

With 5,000 centrifuges now active, Iran is producing enough enriched uranium to produce two nuclear weapons per year, one for them, one for Hezbollah.

The IAEA now reports that Iran has denied inspectors access to the Arak heavy water reactor since August of 2008, where we suspect they will try to produce plutonium.

Mr. Moussavi, the leading candidate for President in Iran, told Der Spiegel, I will not suspend uranium enrichment. On April 13 he said to the Financial Times, No one will stop suspension.

No matter who wins the Iranian elections on Friday, we know that the production of fissile material useful in this oil-producing country only for nuclear weapons is accelerating.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIAN TONY STANKUS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, Special Libraries Association members are celebrating the organization's centennial celebration. For 100 years, SLA has made it its mission to organize and connect information professionals and their strategic partners. Today I take great pride in recognizing the University of Arkansas' libraries and the resources that they have provided students, professors and researchers year after year. Behind these libraries are the very knowledgeable information professionals.

In particular, I would like to recognize Tony Stankus, a science librarian at the Mullins Library on the University of Arkansas campus. SLA named Tony and five others as a Fellow of the Special Libraries Association. Due to his reputation as a published librarian, Tony and his team were also chosen for the task of naming the top 100 biology and medical journals that were established in the 100 years of the SLA's existence.

Please join me in congratulating Tony Stankus and his colleagues for this great honor.

HONORING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT GEORGE E. WAHLEN

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, America lost one of its quiet, humble heroes on Friday, Major George E. Wahlen, Utah's sole surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

Wahlen earned the Medal of Honor as a Navy corpsman at the Battle of Iwo Jima. Despite being injured three times during the battle, he refused to leave the battlefield. He was an angel of mercy, and saved countless lives through his heroic efforts, despite his

own injuries. This selfless act typifies the men and women of "The Greatest Generation." Unfortunately, we are losing these heroes.

Wahlen received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman in 1945 in recognition of his heroism during the tide-turning battle. He then re-enlisted and served in Korea and Vietnam, after which he served other veterans as a 14-year employee of the VA.

In 2004, Congress named the VA medical facility in Utah in his honor. The VA had this to say upon his passing: "This modest hero truly exemplified the meaning of patriotism, commitment to service, and love of country. The people of Utah, this hospital and the veterans he tirelessly served have lost a remarkable man." Indeed, they have. We all have.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, Congress is currently operating under some of the lowest approval ratings in history, and clearly, the public has lost confidence in its Federal Government. Perhaps that's because the Federal Government is rapidly moving down a path that shows that the government is losing confidence in the American people.

When it comes to health care, should the government help Americans, or should the government actually control everything when it comes to health care?

Our constituents, my constituents certainly, are not asking for more government control, particularly in the arena of health care. Perhaps Congress should listen and have confidence in the American people.

The government should continue to play a role for performance standards and ensuring everyone is treated fairly, but then it should get out of the way and let American hard work and ingenuity do what it does best.

Now, I have spoken to several health care industry experts, from former administration officials, current administration officials to private citizens with innovative ideas that have worked. In a short interview with former Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt, he hits the nail on the head when he says, We don't have to turn the health care system over to the Federal Government. We can empower consumers and use the government to organize a system and not to own it.

I encourage people to visit this site and learn more about health care reform as it stands before us today.

NATIONAL ENERGY TAX LEGISLATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, before leaving for the Memorial Day recess, Democrats in Congress continued to advance national energy tax legislation that will devastate American families and small businesses.

For weeks, nervous Democrats pleaded with Energy and Commerce Chairman HENRY WAXMAN and Representative ED MARKEY, two lead sponsors of this national energy tax, for changes to their climate change bill. The changes were intended to soften the blow families in their home States would suffer as a result of this new national energy tax. Unfortunately, the bill passed the Energy and Commerce Committee, is moving its way through Congress, and is still just a great big energy tax. The American people deserve better.

Republicans have held energy summits across the country to talk directly to the American people about the Democrats' costly energy plan and to develop real energy solutions that ensure American energy independence.

Congress must reject the Democrats' national energy tax and deliver energy solutions that create a stronger economy and a cleaner environment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, to provide for the establishment of a committee to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1736

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to identify and coordinate international science

and technology cooperation that can strengthen the United States science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support United States foreign policy goals.

(b) **COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.**—The committee established under subsection (a) shall be co-chaired by senior level officials from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of State.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The committee established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) plan and coordinate interagency international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies and work with other National Science and Technology Council committees to help plan and coordinate the international component of national science and technology priorities;

(2) establish Federal priorities and policies for aligning, as appropriate, international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies with the foreign policy goals of the United States;

(3) identify opportunities for new international science and technology cooperative research and training partnerships that advance both the science and technology and the foreign policy priorities of the United States;

(4) in carrying out paragraph (3), solicit input and recommendations from non-Federal science and technology stakeholders, including universities, scientific and professional societies, industry, and relevant organizations and institutions, through workshops and other appropriate venues;

(5) work with international science and technology counterparts, both non-governmental and governmental (in coordination with the Department of State), to establish and maintain international science and technology cooperative research and training partnerships, as identified under paragraph (3); and

(6) address broad issues that influence the ability of United States scientists and engineers to collaborate with foreign counterparts, including barriers to collaboration and access to scientific information.

(d) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a report annually to Congress at the time of the President's budget request containing a description of the priorities and policies established under subsection (c)(2), the ongoing and new partnerships established in the previous fiscal year, and how stakeholder input, as required under subsection (c)(4), was received.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1736, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

It is fitting that H.R. 1736 is coming to the floor of the House in the same week as the Foreign Relations Authorization Act because science and technology can play a truly unique role in improving our foreign relations.

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Science is a universal language built on a foundation of prior discoveries and advancements that have originated from all corners of the globe.

Science diplomacy presents a unique and essential opportunity to develop its sustained friendships and collaborations into the future. International surveys consistently show that the people in other nations admire our scientific and technological achievements and opportunities more than almost any other feature of the United States. What is more, in countless nations, many of the political, economic, and social leaders have at one time or another studied in our Nation or have worked for an American business.

From a diplomatic perspective, the benefit of these connections is valuable beyond measure. The scientists, their students and, of course, the science, itself, all benefit from this scholarly exchange, but so do our national security and economic prosperity. The intellectual input of the foreign scientists helps build that discovery that leads to new technologies and to new intellectual property in the United States, and the exchange of scientists and their students helps to build mutual trust and understanding between people who may otherwise be inclined to avoid or even fear each other.

The science side of scientific diplomacy receives comparable benefits from international collaborations. While the U.S. continues to lead the world overall in scientific and technological achievements, by no means do we have a monopoly on knowledge or talent. Our scientists, students, industry, and academic institutions are all dramatically enhanced by interactions with international peers.

Science diplomacy is also central to meeting shared global challenges and opportunities. Climate change, ocean acidification, drug resistant diseases, economic crises, energy shortages, poverty, food and nutrition, Internet and telecommunications, space exploration, and conflict resolution are all being addressed and advanced thanks to international scientific collaboration.

In an Internet-connected world, everyone is impacted by these challenges. Everyone has a stake in the solutions, and we can only succeed if the brightest minds from around the world work together effectively. Ideally, science diplomacy is not just about U.S. scientists working collaboratively with others; it is about all scientists working together with all scientists regardless of physical location or of national boundaries.

H.R. 1736 would reconstitute a Committee on International Science, Engineering and Technology, CISET, under the National Science and Technology Council, which is the interagency coordinating council managed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

A renewed and reinvigorated CISET would strengthen interagency coordi-

nation among the technical agencies and between the technical agencies and the Department of State. Its purpose would be to ensure that the richness of S&T resources within our technical agencies are brought to bear on our foreign policy wherever appropriate and that our own domestic agencies are working closely with the State Department to leverage scientific and technical expertise and resources around the world in pursuit of solutions to global challenges and opportunities. I would urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. I rise in support of H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleague today in supporting H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009.

Our Nation has a long history of engaging with international partners on a variety of scientific issues, and this is an area of great importance to our Nation. H.R. 1736 incorporates many recommendations made by the National Science Board in its report "International Science and Engineering Partnerships: A Priority for U.S. Foreign Policy and our Nation's Innovation Agenda."

The primary purpose of this legislation is simply to build a stronger coordination link between the scientific activities of our Federal agencies and the Department of State in order to strengthen the U.S. science and technology enterprise, to improve U.S. economic and national security, and to support U.S. foreign policy goals as appropriate. This will be achieved through the creation of a committee under the National Science and Technology Council. The Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of State will cochair the committee.

International S&T cooperation takes several forms. It provides a researcher's access to other researchers and to research sites around the globe. It enables partnerships to share the burden of the cost of expensive world-class facilities in the U.S. and abroad. It provides the ability to address global issues of importance to the United States, such as nonproliferation and infectious diseases, and it helps foster positive relationships with other nations.

H.R. 1736 will promote these important scientific activities by making sure that the Department of State is working in tandem with OSTP and with other Federal agencies. We will help ensure that our foreign policy goals are not compromised. In fact, more often than not, they may be enhanced by S&T cooperation. For these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1736.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. I thank the gentleman for his support and for his comments.

Madam Speaker, this is a bill that has had a number of hearings and on which we have focused a great deal of attention in our committee. Having had the privilege recently to travel internationally and to meet with science leaders around the world, I know personally of the importance.

I also want to acknowledge that President Obama mentioned the importance of scientific exchanges and collaboration in his recent speech in Cairo and in other recent speeches as has his head of OSTP, John Holdren.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman BERMAN, Chairman GORDON, Dr. EHLERS from Michigan, and Mr. CARNAHAN for their work.

I want to, at this point, insert an exchange of letters between Chairman BERMAN and Chairman GORDON into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009.

This bill contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this Committee's right to mark up this bill. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Foreign Affairs Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. I would ask that you place this letter into the Committee Report on H.R. 1736.

I look forward to working with you as we move this important measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY,

Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BERMAN: Thank you for your May 21, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction in H.R. 1736. A copy of our letters will be placed in the legislative report on H.R. 1736 and the Congressional

Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hardworking staff who contributed to this legislation, namely Dahlia Sokolov on the majority staff, Mele Williams on the minority staff, and also my personal staff as well. They have done an outstanding job on this piece of legislation.

H.R. 1736 is a good bill. It doesn't cost anything. It just makes sure we apply our existing activities and resources as wisely as possible to the benefit of our security and prosperity. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1736.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, looking around, I have no further requests for time on my side of the aisle.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Having no further requests, again, I thank the gentleman, and urge passage of the bill.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1736, the international Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009. This bill would, formally establish a committee on the President's National Science and Technology Council to identify and support opportunities to strengthen U.S. foreign policy through cooperation in the fields of science and technology. The President recently announced new initiatives to promote science and technology partnerships between the United States and Muslim-majority countries. I applaud these efforts, and I would note that an across-the-board commitment to integrating science into our diplomatic portfolio would reap enormous benefits.

We should marshal the scientific and technical capacity and expertise in our federal agencies to contribute more directly to our foreign policy goals. In conversations with experts like Dr. Norm Neureiter of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, I have found strong support for a NSTC committee dedicated to planning and coordinating these kinds of interagency efforts. Such a committee would be a critical component in effectively implementing a broader vision of U.S. engagement in international science and science diplomacy. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and the administration to more fully develop robust and lasting capacity in these areas.

Mr. BAIRD. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam 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 and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

STEM EDUCATION COORDINATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1709) to establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education activities and programs of all Federal agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1709

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "STEM" means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of STEM education, including at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Education, and all other Federal agencies that have programs and activities in support of STEM education.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE.—The committee established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) coordinate the STEM education activities and programs of the Federal agencies;

(2) develop, implement through the participating agencies, and update once every 5 years a 5-year STEM education strategic plan, which shall—

(A) specify and prioritize annual and long-term objectives;

(B) specify the common metrics that will be used to assess progress toward achieving the objectives;

(C) describe the approaches that will be taken by each participating agency to assess the effectiveness of its STEM education programs and activities; and

(D) with respect to subparagraph (A), describe the role of each agency in supporting programs and activities designed to achieve the objectives; and

(3) establish, periodically update, and maintain an inventory of federally sponsored STEM education programs and activities, including documentation of assessments of the effectiveness of such programs and activities and rates of participation by underrepresented minorities in such programs and activities.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall encourage and monitor the efforts of the participating agencies to ensure that the strategic plan under subsection (b)(2) is developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the strategic plan are met.