

will broaden those involved in service across the country, and in doing so, foster the value of civic engagement and duty that can change a life in a community.

This bipartisan legislation is truly a win-win for all those involved and for our country. It makes excellent improvements in an already successful Corporation for National and Community Service. It improves access and support for organizations and grant applicants, and most importantly, reassures our valued servicemembers that Congress supports them and their work in our communities.

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

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

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 279, PROVIDING FOR EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 111TH CONGRESS

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 294 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 294

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 279) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration now printed in the resolution shall be considered as adopted. The resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution, as amended, to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration; and (2) one motion to recommit which may not contain instructions.

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman, my friend from California

(Mr. DREIER). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I also ask, Mr. Speaker, unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 294.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 294 provides for consideration of the 111th Congress committee funding resolution. As my colleagues may know, clause 7 of rule X provides for the interim committee funding until the permanent funding resolution is in place. That temporary funding expires today. Therefore, it is very important that we consider and pass this rule and the underlying resolution today.

The committee funding resolution before us is the result of a bipartisan effort between Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member LUNGREN of the Committee on House Administration. It was reported from the committee by a voice vote, and included an amendment by the ranking member to help increase transparency and accountability in the committee funding process.

This is a very fair and modest funding resolution which seeks to keep costs down, but still allow committees to fulfill their duties. This resolution recommends to the House an authorization to expend approximately \$149.6 million in the first session and \$154.9 million in the second session. This totals approximately \$12.4 million below the combined levels requested by each of the committees.

It further reflects the commitment of Democrats to fairness and bipartisanship. The resolution incorporates an amendment by Ranking Member LUNGREN and carries forward the "one-third" rule in which a third of committee resources are used to support the work of the minority.

Rather than blindly tying committee funding to inflation or some other arbitrary number, this resolution is tailored to meet the unique challenges and circumstances facing this Congress.

As we work to implement the sweeping agenda of Democratic leadership and the new Democratic administration while simultaneously addressing seemingly unprecedented challenges, this resolution sensibly provides targeted increases to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Small Business, and Standards of Official Conduct, among others.

The 12 percent increase recommended for the Committee on Financial Services is vital, considering the committee's stewardship of our Nation's financial recovery. It ensures that the committee not only has the resources to

develop the legislation necessary to further our economic recovery, but also ensures that the committee has the capacity to adequately oversee the execution of these policies.

This increase, as well as the increase in funding for the Committee on Small Business, will help ensure that hard-earned taxpayer dollars are going into the right hands and helping the right people.

Additionally, with health care reform a priority for this Congress and our new President, H. Res. 279 provides an increase of 11 percent for the Committee on Energy and Commerce so we can continue our efforts to provide health care for every single American, in addition to working to finally achieve energy independence.

And while Congress continues to take on the task of overseeing our Nation's financial industry and the execution of our recovery initiatives, this body is ever-more scrutinized by the watchful eye of the American public. In order to ensure public trust in Congress, this resolution provides for an increase of 10 percent for the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

This resolution provides a pragmatic, fiscally prudent approach to committee funding, increasing total funding in 2009 by less than 5 percent, an amount within the D.C. cost of living adjustment.

Further, it provides a 3.9-percent increase in 2010, to accommodate the increased legislative and oversight work load typically seen in the second session.

It also assures adequate oversight by requiring committee chairs and ranking members to return to the Committee on House Administration by February of 2010 to report on committee spending.

This funding resolution strikes a responsible balance between the expanded oversight duties of the 111th Congress and the realities of our current economic climate. It will help this Congress adequately meet our economy's pressing needs, while working toward implementing the policies that will drive our Nation into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this rule and of the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to my very good friend from Fort Lauderdale, my Rules Committee colleague, Mr. HASTINGS, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

And let me say that the American people are hurting. We know that. And Mr. HASTINGS has alluded to some of the challenges that we have. We're dealing with one of the most serious economic challenges that we've faced in modern history.

And while the American people are facing their economic challenges, I think it's very important for us as an institution, especially as the body of the people, to realize that it's incumbent upon us to set an example.

We all know that the Federal Government is filled, riddled with tremendous waste, fraud and abuse. It's a high level of frustration for Americans. And regardless of political party, people regularly talk about the challenge of dealing with waste, fraud and abuse.

And I will say that one of our important responsibilities that too often is forgotten is our responsibility for oversight. We have to oversee the multifarious programs that have been put forward and established by this Congress.

Now, from my perspective, we have way too many programs. The reach of the Federal Government is far beyond what it should be. And as we look at the budget which we're going to be debating later this week, the notion of having this dramatic increase in spending as a percentage of our gross domestic product is something that I find to be extraordinarily troubling. And we need to get our economy back on track. We need to make sure that we have in place an economic policy that will do that.

And so the American people are clearly looking to this institution, they're looking to Washington, to make sure that we set policies that will allow them to, once again, keep their homes, meet the obligation of paying tuition for their children who are going to college, to pay their other bills. That is something that, on a regular basis, we as Members of Congress hear from the American people. So this issue of committee funding is an important one.

And I will say that there is some concern that has been voiced on this side of the aisle. My California colleague, the ranking member of the Oversight Committee, is troubled over the fact that there have been increases in a number of other committees, and yet the Oversight and Government Reform Committee has not had the kind of increase that he believes is important.

I also want to say that we should take our hats off to the chairman of the Administration Committee, Mr. BRADY of Philadelphia, as well as my California colleague, Mr. LUNGREN, the gentleman from Sacramento, who is the ranking member. We have seen chairmen and ranking members of all of the committees go before their committee, and they have been deliberative and very thoughtful in this package that they have put together. But I do believe that there are, again, concerns that have been voiced by a number of our colleagues.

I want to say that if we look at what has happened in the last couple of months, one particular entity that I think needs to have very, very, very close scrutiny paid to it when it comes to this issue of oversight is the Depart-

ment of the Treasury. We know there have been programs that began last fall with the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the so-called TARP program, and since that period of time we've had the 1,100-page stimulus bill, which we know has been flawed.

And I think it was demonstrated when, the week before last, we had the issue of trying to deal with the \$167 million in bonuses that have been provided in the stimulus package for the executives of AIG. And so we have unintended consequences that stem from a dramatic expansion of the Federal Government. And everyone acknowledges that that's the case. And that's why we, on our side, are regularly trying to, again, limit that reach because no one knows exactly what the unintended consequences will be.

Now, Mr. LUNGREN, the ranking member, informed me yesterday that we are going to, in this resolution, have a scrutiny over the action of every committee when it comes to the issue of oversight. And I do congratulate the members of the Administration Committee for ensuring that we do have more scrutiny put into place.

I also want to mention an item that is included in this measure that is, I think, very, very important, and that is funding for a commission which I was privileged to found when we were in the majority, and now serve as the ranking member under our colleague, DAVID PRICE, the gentleman from North Carolina, who has chaired this commission. It's known as the House Democracy Assistance Commission. And our commission has basically taken the challenge of building democratic institutions in new and re-emerging democracies around the world and worked to share our example of the United States Congress with these new and re-emerging democracies. I mean, we are in Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Haiti, Colombia, Lebanon, Liberia, Kenya, Macedonia, Georgia, and Ukraine. I mean, we have worked closely with the parliaments to try and, again, share our example of the work of the United States Congress.

And I regularly argue, Mr. Speaker, that we clearly don't have the answer, because we know that democracy is a work in progress. And I've often quipped that if some of these countries see the United States Congress in operation they may want to go back to totalitarianism. But the fact is we do have a 220-year example to which we can point as our work in progress. And this commission is, I believe, making great strides in trying to help build the parliaments in these countries so that, as we pursue economic growth and the rule of law in those countries, this commission is going to remain on the cutting edge of that very important work.

So I will say that, again, there are concerns that have been voiced about the level of funding, and I think that there are a number of issues that we still do want to ensure that we address.

But as the American people deal with the economic downturn that we're facing today, I think it is imperative that we, as an institution, do all that we can, Mr. Speaker, all that we can to ensure that we utilize those taxpayer dollars just as cost effectively as possible and, at the same time, redouble our efforts when it comes to overseeing this massive expansion of the Federal Government that has taken place.

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

□ 1300

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I inquire of my good friend from California if he has any remaining speakers?

Mr. DREIER. If the gentleman would yield, I would say to my friend, if he would like me to talk for another 15 or 20 minutes, I would be more than happy to.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I am the last speaker for this side, so I will reserve my time until the gentleman has closed for his side and has yielded back his time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, with that, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address one of the concerns that my good friend raised with reference to Oversight and Government Reform.

It remains the second best-funded committee in the House with the second largest staff, and Oversight and Government Reform did not use \$700,000 of their funding last year, showing that they have a good cushion of additional funding to use this year.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 297 is a practical resolution that reflects the new pressing priorities of the 111th Congress. The funding levels authorized in this resolution will provide our committees with the resources necessary to carry out Congress' increase in oversight responsibilities and to implement the sweeping legislative initiatives of the President's and Democrats' in Congress, referencing yet one more item raised by my good friend as he references the things that are being done.

When people tell me that we are trying to do too much, I always ask: What is it that they would leave out that we should not be doing? Would they leave out education? Do they think that energy independence is not particularly critical? Is there anyone in this body or anywhere in this country who does not understand the critical need for health insurance for all Americans?

One thing is certain: When we are talking about the economy, we are talking about health care, and if we do not do things with reference to health care, then we are not going to be able to solve our economic crisis.

Mr. DREIER. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Of course, I will yield.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply say that I completely concur with my friend on those two issues that he has just mentioned. Ensuring that we have access to quality health care in this country is, I believe, a right that needs to be pursued, number 1.

Number 2, education is going to be critical. As we deal with our emergence from this economic downturn, the United States of America must remain on the cutting edge. The argument that one would get is regarding the exact role the Federal Government should play in every one of these things—in dramatically expanding the number of programs to deal with it or, in fact, in incentivizing those in the private sector. Do we do everything we can to, again, encourage greater access to health care and to quality education?

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Reclaiming my time, I am putting a question to my colleague, and I will then reference time for him.

When you said we should incentivize the private sector, who is the “we” that you are talking about?

Mr. DREIER. Will my friend yield?

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Yes.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say, by incentivizing, I believe that we as an institution, through tax policy, can do everything that we possibly can.

For example, in the area of health care, just to touch on that, I believe that a dramatic expansion of medical savings accounts—of which we have been on the cutting edge—of encouraging people to put dollars aside and to save and plan for their health care needs is a better way to go rather than dramatically expanding a government program to deal with it. That is the response, I would say, as far as incentivizing.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Reclaiming my time, it is still the government as an institution that you refer to that is going to do these things. It is just that somehow or another, I guess, ideologically, my good friend and I are opposites when it comes, not only to health care, but to a variety of issues of major consequence.

If this Nation does not face up to its responsibilities having to do with Social Security, if we do not significantly address the issues of Medicare and Medicaid, then somehow or another, I think we are leaving the least of us out of this process. It is one thing to believe that if we incentivize the Tax Code that it is going to solve the problem, but that is not going to reach those persons at the very bottom.

For example, I hope that this budget addresses community health facilities. I believe this resolution represents the vital first step toward adequately addressing health care reform, energy policy and climate change, financial regulation and oversight, job growth

and the recovery and long-term stability of our Nation’s economy.

Now, in spite of the criticism from our friends on the other side, if they feel about this rule that it is unfair, perhaps unprecedented, our only intention today is to ensure that this resolution is considered in a timely manner so that our committees may be adequately funded and so that we may continue to do the work of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the previous question and on the rule.

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

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Adoption of H. Res. 296, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1259, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 282, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1388, EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE AMERICA ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on adoption of House Resolution 296, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 173, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]  
YEAS—240

Abercrombie	Bocchieri	Clay
Ackerman	Boren	Cleaver
Adler (NJ)	Boswell	Clyburn
Altmire	Boyd	Cohen
Andrews	Brady (PA)	Connolly (VA)
Arcuri	Braley (IA)	Cooper
Baca	Bright	Costa
Baird	Butterfield	Costello
Baldwin	Capps	Courtney
Barrow	Capuano	Crowley
Bean	Cardoza	Cuellar
Becerra	Carnahan	Cummings
Berkley	Carney	Dahlkemper
Berman	Carson (IN)	Davis (AL)
Berry	Castor (FL)	Davis (CA)
Bishop (GA)	Chandler	Davis (IL)
Bishop (NY)	Childers	Davis (TN)
Blumenauer	Clarke	DeFazio

DeGette	Kissell	Reyes
Delahunt	Klein (FL)	Richardson
DeLauro	Kosmas	Rodriguez
Dicks	Kratovil	Ross
Dingell	Kucinich	Rothman (NJ)
Doggett	Langevin	Royal-Allard
Donnelly (IN)	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
Doyle	Larson (CT)	Rush
Driehaus	Lee (CA)	Ryan (OH)
Edwards (MD)	Levin	Salazar
Edwards (TX)	Lipinski	Sánchez, Linda
Ellison	Loeb sack	T.
Ellsworth	Lofgren, Zoe	Sanchez, Loretta
Engel	Lowey	Sarbanes
Eshoo	Luján	Schakowsky
Etheridge	Lynch	Schauer
Farr	Maffei	Schiff
Filner	Maloney	Schrader
Foster	Markey (CO)	Schwartz
Frank (MA)	Markey (MA)	Scott (GA)
Fudge	Marshall	Scott (VA)
Giffords	Massa	Serrano
Gonzalez	Matheson	Sestak
Gordon (TN)	Matsui	Shea-Porter
Grayson	McCarthy (NY)	Sherman
Green, Al	McCollum	Shuler
Green, Gene	McDermott	Sires
Griffith	McGovern	Skelton
Grijalva	McIntyre	Slaughter
Gutierrez	McMahon	Smith (WA)
Hall (NY)	McNerney	Snyder
Halvorson	Meek (FL)	Space
Hare	Meeks (NY)	Speier
Harman	Melancon	Spratt
Hastings (FL)	Michaud	Stark
Heinrich	Miller (NC)	Stupak
Herseth Sandlin	Miller, George	Sutton
Higgins	Mitchell	Tanner
Hill	Mollohan	Tauscher
Himes	Moore (WI)	Taylor
Hinche y	Moran (VA)	Teague
Hinojosa	Murphy (CT)	Thompson (CA)
Hirono	Murphy, Patrick	Thompson (MS)
Hodes	Murtha	Tierney
Holden	Nadler (NY)	Titus
Holt	Napolitano	Tonko
Honda	Neal (MA)	Towns
Hoyer	Nye	Tsongas
Inslee	Oberstar	Van Hollen
Israel	Obey	Velázquez
Jackson (IL)	Ortiz	Visclosky
Jackson-Lee	Pallone	Walz
(TX)	Pastor (AZ)	Wasserman
Johnson (GA)	Payne	Schultz
Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter	Waters
Kagen	Perriello	Waxman
Kanjorski	Peters	Weiner
Kaptur	Peterson	Welch
Kennedy	Pingree (ME)	Wexler
Kildee	Polis (CO)	Wilson (OH)
Kilpatrick (MI)	Price (NC)	Woolsey
Kind	Rahall	Wu
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Rangel	Yarmuth

**NAYS—173**

Aderholt	Capito	Graves
Akin	Carter	Guthrie
Alexander	Cassidy	Hall (TX)
Austria	Castle	Harper
Bachmann	Chaffetz	Hastings (WA)
Bachus	Coble	Heller
Barrett (SC)	Coffman (CO)	Herger
Bartlett	Cole	Hoekstra
Barton (TX)	Conaway	Hunter
Biggert	Crenshaw	Inglis
Bilbray	Culberson	Issa
Bilirakis	Davis (KY)	Jenkins
Bishop (UT)	Deal (GA)	Johnson (IL)
Blackburn	Dent	Johnson, Sam
Blunt	Diaz-Balart, L.	Jones
Boehner	Diaz-Balart, M.	Jordan (OH)
Bonner	Dreier	King (IA)
Bono Mack	Duncan	King (NY)
Boozman	Ehlers	Kingston
Boustany	Emerson	Kirk
Brady (TX)	Fallin	Kline (MN)
Broun (GA)	Flake	Lamborn
Brown (SC)	Fleming	Lance
Brown-Waite,	Forbes	Latham
Ginny	Fortenberry	LaTourette
Buchanan	Fox	Latta
Burgess	Franks (AZ)	Lee (NY)
Burton (IN)	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (CA)
Buyer	Gallely	Linder
Calvert	Garrett (NJ)	LoBiondo
Camp	Gerlach	Lucas
Campbell	Gingrey (GA)	Luetkemeyer
Cantor	Gohmert	Lummis
Cao	Granger	