

We in Louisville are grateful to have had Tom walk us through every sunny day and every rainy night. After four decades, I am proud to join all of Louisville in thanking him for his service and wishing him the best as he moves on to a well-deserved retirement.

AN ECONOMIC LIFE-SAVER

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. economy shed 467,000 jobs in June, yet the economic climate would have been worse without the economic recovery legislation we passed in February. One leading independent economist reported last week that our stimulus measures prevented the loss of some 500,000 jobs in the last 3 months alone.

Many State and local governments, retailers, and service-providing employers have been able to save thousands of jobs that otherwise would have vanished without money provided in the stimulus package to communities and consumers. As a result of our action, the legislation's broad approach will leave the unemployment rate 2 percentage points lower by the end of next year. The stimulus impact has and continues to be an economic lifesaver for families all across this country.

CZARS

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

Mr. KINGSTON. You know, we have all heard about czarist Russia. Over a 300-year period of time, Russia had 18 czars. Now, America has had czars, too—Ronald Reagan had one, George Bush had one, Bill Clinton had three, George W. Bush had four. This Presidency has 27—and maybe even as high as 33, nobody even knows—czars for all kinds of things like compensation, regulatory reform, terrorism, Guantánamo Bay, automobiles.

And who are these people? Well, we don't know, because even though the Constitution calls for the U.S. Senate to approve powerful people in powerful positions—and, indeed, they vote on hundreds of appointees—the czars go around this process. Now, they get paid \$172,000 each and they all have staffs. We are spending millions of dollars on people who have not been vetted by the U.S. Senate. We do not know who they are or what they are doing.

Why won't the President use transparency and have these people come before the Senate and talk to them? Why are they so smart, and why do you have to have duplication of already existing Cabinet jobs?

□ 1030

VIETNAM'S CONTINUING DISREGARD FOR CIVIL, POLITICAL, AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today extremely frustrated and concerned over the continued arrest of pro-democracy dissidents inside Vietnam.

The Government of Vietnam continues to persecute journalists, bloggers, and other individuals who simply speak out against human rights abuses in the country of Vietnam. Yesterday I learned that Mr. Nguyen Tien Trung, another young and prominent dissident, was arrested by the Government of Vietnam. Mr. Trung is the leader of the Movement Democratic Youth, a group that mobilizes young people to demand change in the political regime in Vietnam. The recent arrests of lawyer Le Cong Dinh and Nguyen Tien further demonstrate Vietnam's continuing disregard for basic civil, political, and religious liberties.

I urge my colleagues to speak out on behalf of these brave men and women who are now imprisoned in Vietnam. Please join me in urging the Department of State to place Vietnam back on the Countries of Particular Concern list.

APPROPRIATION BILLS UNDER CLOSED RULES: BAD PROCESS LEADS TO BAD POLICY

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in protest of the way we're handling appropriation bills this year.

Traditionally, appropriation bills have come to the floor under an open rule, allowing Members to offer as many amendments as they would like as long as they give notice of such amendments. Now we have this year a process of closed rules, where appropriation bills are brought to the floor under structured rules. Members are limited in the number of amendments they can bring forward. And we're told that we need to do this because Members will offer so many amendments that it will slow the process down.

But when you have bills come to the floor with literally in some cases more than a thousand earmarks that have not been vetted by anybody, and obviously the Appropriations Committee is not vetting these earmarks, then we should have a process where people on the floor can at least see what's in these bills. We're not allowed to do that. We are bringing a bill to the floor today with just a few amendments that will be allowed to be offered.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to do this. We are told that people don't care about process. Perhaps they don't. But bad process leads to bad policy.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House that the economic recovery plan is working in my district.

Yesterday, I was at the Johnny Ruth Clark Community Health Center in South St. Petersburg, Florida, where we made the announcement that \$1 million will go to expand that community health center. That community health center is the lifeline for that community, for the neighbors and businesses in that community. It's going to allow them to build new patient exam rooms. This \$1 million grant comes on the heels of a half million dollar grant that will allow them to hire new doctors, nurses, and medical professionals, very important because our community health centers are the places where folks receive quality, affordable health care.

Fortunately, in our health care reform bill, we are going to make an additional investment in our community health centers. They are the lifelines to our communities. This is one of the only ways we're going to make quality health care affordable and convenient for families and small businesses throughout our neighborhoods.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STEVEN DREES

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of sadness that I express my sincere condolences to the family, friends, and community of Peshtigo, Wisconsin's native son Steven Drees, who was killed in action in Afghanistan on June 28 while serving his country in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Private First Class Drees' enlistment began on July 25, 2008. He was assigned to D Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Frequently decorated, he counted among his awards three Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

When any soldier falls, we mourn collectively and we pray as one people. And when we lose one of our very youngest soldiers so close to home, we are especially aggrieved.

Nothing can replace what Steve's family has lost, but if it's any consolation, let it be remembered that Private First Class Steven Drees remained dutiful and brave at all times and that he was a loyal United States soldier. That such a young man could serve so selflessly is a tribute to the nobility and fortitude of the people of Peshtigo, the people of Wisconsin, and the citizens of these United States.

Steven will never be forgotten.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago on a Mother's Day Sunday, my daughter got a cut on her face and was bleeding. So I took her to the emergency room. She got a Band-Aid and some antiseptic cream. It was a \$350 bill.

A couple years later, I took my son to Central Oregon with me on a conference. He jumped from the bed to the fireplace in the hotel, missed his landing, split his lip. I took him to the emergency room. He got three stitches. He got good treatment. The bill was for \$850.

Why do three stitches cost \$850 or a Band-Aid \$350?

Those 49 million uninsured people in America, we are already paying for their health care; but it's through the dumbest way that we can, through expensive products for some of us, even though I have insurance. And what we do need now is change in our health care system so that we cover those uninsured because it's not only the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do so that we don't have \$350 bandages and \$850 stitches.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2965, ENHANCING SMALL BUSINESS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 610 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 610

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2965) to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Small Business and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science and Technology. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Science and Technology now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Small Business now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except

those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The proponent of any such amendment may modify its amendatory instructions before the question is put thereon. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Small Business or her designee. The Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII).

SEC. 3. During consideration of H.R. 2965, the Chair may reduce to two 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. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Dr. Foxx. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 610.

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

There was no objection.

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

House Resolution 610 provides for consideration of H.R. 2965, the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act of 2009, under a structured rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate with 40 minutes controlled by the Committee on Small Business and 20 minutes controlled by the Committee on Science and Technology. The rule makes in order five amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. The amendments are debatable for 10 minutes each, except for the manager's amendment, which is debatable for 30 minutes. The rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 610 and the under-

lying bill, H.R. 2965, the Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act, which reauthorizes the Small Businesses Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program.

Programs such as these, programs that successfully create high-wage jobs and ensure our Nation's technological competitive advantage in wide areas from software to defense to medicine, are vital, particularly in light of our economic climate.

On behalf of my constituents in Colorado whose businesses have prospered as a result of this program, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) for crafting this legislation. I also thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Chairman GORDON and their staffs for their hard work and efforts to bring this bill in a timely fashion before us on the floor of the House of Representatives. With the Small Business Innovation and Research Program extension set to expire at the end of this month, these committees have carefully debated this legislation and with deliberate speed have brought us a bill that is an improvement over existing programs and is deserving of swift passage by this body.

Since its inception in 1982, the SBIR has made awards to more than 94,000 projects totaling over \$20.7 billion of funding for small businesses. The SBIR program was conceived to help small innovative businesses access Federal research and development funding that creates jobs and allows Federal agencies to benefit from the ingenuity of private industry. SBIR's companion, the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, which began in 1992, goes further by incorporating nonprofit research institutes. This public-private partnership program is a success story that's not only created jobs but has also yielded dividends for the Federal agencies that sponsor the program. Americans can be proud that Federal resources have been leveraged to create innovations that have benefited 11 Federal agencies that have SBIR programs, including the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense. The research and development of new technologies and processes that is completed by private companies have created efficiency in the Departments that sponsor SBIR while freeing the resources and staffs for projects that are essential to the agency's mission, making our Nation safer and our citizens healthier.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this program is clear. One need only look to the patents that have resulted from SBIR awards or the 1.5 million Americans employed by SBIR program participant companies to get a sense of the real value of this program.

□ 1045

Less tangible but equally important are the other benefits of this program. Across the country, communities have