

community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the village of Beach Park for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Beach Park reaching their 20th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3288,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

Too many of our fellow citizens are suffering as a result of the biggest economic downturn in 75 years. In light of the number of Americans who continue to be unemployed or underemployed, it is essential that we focus our efforts on helping Americans find jobs. H.R. 3288 is responsible legislation which will help employ Americans, assist communities suffering from decreases in tax payments, and provide more stability to our economy.

H.R. 3288 would put an estimated 1.5 million Americans back to work by investing \$41.8 billion in improving our transportation infrastructure. The bill also provides 4.5 billion for commuter and passenger rail projects to help reduce congestion and provide more environmentally-friendly ways for Americans to get to work and travel. I am pleased that my colleague from Pennsylvania PATRICK MURPHY and I were able to get language removed from this bill preventing Amtrak from being able to offer discounted fares to commuters on the Northeast Corridor. Since it was first included in the 2006 Fiscal Year, this language prevented Amtrak from being able to offer a more than 50 percent discount off peak fares to commuters on any of its lines. This resulted in a 20 percent fare increase to my constituents. The removal of this provision recognizes the need to make public transportation more affordable and more accessible, and I expect it will result in discounted Amtrak ticket rates.

Our economy nearly collapsed last year because of the combination of reckless and abusive financial services and mortgage-industry practices, and astounding regulatory failures. To help re-establish real oversight and control over our financial markets, the bill provides \$1.111 billion to strengthen and enforce rules that govern investments and financial markets and to detect and prosecute fraudulent schemes, and allow the hiring of another 420 investigators, lawyers and analysts to support the mission of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The bill also provides \$292 million to strengthen the Federal Trade Commission's capacity to protect consumers and combat anti-competitive behavior. Additionally, the bill allocates \$118 million for the Consumer Product Safety Commission to continue implementing bipartisan consumer protection legislation enacted in 2008 in response to massive toxic product scandals, including children's toys from China.

The bill also provides \$1.4 billion for training and support services to workers affected by

mass layoffs and plant closures, and \$125 million for competitive grants to community colleges and partnership with local adult education providers to prepare workers for careers in high-demand and emerging industries. To assist affected parents in ensuring that their children get good meals and quality health care, the bill provides \$7.2 billion for Head Start, an investment that will help nearly 1 million children from low-income families.

To help America's students pay for a college education, this bill maintains the discretionary portion of the maximum Pell Grant at \$4,860, which, combined with a mandatory supplement of \$690, will support a \$5,550 maximum Pell Grant in FY 2010. Since January 2007, the maximum Pell Grant has been increased by \$1,500 or 37 percent—from \$4,050 to \$5,550. In FY 2010, more than 8 million college students will receive Pell Grants.

This bill maintains investments in math and science education by providing \$180 million toward the Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnerships. The program is the only national teacher development program available to teachers across the U.S.

It is widely understood that early language education is the key to language proficiency later on. In order to start addressing the pressing needs for skilled linguists and other language professionals that currently exist, this bill maintains investments in the Foreign Language Assistance Program at \$27 million, which is currently the only federal program that supports foreign language education at the elementary and secondary school level.

This bill also contains provision and funding for programs to protect Americans' access to health care coverage until national health care reform is enacted. To that end, the bill provides \$2.2 billion to provide primary health care to 17 million patients, of whom 40 percent are uninsured, in 7,500 service delivery sites. These centers provide high quality care in both urban and rural underserved areas across the country. The bill also seeks to increase the number of health care professionals by providing \$498 million to support the training of health professionals in fields where there are shortages, such as nursing. And to help find cures for the diseases afflicting Americans, the bill provides \$31 billion for NIH-funded biomedical research to improve health and reduce health care expenditures.

At a time when the recession has created a fiscal crisis for state and local governments, requiring them to let go of key law enforcement and related personnel, federal support for state and local law enforcement programs has never been more important. To help keep police on the beat, the bill provides \$792 million to support local law enforcement agencies with hiring, technology, training, body armor, and sex-offender enforcement management grants. This includes \$298 million specifically for COPS Hiring Grants to hire or retain approximately 1,400 police officers. The bill also provides \$519 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, which helps local law enforcement agencies engage in a broad range of activities to better fight and prevent crime. I'm pleased that this year several municipalities in my district will receive funding for projects under this program, including the Borough of Jamesburg (to modernize communications), the city of Trenton (for an anti-gang program), and the township of North Brunswick (for a video surveillance system).

Meeting our obligations to America's veterans is a national trust. The bill provides over \$109 billion for the operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with \$45.1 billion allocated for medical care. In a breakthrough long sought by veterans, the bill also provides advance appropriations for the VA to ensure a stable and uninterrupted source of funding for medical care for veterans, providing \$48.2 billion for FY 2011.

I am very pleased that this bill reflects a strong commitment by this Congress to provide robust, secure funding for science. The bill keeps the U.S. on track to double the funding for basic research by providing over \$31 billion for the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. An additional \$31 billion will support biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health. These investments in our science and innovation infrastructure will help create jobs immediately while stimulating the discoveries and investments that will ensure sustained economic growth in the future.

I am also pleased that this bill includes \$17.4 million in disability access funding under the Help America Vote Act, including \$12.1 million to help ensure that polling places are accessible and \$5.3 million for protection and advocacy funding. The bill also includes \$70 million in funding to help States meet the voting system requirements of the Help America Vote Act, and better protect and preserve the integrity of elections. This sum is much less than I requested, and it is less than the \$100 million passed in the House, but it will go a long way in helping States improve the administration of elections—the foundation of our Democracy.

Finally, this bill makes much needed investments in our foreign affairs institutions, including funding increases that will allow the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to hire additional foreign service personnel to address the neglected staffing needs of these agencies. Key initiatives continue to receive vigorous support, including efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, agriculture and food security programs, basic education programs, microfinance and microcredit, and the Peace Corps. I am especially pleased that the final bill recognizes the important contributions that scientists and scientific engagement can make to our international relations.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical funding bill.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF
FOX RIVER GROVE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Fox River Grove, a town in my district that is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Fox River Grove is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Located along the

Fox River in both Lake and McHenry Counties, Fox River Grove was the winter home of the Ojibwa Indians until the 1860s. In 1869, Frank Opatrny purchased 80 acres along the Fox River. In 1905, the Norge Ski Club purchased land in Fox River Grove and erected a ski jump and in the 1950s the site was host to America's first international ski-jumping contest. Today, the Norge Ski Club is the oldest, continuously open ski club in the United States. Since incorporation in 1919, Fox River Grove has grown from a ski destination to a year-round residential community.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Fox River Grove is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Fox River Grove for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Fox River Grove for reaching their 90th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009 and the comprehensive approach it takes to reining in systemic risk, curbing excessive speculation and restoring transparency, accountability and oversight to our financial system.

In the wake of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, the Democratic majority has launched a series of deliberate and wide-ranging initiatives to stem that crisis—and those initiatives are clearly working.

Our economy is no longer in free fall. Markets are sharply up. Foreclosures are starting to come down. The vicious spiral of job destruction we inherited from the past Administration is now slowing.

We know we are headed in the right direction—but we also know there is more work to do. We will not stop until our economy has fully recovered, there is a good-paying job for every American who wants one, and we have launched a new era of broadly shared American prosperity.

This legislation represents the next step on our nation's road back to recovery. To make sure we never have another AIG, this bill establishes a Financial Stability Council charged with the exclusive mission of identifying and regulating systemic risk. In the future, a Systemic Dissolution Fund will be able to safely wind down failing firms so that taxpayers aren't left holding the bag. To protect consumers, today's legislation creates a new Consumer Financial Protection Agency to police our markets for abusive financial products and

services. We are bringing transparency and oversight to our derivatives markets. Investors will get a better shake, credit rating agencies will face reforms and shareholders will get a "say on pay."

I want to commend Chairman FRANK, Chairman PETERSON and their staffs for their hard work on this legislation. I urge my colleagues' support.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure information for project requests that I made and which were included within H.R. 3288, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN DUNCAN

Account: OJP—Juvenile Justice

Project Amount: \$250,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Childhelp of East Tennessee, 2505 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Description of Request: The funding would assist Childhelp in expanding its services to more children in Knox County and the surrounding region who have suffered abuse. Specifically, the Children Center of East Tennessee will expand its forensic interview capacity and related services to more Knox County children who have, in the past, been turned away, as well as its community based forensic interview and medical examination services.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE BARRINGTON

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Lake Barrington, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Lake Barrington is celebrating its 50-year anniversary. Believed to be first populated by the Potowamomi Indians, recent discovery of burial grounds suggest an established Native American presence in the Lake Barrington area. Lake Barrington remained rural and minimally populated until the 20th century when Chicago businessmen began turning the farms into estates. Incorporated in 1959, local residents voted Jorgen Hubschman as the first village president. Lake Barrington has grown over the past 50 years from a community of just 200 residents to a village of 5,000. Recently, the Village of Lake Barrington established a Tree Preservation Code and is currently recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City U.S.A." community. Though the village has grown, Lake

Barrington has sought to preserve its scenic charm that continues to make the village an attractive place to live.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Lake Barrington is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Lake Barrington for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Lake Barrington for reaching their 50th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

NATIONAL PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME AWARENESS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 55, "Expressing support for the designation of a National Prader-Willi Syndrome Awareness Month to raise awareness of and promote research into this challenging disorder." I would like thank my colleague, Rep. EDWARD ROYCE, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the co-sponsors.

Prader-Willi syndrome is a complex genetic disorder that occurs in approximately 1 out of every 15,000 births, and is the most commonly known genetic cause of life-threatening obesity.

It affects males and females with equal frequency and affects all races and ethnicities, causing an extreme and insatiable appetite, often resulting in morbid obesity, which is the major cause of death for individuals with the syndrome. The syndrome also causes cognitive and learning disabilities, and behavioral difficulties, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and difficulty controlling emotions.

The hunger, metabolic, and behavioral characteristics of Prader-Willi syndrome force affected individuals to require constant and lifelong supervision in a controlled environment; Studies have shown that there is a high morbidity and mortality rate for individuals with Prader-Willi syndrome, and there is no known cure.

Early diagnosis allows families to access treatment, intervention services, and support from health professionals, advocacy organizations, and other families who are dealing with the syndrome. Recently discovered treatments, such as human growth hormone, are improving the quality of life for individuals with the syndrome and offer new hope to families, but many difficult symptoms associated with Prader-Willi syndrome remain untreated.

Increased research into this disease can lead to a better understanding of the disorder, more effective treatments, and an eventual cure for Prader-Willi syndrome, and is likely to improve our understanding of common public health concerns, including childhood obesity and mental health.

That is why I join this body in supporting raised awareness and educating the public about Prader-Willi syndrome. I also join in applauding the efforts of advocates and organizations that encourage awareness, promote