

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, what pleases me most about the economic recovery bill that we just passed is the commitment in this legislation to science. I'm deeply gratified that the bill reflects a profound commitment to renewing our Nation's innovation infrastructure. Research is not merely a luxury to be undertaken only in times of prosperity. The truth is that scientific research is perhaps the most powerful economic engine, creating jobs in the short-term and building our economy for the long-term.

Altogether, the recovery package includes nearly \$23 billion to support scientific research and facilities, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the National Institutes of Health. There is no doubt that these funds will create jobs. Lab technicians will be hired to carry out projects previously that went unfunded. Electricians will be put to work wiring new laboratory experiments, and construction workers will begin refurbishing our neglected laboratories and building the facilities that will transform science for the 21st century.

A TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JASON E. BURKHOLDER

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Staff Sergeant Jason Burkholder, an American hero and a native son of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District who at the age of 27 made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation on February 8, 2009, in Afghanistan.

Jason graduated from Elida High School in 2000 and joined the United States Marine Corps where he served for 4 years. In December 2004 he enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard, with whom he served as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later joined the Illinois National Guard in 2008.

Jason was an athlete, a leader, a trusted colleague and a loyal friend. He brought energy and excitement to the lives of others. He was a good son and a loving husband. It was a great privilege to speak with Jason's wife, Amanda, as well as his parents, Bruce and Diane. I pray that they will know the fullness of God's peace.

I was moved by the outpouring of affection for Jason from his friends in Allen County, Ohio and beyond. He had a dramatic impact on the lives of many people.

A marine and a soldier, he fought to promote freedom. He gave his life in defense of his family, community, State and Nation. He made our world safer. He made his family and every American proud. For this, each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude.

Jason will be deeply missed, but the strength of his character and the cour-

age he demonstrated through his service will live on.

WHY WE VOTED FOR THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very important that we explain the actions that took place on the floor of the House today.

I'd like to, first of all, indicate that I'm glad to have heard that tribute to a very fine individual's sacrifice for this country. And I want you to know that when we think about economic stimulus, we're not leaving out people, we're putting them in.

I think the American people understand that when we lose 598,000 jobs, we need to do something. And so you can imagine my friends on the other side of the aisle, their criticism represents this little red spot. But there has to be much agreement, because the criticism is very narrow.

How can you criticize \$4 billion for our veterans? How can you criticize encouraging businesses to invest through working to ensure businesses, increasing capital flows for business through a 5-year NOL; encouraging hiring of veterans and disconnected youth through the work opportunity tax grant. That's what's happening with the stimulus. Encouraging businesses to invest through a bonus depreciation and small business expensing, that's what's in this bill. We believe in small businesses and minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses. And, yes, we believe that the majority of the American people are for this.

We're going home to take money to our constituency. That's why we voted for the economic stimulus plan.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the stimulus bill that was just passed this afternoon, a bill of wasteful spending, a bill that does not directly deal with the economic crisis. Tax cuts for individuals and families have been sacrificed and businesses will not be given the help they need.

But the good news is we're going to buy new cars for government employees, doorbells in Mississippi, and mice protection in San Francisco.

The bill also includes a very scary marker for universal health care, foreshadowing the policy of letting the government decide whether people are too old or too sick to receive treatment.

Americans need a bill that directly affects families and small businesses now. But it won't come. Even liberal economists predict that the unemployment rate will remain around 8 percent

over the next couple of years, and that is a near 25-year high. The nonpartisan CBO is predicting that this plan will hurt the economy. The majority of Americans do not agree with this plan. They deserve better and we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, I pray that God will help America after Congress has passed such an expensive, expansionary and socialist legislation today.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIGHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EN- ERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, 111TH CON- GRESS

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

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the House Rules, I am submitting the Rules of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming as well as our list of Members for the 111th Congress.

RULES FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EN- ERGY INDEPENDENCE AND GLOBAL WARMING, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 111TH CONGRESS

Rule 1. General Provisions. The Rules of the House are the rules of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming (hereinafter "Committee") so far as they are applicable.

Rule 2. Time and Place of Meetings.

(a) Regular Meeting Days. The Committee shall meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m., for the consideration of any pending business, if the House is in session on that day. If the House is not in session on that day and the Committee has not met during such month, the Committee shall meet at the earliest practicable opportunity when the House is again in session. The Chairman may, at his discretion, cancel, delay, or defer any meeting required under this section, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(b) Additional Meetings. The Chairman may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purposes pursuant to that call of the Chairman.

(c) Vice Chairman; Presiding Member. The Chairman may designate a member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chairman of the Committee. The Vice Chairman shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the Chairman. If the Chairman and Vice Chairman are not present at any meeting or hearing, the most senior present member of the majority party shall preside at the meeting or hearing.

(d) Open Meetings and Hearings. Each meeting and hearing of the Committee for the transaction of business shall be open to the public, including to radio, television and still photography coverage, consistent with

the provisions of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

Rule 3. Agenda. The agenda for each Committee meeting other than a hearing, setting out the date, time, place, and all items of business to be considered, shall be provided to each member of the Committee at least 24 hours in advance of such meeting.

Rule 4. Procedure.

(a) Hearings. The date, time, place, and subject matter of any hearing of the Committee shall be announced at least one week in advance of the commencement of such hearing, unless the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines in accordance with clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner. In such cases, the Chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(b) Meetings. The date, time, place, and subject matter of any meeting (other than a hearing) scheduled on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday when the House is scheduled to be in session shall be announced at least 24 hours (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, except when the House is in session on such days) in advance of the commencement of such meeting.

(c) Motions. Pursuant to clause 1(a)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the House, privileged motions to recess from day to day, or recess subject to the call of the Chair (within 24 hours), shall be decided without debate.

(d)(1) Requirements for Testimony. Each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least two working days in advance of his or her appearance, sufficient copies, as determined by the Chairman, of a written statement of his or her proposed testimony to provide to members and staff of the Committee, the news media, and the general public. Each witness shall, to the greatest extent practicable, also provide a copy of such written testimony in an electronic format prescribed by the Chairman. Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a brief summary of the testimony. The Chairman, or the presiding member, may waive the requirements of this paragraph or any part thereof.

(2) Additional Requirements for Testimony. To the greatest extent practicable, the written testimony of each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any federal grant (or sub grant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two preceding fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(A) Questioning Witnesses. The right to question witnesses before the Committee shall alternate between majority and minority members. Each member shall be limited to 5 minutes in the interrogation of witnesses until such time as each member who so desires has had an opportunity to question witnesses. No member shall be recognized for a second period of 5 minutes to interrogate a witness until each member of the Committee present has been recognized once for that purpose. While the Committee is operating under the 5-minute rule for the interrogation of witnesses, the Chairman shall recognize, in order of appearance, members who were not present when the meeting was called to order after all members who were present when the meeting was called to order have been recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee.

(B) Questions for the Record. Subject to the Rules of the House, each member may submit to the Chairman additional questions

for the record, to be answered by the witnesses who have appeared. Each member shall provide a copy of the questions in an electronic format to the clerk of the Committee no later than ten business days following a hearing. The Chairman shall transmit all questions received from members of the Committee to the appropriate witness and include the transmittal letter and the responses from the witnesses in the hearing record.

(C) Opening Statements. (1) All written opening statements at hearings conducted by the Committee shall be made part of the permanent hearing record.

(2) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member (or their respective designees) are entitled to deliver a 5 minute opening statement prior to the recognition of the first witness for testimony. Opening statements by other members of the Committee are subject to the discretion of the Chairman.

Rule 5. Waiver of Agenda, Notice, and Opening Statement Requirements. Requirements of rules 3, 4(a)(1), 4(a)(2), and 4(d) may be waived for good cause by the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member.

Rule 6. Quorum. Testimony may be taken and evidence received at any hearing at which there are present not fewer than two members of the Committee. A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum when otherwise required by the Rules of the House. For the purposes of taking any action other than those specified in the preceding sentences, one third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 7. Journal. The proceedings of the Committee shall be recorded in a journal which shall, among other things, show those present at each meeting and hearing, and shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded, a description of the motion, order, or other proposition voted, and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members voting present. A copy of the journal shall be furnished to the Ranking Minority Member and made available to the public in a timely fashion.

Rule 8. Committee Professional and Clerical Staff.

(a) Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of Rule X, as well as any written personnel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt. The Chairman shall determine the remuneration of legislative and administrative employees of the Committee.

(b) The Chairman shall appoint, and may remove, the legislative and administrative employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority.

(c) Minority Professional Staff. Professional staff members appointed pursuant to clause 9 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, who are assigned to the Ranking Minority Member, and not to the Chairman, shall be assigned to such Committee business as the Ranking Minority Member considers advisable.

(d) Additional Staff Appointments. In addition to the professional staff appointed pursuant to clause 9 of Rule X of the House of Representatives, the Chairman shall be entitled to make such appointments to the clerical staff of the Committee as may be provided within the budget approved for such purposes by the Committee. Such appointees shall be assigned to such business of the Committee as the Chairman considers advisable.

Rule 9. Supervision, Duties of Staff.

(a) Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9(b) of Rule X.

(b) Supervision of Majority Staff. The professional and clerical staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he determines appropriate.

(c) Supervision of Minority Staff. The professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority shall be under the supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he determines appropriate.

Rule 10. Committee Expenditures. Copies of each monthly report (prepared by the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration and showing expenditures made during the reporting period and cumulative for the year by the Committee), anticipated expenditures for the projected Committee program, and detailed information on travel, shall be available to each member.

Rule 11. Broadcasting of Committee Hearings. Any meeting or hearing that is open to the public may be covered in whole or in part by radio or television or still photography, subject to the requirements of clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House. The coverage of any hearing or other proceeding of the Committee by television, radio, or still photography shall be under the direct supervision of the Chairman and may be terminated in accordance with the Rules of the House.

Rule 12. Subpoenas. The Committee may authorize and issue a subpoena under clause 2(m) of Rule XI of the House.

Rule 13. Travel of Members and Staff.

(a) Approval of Travel. Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the Committee for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee thereof and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chairman, in writing, the following: (1) the purpose of the travel; (2) the dates during which the travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made; (3) the location of the event for which the travel is to be made; and (4) the names of members and staff seeking authorization.

(b) Approval of Travel by Minority Members and Staff. In the case of travel by minority party members and minority party professional staff for the purpose set out in paragraph (a), the prior approval, not only of the Chairman but also of the Ranking Minority Member, shall be required. Such prior authorization shall be given by the Chairman only upon the representation by the Ranking Minority Member, in writing, setting forth those items enumerated in (1), (2), (3), and (4) of paragraph (a).

Rule 14. Reports.

(a) Committee reports. Any report printed by the U.S. Government Printing Office that purports to express the views, findings, conclusions or recommendations of the Select Committee must be approved, in a meeting, by a majority of the members in attendance of the Select Committee. Members shall have three days from the time of the approval to submit supplemental, minority or additional views, which will be included as part of the printed report.

(b) Other reports. Any report printed by the U.S. Government Printing Office to be published as a Committee print other than a document described in paragraph (a) of this Rule: (A) shall include on its cover the following statement: "this document has been printed for informational purposes only and does not represent either findings or recommendations adopted by this Committee."; and (B) shall not be published following sine die adjournment of Congress, unless approved by the Chairman of the Committee after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

THE FUTURE FOR AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine a light on U.S. foreign policy, specifically our military presence in Afghanistan.

President Obama did not ask for this war. He inherited it, along with Iraq, a destabilized Middle East and a weakened American reputation overseas.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama is doing exactly what he said he would. He has called on his top military and diplomatic leaders to develop a plan for the future of Afghanistan. Already he has reached out to Congress to get our input.

That's why this week Congresswomen BARBARA LEE and MAXINE WATERS and I sent a letter to the President outlining congressional priorities regarding Afghanistan. We applauded the President for his strong leadership on an intelligent foreign policy and national security strategy, particularly his emphasis on diplomacy and international partnerships.

We pledged to work with him and work with his administration to implement a foreign policy that stresses cooperation, conflict resolution and humanitarian assistance.

We expressed our support and pleasure over his commitment to bring our troops home from Iraq in 16 months.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has called Afghanistan the central front in the fight against terrorism. So, in an effort to promote better cooperation in our Nation's diplomatic development and military involvement in Afghanistan, our letter to President Obama outlined policy benchmarks which many of us in Congress support and, by the way, most Americans. These benchmarks include a clear authorization of the use of military force be established. Defined goals and objectives and benefits of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan.

We asked that he determine the human and financial resources necessary to carry out the administration's plan and provide us with a time line for the redeployment of troops and military contractors.

The role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO; the United Nations, the U.N.; and other international partners must also be clearly delineated.

The immediate humanitarian and economic needs of Afghan people must also be met, we told him.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as our national policy for Afghanistan is established, Members of Congress and all Americans anticipate an honest and open discussion about the challenges that lie ahead. And with that, we look forward to working with this administration to advance a responsible and a smart strategy through the Middle East and Central Asia, a path to real peace, and a path to economic security worldwide.

KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF MEDICAL TREATMENT DECISIONS

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, we just voted on this so-called stimulus bill that wasn't even available for us to see until late last night. It should come as no surprise that in this monumental piece of legislation, there are items in it that could not have survived careful scrutiny in the light of day.

Many of my colleagues have pointed out the wildly extravagant spending and the lack of real job creation and economic recovery in this bill. I fully share those concerns, but I also want to call to attention a little-known provision tucked six pages deep inside this 1,100 page bill. The Democrats are spending \$1.1 billion on a new Federal board to conduct health care research. Sounds innocent enough, right?

Unfortunately, this provision is the camel's nose under the tent in the Democrats' quest to have the Federal Government push doctors aside and put Washington in charge of patients' health treatment options. This board, the Federal coordinating Council on Comparative Effectiveness Research, will be comprised of 15 Federal bureaucrats, all appointed by the President. Not a single practicing physician or patient advocate will be allowed to sit on this board.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first step of government-run health care. Despite numerous requests from patient groups, this bill does not include a single protection to ensure that this research will not be used by Medicare, Medicaid, VA, DOD or private health insurance to deny access to needed treatments. The goal of this board is to conduct research that will allow the Federal Government to deny needed health care. Physician groups are very concerned that this board and its research will significantly harm the patient/doctor relationship.

Other governments have been using this research to deny medically necessary care for years. The British Government currently uses similar research to restrict treatment using a formula that divides the cost of the treatment by the number of years the patient is likely to live. Treatments for younger patients are more often approved than treatments for diseases

that affect the elderly. For example, in 2006, the British Government used comparative effective research to say that elderly patients with macular degeneration had to wait until they went blind in one eye before they could get a new drug to save the other eye. It took almost 3 years of public protest before the board reversed its decision.

Mr. Speaker, Americans expect better and deserve more. Physicians and patients, not faceless Federal bureaucrats, should be in charge of health care decisions.

Republicans will continue to fight to keep this Federal Government out of our American's medicine cabinets. In the very near future I'll be introducing legislation to protect patients from the misuse of comparative effective research and ensure that seniors continue to have access to medically necessary treatments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member of this House to join me in this effort.

□ 1500

THE STIMULUS BILL—A LOST OPPORTUNITY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. There has been a lot of talk in Washington, D.C. over the last few years about the bridge to nowhere in the last highway bill, an anomaly from a lot of good investment that was in that bill.

But what we have with the passage of this bill today are a lot of tax cuts to nowhere. I never met a tax cut that could build a bridge or that could rebuild 160,000 bridges in our National Highway System that need rebuilding. They are crumbling or falling or they are functionally obsolete. I never met a tax cut that could even fill in a pothole. I never met a tax cut that could build a school.

I went to elementary school in a new post-World War II school. It is still there today, serving future generations of kids. That was money borrowed and money well spent. Money borrowed for tax cuts, ephemeral tax cuts—very small tax cuts—for the average family are not going to rebuild our economy, put us on the path to prosperity and put people back to work.

Three Republican Senators insisted on a lot more tax cuts. They hijacked the bill because of the arcane, obsolete and, in fact, discretionary rules of the Senate. It did not need to be that way. Let's just look at a couple of things they cut.

We had an amendment here on the floor of the House to add \$3 billion back to transit. That would have provided for thousands of jobs. Twelve thousand buses are obsolete. There are backlogs of orders for buses sitting on the shelf. There are options that are not funded. That would have put American workers to work in building the