

flexibility in future years to help reach the goal we have articulated.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I know I am new here in Congress and probably don't understand the way things work, but I have a basic philosophy that I have applied throughout my public service. It's very simple: The government should spend less than it takes in. It's a concept that our State governments and local governments achieve every year, and I know there's pain, but they get it, and it's because that's what they have to do. States like California and Tennessee have to make major spending cuts this year to bring their budgets in balance. The city I was mayor of has a 5 percent cut in their budget this year.

Congress, unfortunately, seems to be best at completely ignoring this principle. I'm not blaming Republicans or Democrats, because it has occurred under the watch of Presidents of both parties. But now is our chance to do something about it. Our economy is in crisis, our deficits are soaring, and I think it's reasonable to ask good programs like AmeriCorps to join the rest of the country in tightening our belts and making do with what we have for 1 more year while we try to get out of this crisis.

With that I urge adoption of my amendment.

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, we would again respectfully request a "no" vote on this amendment.

The fiscal concerns that the gentleman raises are quite valid. We believe that the procedure that's in place to address those fiscal concerns is the right one, and we actually believe that this bill in many ways is a partial answer to the country's fiscal crisis in three ways:

First, it promotes many more people getting a higher education. A skilled workforce is one of the most important ways we can grow the economy.

Second, it addresses some of the most pressing needs of the country that are precluding us from growth. Whether it's illiteracy, juvenile delinquency, gaps in our health care system, this underlying bill, we believe, addresses those needs, and this amendment artificially cuts off funding for some of those needs.

And, finally, we think that the volunteer hours that are leveraged by this legislation accomplish so much more for the commonwealth at no cost to the public treasury.

□ 1415

We believe that the amendment artificially cuts off those possibilities and we urge a "no" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), as modified.

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KILROY) having assumed the chair, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Chair 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. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING PROCEEDINGS TODAY

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during consideration of H.R. 1388 pursuant to House Resolution 250, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 250 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1388.

□ 1418

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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, with Mr. PASTOR of Arizona in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 5 had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. KILROY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 111-39.

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 6 offered by Ms. KILROY:

In section 122(a)(2)(A) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as proposed to be amended by section 1302 of the bill, redesignate clauses (vii) and (viii) as clauses (ix) and (x), respectively, and insert after clause (vi) the following new clauses:

“(vii) addressing childhood obesity by providing volunteers to organize and supervise physical education classes and after school physical activities at elementary and secondary schools and providing nutrition education to students;

“(viii) addressing issues faced by homebound elderly citizens through food deliveries, legal and medical services provided in the home, and providing transportation;”

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 250, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. Kilroy) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

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

I rise today regarding my amendment to the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act, or the GIVE Act.

My amendment would add additional opportunities to the GIVE Act by adding the Healthy Futures Corps, by helping children and the elderly.

Mr. Chairman and Members, as a former VISTA volunteer, as a former school board member who helped bring City Year to my community, and as a former county commissioner who worked diligently on the issues of childhood obesity and hunger in our community, as well as with senior options, issues facing our homebound elderly, this amendment continues some of the issues and concerns that I have seen and recognized back in central Ohio.

As somebody who has had close involvement with AmeriCorps and City Year and with VISTA, I can assert that these are very cost-effective programs that provide vital services to our community. In this instance, today, in Ohio, more than 30 percent of our children between the ages of 10 to 17 are found to be overweight or obese.

As we know, childhood obesity leads to lifelong health consequences, including diabetes and heart disease. Our poorest children are more than twice as likely to be overweight. At a time when our schools are facing cuts, physical education classes are being cut and parents are working more than one job to keep families together, this program would allow us to step up, to help educate our children about living healthy lifestyles.

My amendment focuses volunteers towards programs that combat obesity through physical education for children, after-school activities and nutrition classes. We simply cannot continue to ignore this nationwide epidemic and also the corollary epidemics of preventable chronic diseases.

Physical education opportunities not only help to build strong bodies but help to build for these children habits for a healthy lifetime of good, healthy living. And, as I have seen this as a

member of the school board, I believe that including physical education and exercise in our children's daily lives also helps them improve their learning.

Along with our children, our elderly face challenges in obtaining access to health care and other services. Many senior citizens face restrictions on their movement, making them unable to leave their homes. It shuts them off from the world, and not only from medical care, but from social interaction, from companionship, dealing with other human beings.

Our homebound elderly struggle to get food and adequate nutrition, because they are unable to shop for groceries. It can be a lonely life and a dangerous one where a fall can mean a painful end of their life. My amendment would also allow volunteers to bring food, medical supplies, and legal counsel to these senior citizens who may never be able to access these services otherwise.

I ask for support of children and the elderly by supporting my amendment to direct volunteer services towards combating childhood obesity and providing services to the homebound elderly, to our senior citizens who we need to respect and care for in their later years.

Mr. Chairman, America is facing unprecedented challenges, and it is in these times that Americans must come together to support one another by directing our attention to those who truly need our help.

It was heartwarming to me to learn in our local newspapers that many people who have lost their jobs are devoting themselves to volunteerism, putting their talents to work.

President Obama has called on Congress to create new opportunities for Americans, to build a stronger country, stronger communities and calling for a new era of service.

This bill, the GIVE Act, is an answer to that call, a call to all Americans to help give back to their communities and to offer help to those of us in greatest need.

Again, I can testify from my experience as a VISTA volunteer and being inspired by the young people in City Year, we see people helping people, helping themselves. We see young people becoming role models for other young people, and we see these young volunteers, themselves, learning and developing their own leadership skills.

I support the GIVE Act. It helps people of all ages, from our schools and our school children to our seniors and encourages others to invest their time and passion in their communities.

I urge support of this bill, which will signal a new era of social responsibility.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I would just quickly say I support the amendment, commend the maker of the amendment, the gentlelady from Ohio, for ensuring that through the GIVE Act we are looking out for our Nation's youth and our elderly, especially when it comes to their health and nutrition, and especially in the area of physical fitness. As we know, many schools are struggling to be able to provide physical education classes.

I have a fourth grader and sixth grader and know how important those classes are to them, both from a health standpoint and from just a release to be out of school now and then and burn off a little energy. I think that probably makes them all the more focused in the classroom and maybe a little less antsy in the classroom, which benefits their teachers as well.

I support the amendment.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for yielding the time.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KILROY) for her service in various governmental capacities and for her amendment. We all agree that service to this Nation is important. That's why all of us are here. We serve our constituents.

So I would like to ask the gentlewoman, Ms. KILROY, why she voted to block consideration of a bill to require the Treasury Secretary to recoup the outrageous bonuses to AIG employees.

This week, \$165 million was awarded to 73 AIG employees. Today's vote would have stopped the bonus payments on behalf of American taxpayers and prevented future abuses of bailout funds. All Americans, my constituents, your constituents, which we serve, are outraged over this because it is taxpayers who are keeping this country alive.

So I ask the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. Kilroy) why she didn't stand up and serve her constituents today. We all had a chance to do something today.

I would like to yield to the gentlewoman for a response.

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Chairman, I would like to address those comments. Nobody is more outraged by the actions of AIG than myself.

Ms. FOXX. Reclaiming my time, I would like to ask the gentlewoman to answer my question. Why did you not vote for that bill to stop these payments?

Ms. KILROY. If the gentlelady will yield, there have been votes on record in this House, including a vote prior to the last allocation of TARP funds, in which I am on record as asking for restrictions on executive compensation.

Ms. FOXX. Reclaiming my time, I would like to ask the gentlelady to answer my question.

The CHAIR. Members should direct their remarks in debate to the Chair.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I have asked the gentlewoman from Ohio for a simple answer and I am not getting that. I would like to ask her to please answer the question that I asked her: Why did she not vote to stop the bonuses to the AIG employees?

Does the gentlelady refuse to answer?

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Ms. FOXX. I yield to the gentlelady from Ohio.

Ms. KILROY. It appears the gentlelady from North Carolina does not like the answers that she has been receiving.

I am on record as being against excessive compensation, restrictions on bonuses paid to those recipients of the TARP fund.

I think there should be a time and a place for this debate, and it is unfortunate that a debate on volunteerism and service has been turned into a debate on another issue.

Ms. FOXX. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, the gentlewoman from Ohio says there is a time and place for this debate. She indicates this is not the time and place.

It is my belief that this is the time and place for that debate. It is a time and place for there to be accountability and responsibility. We have heard those words over and over and over from the other side and from the President. It's time that the other side decides to live up to their responsibility and their accountability.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 1 minute remaining.

□ 1430

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I again rise in support of the amendment, and thank the maker of the amendment for offering it and urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KILROY).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ROSKAM

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 111-39.

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

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 7 offered by Mr. ROSKAM:

In the table of contents in section 1(b) of the bill, strike the item relating to section 1601 of the bill and insert the following:

“Sec. 1601. Family and medical leave and reports.”.

In section 1513 of the bill, strike paragraphs (1) and (2), and redesignate paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

Amend section 1601 of the bill to read as follows:

SEC. 1601. FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE AND REPORTS.

(a) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.—Section 171(a)(1) (42 U.S.C. 12631(a)(1)) is amended by striking “with respect to a project” and inserting “with respect to a project authorized under the national service laws”.

(b) REPORTS.—Section 172 (42 U.S.C. 12632) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) EVALUATION USING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT RATING TOOL.—

“(1) STUDY.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall conduct a study to evaluate the programs authorized by this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, under the Program Assessment Rating Tool or a successor performance assessment tool that is developed by the Office of Management and Budget.

“(2) REPORT.—The Director shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1) within 1 year of the date of enactment of this subsection.

“(e) GAO STUDY.—

“(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study of the National Civilian Community Corps program authorized under subtitle E of title I.

“(2) COMPONENTS OF STUDY.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall consist of—

“(A) a comprehensive examination of the program;

“(B) an examination of the programs cost-effectiveness, particularly in relation to other comparable AmeriCorps service programs;

“(C) whether the program has data and quantifiable measures to adequately assess the program’s progress toward achieving its strategic goals;

“(D) a review of the Office of Management and Budget’s 2005 Program Assessment Rating Tool assessment of the program; and

“(E) recommendations for future Congressional treatment of the program, particularly assessing whether the program is duplicative or could be more efficiently managed.

“(3) SUBMISSION.—The results of the study conducted under paragraph (1) shall be submitted within 6 months of the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 250, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. ROSKAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a nutshell, this is an amendment that is meant to follow on some of the themes that President Obama articulated in his inauguration where he said—and I’m paraphrasing—“Programs that are good, we are going to continue to do, but those that are not so good, let’s not do them.”

Toward that end, this is an attempt to give us a diagnostic tool to make sure that we have a clear understanding of what’s working and what’s not working.

So, in a nutshell, Mr. Chairman, the amendment directs the Office of Man-

agement and Budget to evaluate all programs authorized by the entire legislation under the Program Assessment Rating Tool or some successor standard to that.

It also directs the GAO to conduct a review of the National Civilian Community Corps program, and it strikes one of the underlying provisions of the bill which, in my view, and I hope in the majority’s view, we can do a little bit better, which would have eliminated the Community Corps’ annual reporting requirement, and it would have said let us evaluate this in 2014. But instead, with the amendment, if it’s adopted, Mr. Chairman, it will say let’s continue on an annual basis with the evaluations.

So I think it’s short, sweet, not meant to be controversial, and it’s my understanding that it is perceived in that way.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition, although we do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BLUMENAUER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, I thank you. We will support this amendment because we certainly want whatever analytical tools the Office of Management and Budget or whomever uses to rigorously look at all aspects of this bill and this program.

We believe that it’s a very sound program, but we certainly invite rigorous scrutiny of the expenditures of the program when it’s adopted.

I do want to address some of the remarks by my dear friend from North Carolina. I notice she’s left the floor.

She asked the rhetorical question, Mr. Chairman, “When is the right time to discuss the bonuses paid by some of the recipients of the financial recovery legislation of last fall?” The answer is: Probably within the next 24 hours.

It’s the intention of the House leadership, my understanding, to bring to the floor a bill which does not make a political point but actually solves the problem.

So I think the short answer to the gentlelady’s rhetorical question is: The right time is when you know what you’re doing, when you have found the mechanism that will actually solve the problem, and you can bring the bill to the floor when it’s the issue on the floor, and not make it into an ancillary diversion, which is what happened here.

This bill is about improving and strengthening national service. We believe this amendment is consistent with the bill, and we will support the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSKAM. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise in support of conducting a GAO study of whether the NCCC and PART programs are accomplishing their mission in a cost-effective manner.

While reauthorizing the Corporation for National and Community Service in our committee, I learned that approximately up to \$27,000 dollars is spent per volunteer in the NCCC. In Tennessee, where I am from, you can go to a university in our State for 3 years for that.

I understand that this is a residential program, so there are additional costs for this program that don’t exist for other programs, but it still seems high to me. I think it would be helpful to have an independent evaluation of this program to prove its effectiveness, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. ANDREWS. I support the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey, thank the gentleman from Tennessee, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. MARKEY OF COLORADO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 111-39.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Ms. MARKEY of Colorado:

In section 129A(b) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be inserted by section 1307 of the bill), strike “\$600” and insert “\$800” and strike “\$800” and insert “\$1,000”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 250, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. MARKEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I’d like to thank Chairman MILLER, Congresswoman MCCARTHY, and the entire committee for their diligent work on this important legislation.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my amendment to H.R. 1388. My amendment would increase the amount of funds that go to organizations to support national servicemembers. AmeriCorps is one such organization, and its members are making a difference in communities across the United States.

Each year, AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to serve through a network of partnerships with local and national nonprofit groups, including nine in my home State of Colorado.

These projects have helped to coordinate such days as Martin Luther King Day of Service and Colorado Cares Day.

Within my congressional district, the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps contracts with the city of Greeley and does everything from working in museums to making buildings handicapped-accessible to eradicating weeds in our State parks. The Corps maintains the Poudre River Trail Corridor, works at the Wray Fish Hatchery, and supports the forest service. In my rural district, VISTA members address poverty needs and disaster relief.

Additionally, one of my constituents, Justin Horn, won "Corps Member of the Year" for the State of Colorado in 2008. Constituents in my district contribute to the great work being done around Colorado, along with 75,000 AmeriCorps programs across the country.

To help our men and women do this admirable work, Congress established the Education Award Program in 1998 in order to address concerns about costs organizations incurred from hosting national servicemembers.

Currently, organizations receive only \$600 to support the individuals who are enrolled in full-time national service positions. This small amount helps to pay for operational and member support costs, including a living allowance. My amendment proposes an increase to that amount. In today's economy, these organizations are struggling.

My amendment is not only an investment that will boost these organizations and their noble work but, at the same time, improve these communities throughout the United States.

I urge all Members to support my amendment to H.R. 1388.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chair, I rise to claim time in opposition, but I rise in support of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PLATTS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As I said, I rise in support of the amendment in strong recognition of the National Service Corporation's request for this additional ability to ensure they can recruit needed personnel.

So I urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Would the gentlewoman from Colorado yield?

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Yes, I yield.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I want to thank the gentlewoman for introducing this amendment. It's an important amendment so that we can preserve the quality of these programs, and we can make sure that they remain accessible to all those who want to participate.

This will help such grantees as the Boys and Girls Club of America, the

Student Conservation Association, and so many other organizations that are responsible for covering this cost. This will help them out in that effort.

They clearly are putting their own resources into this program. This is the Federal Government providing up as a good partner to increase the opportunities that the gentlewoman from Colorado has supported and spoken to the committee about.

We support the amendment. Thank you.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. MARKEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. HILL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 111-39.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 9 offered by Mr. HILL:

In section 122(b)(1)(I) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as proposed to be amended by section 1302 of the bill, insert "such as sending care packages to members of the Armed Forces deployed in combat zones overseas" before the period.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 250, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. HILL. I am happy that we are taking up this important piece of legislation today. I think it's the right thing to do. The President and the First Lady have, of course, been strong advocates for national service programs.

The amendment that I am offering today evolved as a result of a bill that I introduced in this session. It's House Resolution 1090, called the Homefront Heroes Tax Relief Act. It's a bill that gives support to our troops and our military families who are serving our country.

This legislation actually came about because of a constituent of mine in Bloomington, Indiana—Indiana University Professor Catherine Dalton—who came up with the idea. She had been sending care packages to Iraq and incurring a lot of expense. These care packages were sent to families and to soldiers in Iraq that were not related to her own family.

Everybody wants to help our troops, and this fine young woman was doing just that. She was helping our troops, on her own. But she was also incurring a lot of expense. So she came to me and said, "Congressman HILL, I think it would be a good idea to help people like myself who are trying to help our troops, and that is the expenses that we incur are tax deductible on our income taxes."

So I filed the bill, the Homefront Heroes Tax Relief Act, to allow people like Professor Dalton to do just that.

So my amendment simply ensures that sending care packages to members of the armed services deployed in combat are also included in the eligible national service program.

Currently, people like Professor Dalton have to just absorb these expenses. If this amendment is passed, it would allow volunteer programs that send care packages to members of the armed services to be eligible for grant funding under the GIVE Act.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PLATTS. I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in strong support of the amendment. I thank the gentleman from Indiana for offering this amendment.

Having had the privilege to visit our courageous troops eight times in Iraq and five times in Afghanistan, I know how much these care packages from home really mean to the troops, and how they look forward to them and what a morale boost it is.

I think recognizing this type of service, especially to those who are serving us in harm's way, is a wonderful amendment, a change to the legislation, and urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Will the gentleman yield for 30 seconds?

Mr. HILL. I will yield.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I just want to commend him for offering this amendment, for all of his work on behalf of not only our veterans, but service people on active duty and in support of his constituent from Indiana that came up with this idea to start sending care packages to our troops in service in the theaters of battle.

We clearly think this is a consistent use and allowable use under the National Service Act, and we welcome the amendment and support it.

Mr. HILL. I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank the chairman and the ranking member for this bipartisan support. This is a bipartisan bill and amendment, and I am sure it will gain a lot of Democrat and Republican votes.

This is the right thing to do. This is how democracy is supposed to work. We are supposed to listen to our constituents who have good ideas and come here to Washington to pass good legislation. So I am happy that we have this bipartisan support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HILL).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1445

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. TEAGUE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 111-39.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 10 offered by Mr. TEAGUE:

In section 122(a)(4)(A)(ii) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be inserted by section 1302 of the bill), insert after "opportunities" the following: ", including such opportunities that reflect their military experience".

In section 122(a)(4)(A)(iii) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be inserted by section 1302 of the bill), insert after "certification" the following: ", licensure, and credentials, including coordinating with and assisting State and local agencies administering veterans education benefits and programs for internships and fellowships that could lead to employment in the private and public sector".

In section 122(a)(4)(A)(iv) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be inserted by section 1302 of the bill), strike "active duty military members" and insert the following: "members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty, including such efforts to help veterans file benefits claims and assist Federal agencies in providing services to veterans".

In section 122(a)(4)(A)(vi) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be inserted by section 1302 of the bill), insert after "disabled," the following: "rural,".

In section 122(a)(4)(A)(vi) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be inserted by section 1302 of the bill), insert after "veterans" the following: ", including such projects that assist such veterans with transportation".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 250, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. TEAGUE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an important amendment to an important piece of legislation, the GIVE Act. My amendment, which I am offering together with my friend, Congressman KLEIN of Florida, establishes that a Veterans Volunteer Corps would engage in activities that are important to veterans in my district and across the country.

Those activities include: Helping veterans pursue education and employment by coordinating with State and local agencies that administer edu-

cation and job programs for veterans; helping veterans file benefit claims; and, aiding rural, disabled, and unemployed veterans with transportation needs.

This amendment is especially important for veterans in rural areas like the one I represent. Many veterans in my district have to travel 4 hours or more to reach a veterans hospital for doctor appointments. For folks who would require constant medical care, the burden of this travel weighs heavily on both the veteran and his or her family. Ensuring that a veteran can receive a helping hand for transportation through the GIVE Act will mean so much to men and women in Southern New Mexico and rural areas across the country.

Additionally, providing access to knowledgeable volunteers for veterans applying for their benefits can be a guiding light through the maze of the benefits application process. Veterans service organizations across the country already provide assistance like this at veterans benefits centers often on a volunteer basis. My amendment bolsters their critical service.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment invests in our veteran community, while also allowing our veterans to invest in themselves and their fellow vets.

I thank my chairman on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Congressman FILNER, for his assistance and support of this amendment, and I thank Chairman MILLER.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

I just rise in support of the amendment. I want to commend the gentlemen from both New Mexico and Florida for offering this amendment, a great addition to the bill, and, as with the previous amendment, ensuring we do right by those who are serving our Nation, past and present, and that we recognize the sacrifices they have made in defense of our Nation, along with their families, and that we now keep our commitment as a Nation to them. I urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TEAGUE. I yield to Chairman MILLER 30 seconds.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to thank him for bringing this to the committee and offering this amendment.

All of us in our congressional offices know how thin the support services for the veterans as they seek out occupational opportunities, therapy opportunities, all of the needs that our returning veterans have. The gentleman is making a great contribution to this

legislation, especially since this is the first time that we have fully integrated veterans into the national service corps of this Nation. These kinds of services are in desperate need in so many areas of the country. This is a very important amendment to making sure that our veterans are able to proceed with all of their needs when they return home.

I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment, and I urge passage of the amendment.

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Chairman, I yield the remaining time to the cosponsor of this amendment, Congressman KLEIN of Florida.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, Members, I rise in strong support of this amendment and the underlying bill. Congressman TEAGUE and I introduced this amendment in order to clarify the services that could be formed by Veterans' Corps volunteers anywhere.

I represent Palm Beach and Broward Counties in south Florida, home to many of our Nation's veterans. We all agree that when Americans who wear the military uniform return from service, they deserve to be treated with the highest level of respect and dignity that they have earned. This includes making sure they receive the benefits they are entitled to, and I know we all share that commitment.

While the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and military staff work hard to ensure that every veteran gets full advantage of the benefits they have earned, some veterans still have difficulty navigating the system and coming up with all the necessary documents. By allowing trained Veterans' Corps volunteers to guide them through this process, we can ensure more veterans obtain the benefits they were promised.

With thousands of new servicemembers returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, the job of the Veterans' Corps is more critical than ever. As of September 2008, 330,000 Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans have filed disability claims with the VA; yet, 54,000 are still waiting for confirmation that the VA even received their claims. The average wait for a disability claim is more than 6 months. This amendment could help these veterans access the services they need.

I can think of few priorities greater or more urgent than providing basic services such as these to our brave men and women who serve to protect our country, secure our peace, and safeguard our way of life.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman TEAGUE, for working with me on this amendment, and particularly Chairman MILLER for introducing this important piece of legislation, which will enable hundreds of thousands of Americans to dedicate their time to a cause that is bigger than themselves through volunteerism and community service. I urge adoption of

this amendment and a "yes" vote on the underlying legislation for the betterment of our community and our country as a whole.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. TEAGUE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. TITUS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 111-39.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 11 offered by Ms. TITUS:

In the table of contents in section 1(b) of the bill, strike the item relating to section 1804 and insert the following:

Sec. 1804. Innovative and Model Program Support and National Service Reserve Corps.

In section 193A(b)(20) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be inserted by section 1704 of the bill), strike "section 198F" and insert "section 198G".

In the section heading of section 1804, insert "AND NATIONAL SERVICE RESERVE CORPS" after "INNOVATIVE AND MODEL PROGRAM SUPPORT".

In the matter proposed to be inserted by section 1804 of the bill, amend the heading relating to part II of subtitle H of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to read as follows:

PART II—INNOVATIVE AND MODEL PROGRAM SUPPORT AND NATIONAL SERVICE RESERVE CORPS

In section 1804 of the bill, strike the close quotation mark and following period after the matter proposed to be inserted by such section, and insert at the end of such section the following:

"SEC. 198E. NATIONAL SERVICE RESERVE CORPS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.— In this section—

"(1) the term 'term of national service' means a term or period of service—

"(A) under subtitle C, E, or G or sections 198B or 198F of this Act, or under part A of title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.); or

"(B) under an annual service requirement, which may include an annual training session under subsection (b), as determined by the Corporation of not less than 10 hours.

"(2) the term 'National Service Reserve Corps member' means an individual who—

"(A) has completed a term of national service;

"(B) has successfully completed training described in subsection (b) within the previous 2 years; and

"(C) has indicated interest to the Corporation in responding to national disasters and other emergencies in a timely manner through the National Service Reserve Corps.

"(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL SERVICE RESERVE CORPS.—The Corporation shall establish a National Service Reserve Corps to prepare and deploy National Service Reserve Corps. In carrying out this section, the Corporation may work with organizations representing individuals who have completed a term of national service, as well as directly with such individuals.

"(b) ANNUAL TRAINING.—The Corporation shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, conduct or coordinate annual

training sessions for individuals who have completed a term of national service, and who wish to join the National Service Reserve Corps.

"(c) CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIZATIONS.—

"(1) On a biannual basis, the Corporation shall certify organizations with demonstrated experience in responding to disasters, including through using volunteers, for participation in the program under this section.

"(2) The Corporation shall ensure that every certified organization is—

"(A) prepared to respond to major disasters or emergencies;

"(B) prepared and able to utilize National Service Reserve Members in responding; and

"(C) willing to respond in a timely manner when notified by the Corporation of a disaster or emergency.

"(d) DATABASES.—The Corporation shall develop or contract with an outside organization to develop—

"(1) a database of all National Service Reserve Corps members; and

"(2) a database of all nonprofit organizations that have been certified by the Corporation under subsection (c).

"(e) DEPLOYMENT OF NATIONAL SERVICE RESERVE CORPS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If a major disaster or emergency designated by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurs and the Corporation, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, determines is an incident for which National Service Reserve Corps members are prepared to assist, the Corporation shall—

"(A) deploy interested National Service Reserve Corps members on 30-day assignments to assist with local needs related to preparing or recovering from the incident in the affected area, through organizations certified under subsection (c);

"(B) make travel arrangements for the deployed National Service Reserve Corps members to the site of the incident; and

"(C) provide funds to those organizations that are responding to the incident with deployed National Service Reserve Corps members, to enable the organizations to coordinate and provide housing, living stipends, and insurance for those deployed members.

"(2) ALLOWANCE.—Any amounts that are utilized by the Corporation from funds appropriated under section 501(a)(2)(F) to carry out paragraph (1) for a fiscal year shall be kept in a separate fund. Any amounts in such fund that are not used during a fiscal year shall remain available to use to help organizations pay Reserve Corps Members an allowance, determined by the Corporation, for out-of-pocket expenses.

"(3) INFORMATION.—The Corporation, the State Commissions, and entities receiving financial assistance for programs under subtitle C, E, or G or section 198F of this Act, or under part A of title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.), shall inform participants of those programs of the National Service Reserve Corps upon the participants' completion of their term of national service.

"(4) COORDINATION.— In deploying National Service Reserve Corps members under this subsection, the Corporation may consult and, as appropriate, partner with Citizen Corps programs in the affected area."

In the matter proposed to be inserted by section 1805 of the bill, redesignate section 198E of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as section 198F.

In the matter proposed to be inserted by section 1806 of the bill, redesignate section 198F of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as section 198G.

In the table of contents of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be amended by section 4104 of the bill), strike the item relating to part II of subtitle H and insert the following:

PART II—INNOVATIVE AND MODEL PROGRAM SUPPORT AND NATIONAL SERVICE RESERVE CORPS

In the table of contents of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be amended by section 4101 of the bill), after the item relating to section 198D, insert the following:

Sec. 198E. National Service Reserve Corps.

In the table of contents of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be amended by section 4101 of the bill), strike the item relating to section 198E and insert the following:

Sec. 198F. Social Innovation Fund.

In the table of contents of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (as proposed to be amended by section 4101 of the bill), strike the item relating to section 198F and insert the following:

Sec. 198G. National Service Programs Clearinghouse.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 250, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

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

I rise today in support of this amendment, which will create a National Service Reserve Corps.

In recent years, we have watched with broken hearts when the aftermath of some natural disaster has left people homeless, jobless, and helpless. But we have also felt, as we witnessed our fellow citizens rise to the occasion with perseverance and selflessness to assist those in need, a real hope for the future.

Many wonderful Americans, including Members of this body, have reached into their hearts and their pockets to help, to serve, to work, and to give. The creation of a National Service Reserve Corps will make sure that those who are most eager to serve and already have the training that communities need can be deployed quickly and effectively.

Our amendment will create a National Service Reserve Corps composed of alumni of AmericaCorps and Senior Corps programs. These wonderful volunteers can be identified and called upon in time of natural disasters and emergencies to start the relief and rebuilding process post haste. The corps members will not only have the valuable training and experience from their year of service, but they will also receive annual training sessions in emergency response.

Our Nation is facing numerous economic challenges, and Nevada, my State, is one of the hardest hit. We have endured record foreclosures and an unemployment rate that is approaching double digits. Nevada AmeriCorps volunteers have been invaluable to our communities in need. Over 2,000 AmericaCorps members have

served in 15 different programs; they have provided more than 2.5 million hours of service, and have earned over \$4.7 million in education credits. In 2007, AmericaCorps programs contributed over 25,000 hours of service to Nevada, and members recruited over 3,300 community volunteers who then gave more than 23,000 hours of service.

With public need rising all across the country, we must do all we can to shore up volunteer programs and provide opportunities to those who want to be of service. By creating a National Service Reserve Corps, we will create an organized deployment system for those citizens who are ready to serve and are trained to do so.

We will also show volunteers and anyone who is considering a year of national service that we value their contributions and we will continue to honor it in the years to come. So I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment as well as final passage of the GIVE Act.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PERRIELLO).

Mr. PERRIELLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this great national service bill, and specifically the Reserve Corps amendment. I rise also as a proud member of the community service generation. My generation, which was often given a hard time for not voting, was always volunteering in record numbers. We did believe in the idea of civic duty and community service that we had learned from our grandparents in the greatest generation, and we saw through the original AmericaCorps programs and others what a great idea service was. Not only was it a chance to help out those struggling in our community, but it was a chance to build our own character and our own sense of commitment to community and to country.

I come from the nonprofit sector. I spent most of the last decade before Congress in the nonprofit sector, and I have not had a day of that experience go by that I did not feel that I had benefited as much as I had helped. I have worked in West Africa, in Darfur, and in the communities with at-risk kids back here at home, and always enjoyed and celebrated that time.

There are a few things that I have learned from that time in the nonprofit sector that I believe have gone into this Reserve Corps amendment. First and foremost is the idea that once you get someone to volunteer for a little piece of time, you have turned them into a volunteer for life. Volunteering is a wonderful program, and where we can reach out and help people become volunteers we will see that continue to come back to our communities time and time again.

And this cannot be something that is only affordable to those with wealth. We have so many displaced workers who want to volunteer, senior citizens who want to volunteer, community and high school students. And we need to

be celebrating and fostering that spirit of service.

Finally, we need to respect and understand the level of professionalism in our nonprofit and volunteer sector. People learn skills here that are incredibly valuable to our community, and this Reserve Corps is based on the idea that once we have made that investment in giving someone the skills to be a great high-level professional in their community, let's keep them on as a Reserve Corps so that we can call them up in times of great national emergency, like Hurricane Katrina, to help them rebuild levees, to help build low-income homes. Let's make volunteerism not something just to do for a summer, but something to do for a lifetime.

I believe this amendment reaches into the best of the American tradition of service and the best of our sense of this being not something that happens for one generation, but across generations, particularly at this time of economic crisis when we must all come together.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of the amendment, and commend the gentlelady from Nevada and the gentleman from Virginia for their amendment and urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada will be postponed.

□ 1500

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 111-39 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 2 by Ms. PINGREE of Maine;

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. LOEBSACK of Iowa;

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. ROE of Tennessee;

Amendment No. 6 by Ms. Kilroy of Ohio;

Amendment No. 8 by Ms. MARKEY of Colorado;

Amendment No. 11 by Ms. TITUS of Nevada.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 2-minute votes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. PINGREE OF MAINE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 388, noes 36, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 133]

AYES—388

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Abercrombie | Castle | Filner |
| Ackerman | Castor (FL) | Fleming |
| Aderholt | Chaffetz | Forbes |
| Adler (NJ) | Chandler | Fortenberry |
| Altmire | Childers | Foster |
| Andrews | Christensen | Frank (MA) |
| Arcuri | Clarke | Frelinghuysen |
| Austria | Clay | Fudge |
| Baca | Cleaver | Galleghy |
| Bachmann | Clyburn | Gerlach |
| Bachus | Coble | Giffords |
| Baird | Coffman (CO) | Gingrey (GA) |
| Baldwin | Cohen | Gohmert |
| Barrow | Cole | Gonzalez |
| Bartlett | Conaway | Goodlatte |
| Bean | Connolly (VA) | Gordon (TN) |
| Becerra | Conyers | Granger |
| Berkley | Cooper | Graves |
| Berman | Costa | Grayson |
| Berry | Costello | Green, Al |
| Biggert | Courtney | Green, Gene |
| Billbray | Crenshaw | Griffith |
| Bilirakis | Crowley | Grijalva |
| Bishop (GA) | Cuellar | Guthrie |
| Bishop (NY) | Culberson | Gutierrez |
| Blackburn | Cummings | Hall (NY) |
| Blumenauer | Dahlkemper | Hall (TX) |
| Bocciari | Davis (AL) | Halvorson |
| Boehner | Davis (CA) | Hare |
| Bonner | Davis (IL) | Harman |
| Bono Mack | Davis (KY) | Harper |
| Boozman | Deal (GA) | Hastings (FL) |
| Bordallo | DeFazio | Heinrich |
| Boren | DeGette | Heller |
| Boswell | Delahunt | Hergert |
| Boucher | DeLauro | Herseth Sandlin |
| Boyd | Dent | Higgins |
| Brady (PA) | Diaz-Balart, L. | Hill |
| Brady (TX) | Diaz-Balart, M. | Himes |
| Braleigh (IA) | Dicks | Hinojosa |
| Bright | Dingell | Hirono |
| Brown (SC) | Doggett | Hodes |
| Brown, Corrine | Donnelly (IN) | Hoekstra |
| Brown-Waite, | Doyle | Holden |
| Ginny | Dreier | Holt |
| Buchanan | Driehaus | Hoyer |
| Burgess | Duncan | Hunter |
| Butterfield | Edwards (MD) | Inglis |
| Buyer | Edwards (TX) | Inslee |
| Calvert | Ehlers | Israel |
| Camp | Ellison | Issa |
| Cantor | Ellsworth | Jackson (IL) |
| Cao | Emerson | Jackson-Lee |
| Capito | Engel | (TX) |
| Capps | Eshoo | Jenkins |
| Cardoza | Etheridge | Johnson (GA) |
| Carnahan | Faleomavaega | Johnson (IL) |
| Carney | Fallin | Johnson, E. B. |
| Carson (IN) | Farr | Jones |
| Cassidy | Fattah | Kagen |