. 4847) to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 1071, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MRS. MC MORRIS RODGERS

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman opposed to the bill?

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Yes, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Morris Rodgers moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4847 to the Committee on Science and Technology with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 5, line 16, after the em dash, insert "(1)".

Page 5, line 23, strike "otherwise" and insert "otherwise, so long as the State or local

government in which such fire service training program operates provides that any firefighter or rescue personnel, entity, or organization, including a governmental or intergovernmental entity, providing inspection services or advice on a voluntary basis without expectation of compensation regarding proper installation, use, defects, or recalls of infant and child safety seats shall not be liable for any act or omission in connection with providing such services or advice that results in harm to an infant or child".

Page 7, after line 6, insert the following new paragraph:

(2) That portion of paragraph (1) added by the amendment made by this subsection that appears after "otherwise" shall take effect after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, the underlying bill importantly recognizes the role and sacrifices of firefighters. And, yes, it is our firefighters who often volunteer to help protect our greatest asset, our children, yet they face a growing threat of liability lawsuits related to the proper installation of car seats.

Each year, nearly 2,500 children under the age of 14 die in car accidents, and more than 200,000 are injured in motor vehicle accidents. In 2005, half of those who died were not restrained.

According to the National Institute of Highway Safety, children that are restrained in child seats have an 80 percent lower risk of fatal injury. The good news is that we are doing better as a country in using child seats and saving lives. This may have something to do with the fact that all 50 States and the District of Columbia now have child restraint laws on the books. Yet it is estimated that 25 percent of kids are still not restrained.

We are making great progress in ensuring child safety seats are used to protect our Nation's greatest asset. However, even though more children are using child safety seats, improper installation or improper use of a child safety seat can have the same fatal consequences. As a new mom, this is a scary reality, and, like many new parents, I fear that we haven't installed our child safety seat properly.

A recent study in six States on the misuse of child restraint systems concluded that nearly 75 percent of child seats had at least one critical misuse. In an effort to reduce the misuse of child safety seats, many fire departments send personnel to a 32-hour 4-day course on their proper installation and use. Once these personnel have been trained, they are able to provide inspection services or advice on a voluntary basis regarding the proper installation and use.

When my husband and I had Cole last year, we were advised to have a fire department ensure our seat was properly installed. But I have also heard the stories of people being denied by their local fire department due to liability concerns.

One example was in Eaton Rapids, where new parents, John and Carol Doyle, like many parents, were nervous about the new responsibility for the health and safety of their new baby, and it began with that first ride home from the hospital. They had a pretty good idea how to strap their rear-facing infant car seat into the back seat of their car, but they didn't like the idea of guessing. They sought help from the people at the local medical center, but those folks declined. "They were afraid that if they told us how to do it, then there would be a problem. We would sue them."

The medical staffers suggested that they seek help from the fire department, so on the way home from the hospital they stopped by the fire station. The woman wanted to help, but couldn't. "It is a liability issue," she said, referring the family to the local police. They called the police department, but the person they spoke to said again it is a liability thing.

This is an important service that can help save the life of a child. However, the fear is that some departments and communities may be unwilling to offer this life-saving service because of fear of liability.

The motion to recommit I offer today would help remedy the situation. It would protect fire departments that wish to offer this service to the public. The language requires States or local governments covered under the provisions of this bill to protect their properly-trained firefighters from liability and lawsuits when they offer inspection and advice regarding car seat use.

This motion to recommit gives States 2 years to provide protection for our firefighters. This service the firefighters are offering is too valuable to let it get bogged down by the threat of lawsuits. We should not allow trial lawyers to hijack the safety of our children.

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

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, my mother grew up way out in the country, way, way out in the country, and when she was a young girl their house burned. The only things they saved were their lives and the clothes on their back. Today, 70 years later, whenever my mother hears a fire engine or sees a fire truck, she tells me that story about how her house burned, almost in a trance. It is a very traumatic experience when a family goes through something like this.

That is the reason that our committee worked in a bipartisan way to try to come forth with a very good bill that would help to save lives, save property and help our firefighters do a better job of hopefully shielding some other families from that trauma that my mother went through.

It is really unfortunate after all of that work that the gentlewoman would come forth with a mischievous amendment that has had no discussion. We don't know anything about is there a liability problem or not. We don't know whether or not this is going to affect States' own liability or whether this is going to preempt it.

The gentlewoman had an opportunity, if this is such an important issue, to both come before the committee and talk to us at the subcommittee level. But there was no discussion. She could have come to the subcommittee markup, where it passed unanimously. But there was no discussion. She could have come to the full committee markup, where again it passed out unanimously, but there was no effort. Or she could have gone to the Rules Committee and asked to have a rule and be allowed to submit the amendment so we could have a discussion, even here at this late date. But there was no effort.

Quite frankly, I think this is a game of "gotcha." It is an insult to the Democrats and Republicans on the Science Committee, who worked hard to put this good bill together. It is an insult to the firefighters, who are trying to do their job every day and who need these funds and training. It is an insult to all those individuals and organizations that endorsed this bill, like the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Firefighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the North American Fire Training Directors, the International Fire Services Training Association, and the Congressional Fire Service Institute. They endorsed this bill because it is a good bill, a bill that will help firefighters do their job. It is very unfortunate that we are trying to play these games at the last moment.

Mr. Speaker, I recommend that we vote down this amendment that we know nothing about and that we move forward with this good bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 205, nays 209, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 159]

YEAS—205

Aderholt	Fox	Myrick
Akin	Franks (AZ)	Neugebauer
Alexander	Frelinghuysen	Nunes
Altmire	Gallely	Pearce
Bachmann	Garrett (NJ)	Pence
Bachus	Gerlach	Peterson (PA)
Barrett (SC)	Gilchrest	Petri
Barrow	Gingrey	Pickering
Bartlett (MD)	Gohmert	Pitts
Barton (TX)	Goode	Platts
Biggart	Goodlatte	Poe
Bilbray	Graves	Porter
Bilirakis	Hall (TX)	Price (GA)
Bishop (UT)	Hastings (WA)	Pryce (OH)
Blackburn	Hayes	Putnam
Blunt	Heller	Radanovich
Boehner	Hensarling	Ramstad
Bonner	Herger	Regula
Bono Mack	Hobson	Rehberg
Boozman	Hoekstra	Reichert
Boustany	Hulshof	Renzi
Boyd (KS)	Hunter	Reynolds
Brady (TX)	Inglis (SC)	Rogers (AL)
Brown (GA)	Issa	Rogers (KY)
Brown (SC)	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (MI)
Brown-Waite,	Johnson, Sam	Rohrabacher
Ginny	Jones (NC)	Ros-Lehtinen
Buchanan	Jordan	Roskam
Burgess	Keller	Royce
Burton (IN)	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Buyer	King (NY)	Sali
Calvert	Kingston	Saxton
Camp (MI)	Kirk	Schmidt
Campbell (CA)	Kline (MN)	Sensenbrenner
Cannon	Kuhl (NY)	Sessions
Cantor	LaHood	Shadegg
Capito	Lamborn	Shays
Carney	Lampson	Shimkus
Carter	Latham	Shuster
Castle	LaTourrette	Simpson
Chabot	Latta	Smith (NE)
Coble	Lewis (CA)	Smith (NJ)
Cole (OK)	Lewis (KY)	Smith (TX)
Conaway	Linder	Souder
Crenshaw	LoBiondo	Space
Culberson	Lucas	Stearns
Davis (KY)	Lungren, Daniel	Sullivan
Davis, David	E.	Tancred
Davis, Tom	Mack	Taylor
Deal (GA)	Mahoney (FL)	Terry
Dent	Manzullo	Thornberry
Diaz-Balart, L.	Marchant	Tiahrt
Diaz-Balart, M.	Marshall	Tiberi
Donnelly	McCarthy (CA)	Turner
Doolittle	McCauley (TX)	Upton
Drake	McCotter	Walberg
Dreier	McCrery	Walden (OR)
Duncan	McHenry	Walsh (NY)
Edwards	McHugh	Wamp
Ehlers	McIntyre	Weldon (FL)
Emerson	McKeon	Weller
English (PA)	McMorris	Westmoreland
Everett	Rodgers	Whitfield (KY)
Fallin	McNerney	Wilson (NM)
Feeney	Mica	Wilson (SC)
Ferguson	Miller (MI)	Wolf
Flake	Miller, Gary	Young (AK)
Forbes	Moran (KS)	Young (FL)
Fortenberry	Murphy, Tim	
Fossella	Musgrave	

NAYS—209

Abercrombie	Cardoza	Delahunt
Ackerman	Carnahan	DeLauro
Andrews	Carson	Dicks
Arcuri	Chandler	Dingell
Baca	Clarke	Doggett
Baird	Clay	Doyle
Baldwin	Cleaver	Ellison
Bean	Clyburn	Ellsworth
Becerra	Cohen	Emanuel
Berkley	Conyers	Engel
Berman	Cooper	Eshoo
Berry	Costa	Etheridge
Bishop (GA)	Costello	Farr
Bishop (NY)	Courtney	Fattah
Blumenauer	Cramer	Filner
Boren	Crowley	Foster
Boswell	Cuellar	Frank (MA)
Boyd (FL)	Cummings	Giffords
Brady (PA)	Davis (AL)	Gillibrand
Braley (IA)	Davis (CA)	Gonzalez
Brown, Corrine	Davis (IL)	Gordon
Butterfield	Davis, Lincoln	Green, Al
Capps	DeFazio	Green, Gene
Capuano	DeGette	Grijalva

Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslie
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matheson
Matsui

McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta

Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Skeltan
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—16

Allen
Boucher
Castor
Cubin
Granger
Hooley

Jefferson
Klein (FL)
Knollenberg
Miller (FL)
Paul
Rangel

Rush
Sires
Wittman (VA)
Wynn

□ 1246

Messrs. GUTIERREZ, BERMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Messrs. CROWLEY, LARSON of Connecticut, UDALL of Colorado, and Ms. SLAUGHTER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. MICA, PRICE of Georgia, LEWIS of California, MCINTYRE, and KING of Iowa changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 160]

YEAS—412

Abercrombie
Ackerman

Aderholt
Akin

Alexander
Altmire

Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett

Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslie
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston

Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy

Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz

Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Sha's
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shirkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Skeltan
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt

Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Allen
Boehner
Boucher
Castor
Cubin
Granger

Hookey
Jefferson
Knollenberg
Miller (FL)
Paul
Pryce (OH)

Rangel
Rush
Sires
Velázquez
Wittman (VA)
Wynn

□ 1256

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 4312

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 4312, a bill originally introduced by Representative Baker of Louisiana, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

□ 1300

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask to address the House for one minute for the purpose of inquiring about next week's schedule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the majority leader, for information about the schedule for next week.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the distinguished whip for yielding.