

address autism and related disorders, with \$85 million being appropriated by the National Institutes of Health and \$48 million for next year by the HRSA.

WPA PROGRAM

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

Mr. KUCINICH. The recent economic report indicates that unemployment is approaching 10 percent. That means that close to 15 million Americans officially are out of work, but tens of millions more are underemployed. We have a Nation that is yearning for a major jobs program. We have to go beyond the weak stimulus that spent a hundred billion—seems like a lot of money—but \$100 billion for capital improvements, when the fact of the matter is we have close to \$3 trillion in infrastructure needs.

If we can match the unemployment in the country with infrastructure needs, we can go back to what FDR did in the 1930s, which is to create a new WPA that puts millions of Americans back to work, restoring our economy and giving people a chance to restore their own lives.

It's time for a new WPA program. Let's put America back to work. Let's address this unemployment crisis directly.

THE PROBLEM WITH WHITE HOUSE CZARS

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

Mr. INGLIS. Mr. Speaker, in my district, many people are telling me about their concern about the excessive use by the administration of special staff or czars. Over 30 czars are now serving in the Obama administration.

The problem we have with that is they haven't been confirmed by the Senate, and that is a real problem. If you exercise authority over American citizens, we need the constitutional protection of making sure that they've been vetted by the Senate and given approval by the Senate to serve in those capacities when they are exercising authority over the American people.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the excellent bill by our distinguished colleague from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the Czar Accountability Reform Act of 2009. It would cut off funding for these special assistants unless they have the consent of the Senate to serve, the approval of the Senate, the confirmation of the Senate to serve. That's what the Constitution requires, Mr. Speaker. That's what we need to require.

THINK PINK KIDS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to two young and enterprising constituents from my district.

Two years ago, friends Max Woodrich and Doug Ellingson, decided to start a lawn mowing business, and their venture was unique in that they decided to use part of their profits to benefit breast cancer research.

Today, these 15-year-olds have had their idea turned into one of the most inspiring, philanthropic organizations in Minnesota's recent history. Think Pink Kids is now dedicated to providing education and awareness about breast cancer, constantly working to earn, raise, and donate money for research. They also have the goal of forming Think Pink Clubs in every school and civic organization in Minnesota.

One out of eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lives, but thanks to the commitment of people like Doug and Max—and organizations like Think Pink Kids—the fight will continue until we ultimately defeat this terrible disease.

ST. MARY MERCY HOSPITAL

(Mr. MCCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia as they celebrate 50 years of serving the residents of southeastern Michigan.

The hospital opened its doors in 1959 with 170 beds, 99 physicians, and 300 employees. Today, the hospital includes the innovative "Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center," as well as a heart and vascular center, and an in-patient rehabilitation unit. An essential part of our community, St. Mary Mercy Livonia continues to provide superior comprehensive health care.

Indeed in 2007, St. Mary Mercy Livonia received the Health Grades Clinical Excellence Award for the third straight year. Last year, the hospital was named a "100 Top Hospital" by Thomson Healthcare thanks to St. Mary Mercy Livonia's doctors, nurses, and staff who devotedly work to help and heal patients and their families.

Mr. Speaker, St. Mary Mercy has served our community for over 50 years. I ask that we congratulate them on their devoted service in serving as a sanctuary for the sick and suffering of our community.

CZAR ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, article II, section 2, clause 2 of the United States Constitution says that the President must seek advice and consent from the U.S. Senate when ap-

pointing his principal officers. That's why it's so alarming that this President has appointed 36 czars, most without the consent of the U.S. Senate.

It let people like Van Jones—an admitted Communist who came up through a Marxist organization called STORM in Oakland, California—and puts him as a principal adviser of the President of the United States without the Senate having any say-so.

I've introduced the Czar Accountability Act. So far, this doesn't seem to bother one Democrat in the House of Representatives that the President seems to be sidestepping the Constitution. Maybe what should bother them is the fact that not one czar has come before the Appropriations Committee to justify and ask for his or her budget, yet these people make \$150,000, \$170,000 a year. Where is the Democrat Party? Does party come before constitutional duty?

You know, the Founding Fathers moved for balance of government and equal division, and that's what they had in mind.

□ 1930

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2647, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SKELTON, SPRATT, ORTIZ, TAYLOR, ABERCROMBIE, REYES, SNYDER, SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Messrs. MCINTYRE, BRADY of Pennsylvania, ANDREWS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, MARSHALL, Ms. BORDALLO, Messrs. MCKEON, BARTLETT, THORNBERRY, JONES, AKIN, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, WILSON of South Carolina, LOBIONDO, BISHOP of Utah, TURNER and WITTMAN.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Messrs. REYES, SCHIFF and HOEKSTRA.

From the Committee on Education and Labor, for consideration of secs. 243, 551-553, 585, 2833 and 2834 of the House bill and secs. 531-534 and 3136 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ALTMIRE and Mrs. BIGGERT.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of secs. 247, 315 and 601 of the House bill and secs. 311, 601, 2835 and 3118 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. WAXMAN, MARKEY of Massachusetts and BARTON of Texas.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of secs. 812, 907, 912, 1011, 1013, 1046, 1201, 1211, 1213–1215, 1226, 1230A, 1231, 1236, 1239, 1240, Title XIII, secs. 1513, 1516, 1517, and 2903 of the House bill and secs. 1021, 1023, 1201–1203, 1205–1208, 1211–1214, Subtitle D of Title XII, Title XIII and sec. 1517 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BERMAN, ACKERMAN and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of sec. 1101 of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

From the Committee on House Administration, for consideration of Subtitle H of Title V of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CAPUANO, GONZALEZ and DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of secs. 583, 584, 1021 and 1604 of the House bill and secs. 821, 911, 1031, 1033, 1056, 1086 and Division E of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. NADLER of New York, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Mr. GOHMERT.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 1091 and 2308 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. RAHALL, FALCOMA and HASTINGS of Washington.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of secs. 321, 322, 326–329, 335, 537, 666, 814, 815, 834, 1101–1107, 1110–1113 and Title II of Division D of the House bill and secs. 323, 323A–323C, 814, 822, 824, 901, 911, 1056, 1086, 1101–1105 and 1162 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. TOWNS, LYNCH and FORTENBERRY.

From the Committee on Science and Technology, for consideration of secs. 248, 819, 836, and 911 of the House bill and secs. 801, 814, 833, 834, 912 and Division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GORDON of Tennessee, WU and SMITH of Nebraska.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of sec. 830 of the House bill and secs. 833, 834, 838, 1090 and Division F of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Messrs. NYE and GRAVES.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of secs. 315, 601 and 2811 of the House bill and secs. 311, 601, 933, 2835, 3301, 6002, 6007, 6008, 6012 and 6013 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. RICHARDSON and Mr. MICA.

From the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for consideration of secs. 525, 583, 584 and sec. 121 of Division D of the House bill and secs. 573–575, 617, 711,

Subtitle E of Title X, secs. 1084 and 1085 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. RODRIGUEZ, DONNELLY of Indiana and BUYER.

There was no objection.

NO FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CORPORATIONS CONVICTED OF FELONIES

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, last week I introduced legislation to cut off Federal dollars to corporations that are convicted of felonies. Presently, corporate crooks are allowed to continue to receive taxpayer dollars, and that's wrong.

I urge my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to cosponsor H.R. 3679, the ACORN Act—the Against Corporations Organizing to Rip-off the Nation Act of 2009, and end waste, fraud, and abuse of billions of taxpayers' dollars.

Last month, Congress took action to defund nonprofits serving America, but it failed to act against the corporate crooks that are actually guilty of felonies—including defrauding taxpayers.

Why are companies that break the law as a business strategy allowed to receive taxpayer funds? A government contract is a privilege, not a right, and if a company commits a felony against the people of the United States, then that privilege must end.

It is time that Congress get serious and end taxpayer funding of corporate cheats, crooks, and criminals.

I urge support for H.R. 3679.

[From The Nation, Oct. 5, 2009]

AN ACORN AMENDMENT FOR PFIZER

(By Jeremy Scahill)

In the wake of the Congressional witch hunt against the community organization ACORN, initiated by Republican minority leader John Boehner and supported by all but seventy-five Democrats in the House and ten in the Senate (Independent Bernie Sanders also voted no), a small number of Democratic lawmakers are pushing back. Last week, in response to the Defund ACORN Act, which seeks to prohibit federal funds to the community group, Minnesota Democrat Betty McCollum, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, introduced an ACORN act of her own. It is titled the "Against Corporations Organizing to Rip-off the Nation Act of 2009," also referred to simply as the ACORN Act. HR 3679 seeks to "prohibit the Federal Government from awarding contracts, grants, or other agreements to, providing any other Federal funds to, or engaging in activities that promote certain corporations or companies guilty of certain felony convictions."

While some lawmakers are focused on exposing the hypocrisy of targeting ACORN and allowing the fraud- and abuse-plagued war industry to go untouched, McCollum's legislation takes aim at massive healthcare corporations. "It's time Congress get serious about taxpayer funding of corporate cheats, crooks and criminals," says McCollum. "Last month Congress took action to defund a nonprofit serving poor Americans but failed to act against the corporate crooks that are actually guilty of felonies—includ-

ing defrauding taxpayers. Why are companies that break the law as a business strategy allowed to receive taxpayer funds? A government contract is a privilege, not a right. If a company commits a felony against the people of the United States, then that privilege must end." Significantly, McCollum's co-sponsors on the legislation include Wisconsin Democrat David Obey, chair of the House Appropriations Committee. Obey was one of those 172 House Democrats who joined Republicans in voting to defund ACORN on September 17. McCollum, who voted against the Defund ACORN legislation, says that her own legislation is "modeled after" that one but "respects the Constitution by requiring a corporation to be guilty of a felony before federal funds are cut off."

McCollum's bill cites the 2008 Corporate Fraud Task Force Report to the President, which found that in fiscal year 2007, "United States Attorneys' offices opened 878 new criminal health care fraud investigations involving 1,548 potential defendants. Federal prosecutors had 1,612 health care fraud criminal investigations pending, involving 2,603 potential defendants, and filed criminal charges in 434 cases involving 786 defendants. A total of 560 defendants were convicted for health care fraud-related crimes during the year."

McCollum's bill singles out Pharmacia & Upjohn Company Inc., a subsidiary of Pfizer. Last month Pfizer agreed to pay a \$2.3 billion settlement, which the Justice Department calls "the largest healthcare fraud settlement in the history of the Department of Justice." The settlement stemmed from Pfizer's "illegal promotion of certain pharmaceutical products," where the company marketed dosages that had not been approved by the FDA. The company will also plead guilty to a felony violation of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act for misbranding the anti-inflammatory drug Bextra "with the intent to defraud or mislead." Prosecutors allege that the company marketed "off label" uses of the drug, despite FDA bans. As the New York Times reported, "Pfizer instructed its sales representatives to tell doctors that the drug could be used to treat acute and surgical pain and at doses well above those approved, even though the drug's dangers—which included kidney, skin and heart risks—increased with the dose, the government charged. The drug was withdrawn in 2005 because of its risks to the heart and skin." Pharmacia & Upjohn will also pay a criminal fine of \$1.195 billion, "the largest criminal fine ever imposed in the United States for any matter," according to the DoJ. Federal prosecutors also stated:

Pfizer has agreed to pay \$1 billion to resolve allegations under the civil False Claims Act that the company illegally promoted four drugs—Bextra; Geodon, an anti-psychotic drug; Zyxov, an antibiotic; and Lyrica, an anti-epileptic drug—and caused false claims to be submitted to government health care programs for uses that were not medically accepted indications and therefore not covered by those programs. The civil settlement also resolves allegations that Pfizer paid kickbacks to health care providers to induce them to prescribe these, as well as other, drugs. The federal share of the civil settlement is \$668,514,830 and the state Medicaid share of the civil settlement is \$331,485,170. This is the largest civil fraud settlement in history against a pharmaceutical company.

On September 2, 2009, federal prosecutors, White House officials and military criminal investigators praised the settlement. "Pfizer violated the law over an extensive time period," said Mike Loucks, acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. He