

tradition of John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, who saw that Medicaid and Medicare were passed in 1965.

I was very, very proud to be a part of this body last night, and I will be even prouder when a vote comes up.

Over the Speaker's rostrum engraved in stone is a quote of Daniel Webster: "Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build on its institutions, promote all its great interest and see whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something worthy to be remembered." Daniel Webster is calling to us to heed Barack Obama's call to pass national health care in the great tradition of American leaders and do something worthy to be remembered.

I look forward to that opportunity.

HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT IN THE U.S.

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, this past Tuesday, the Review of U.S. Human Space Flight Plans Committee released the options they have provided the Obama administration regarding the future of our Nation's human space flight program. Their opening sentence says it all: "The U.S. human space flight program appears to be on an unsustainable trajectory."

Two prior Congresses and two Presidential administrations have endorsed the course NASA is on, but without providing the necessary funding. This Congress, this Congress, needs to meet the commitment to our Nation's space agency. The work being done benefits science, education, and our economy.

We have stood on this floor and spent money bailing out the past. It is time we reinvested in our future. The achievements of the men and women of America's space program cannot continue to be received with empty promises and constant second guessing. We have been the world's leader in human space flight for nearly 50 years. We must always be so.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Last night in a joint session of Congress, President Obama urged Congress that "now is the time to deliver health care." We heard it loud and clear. But what we also heard was a remark that was disrespectful to this House and the American people serving here in the United States Congress.

Access to adequate health care should be a right, not a privilege for those who can afford it. I stand here voicing the concerns of 217,000 uninsured in my district. No parent should have to worry about paying for a mortgage or paying for expensive health

care insurance. No senior citizen should retire and have to balance paying for a doctor's visit or paying for groceries. No one should be denied health care because of a preexisting condition. That is not right. This is un-American.

I urge my colleagues to be players in this debate and not just stand by and watch and be critical. Working together, we can make a difference.

As the President stated: "We did come not to fear the future. We came here to shape it." Let's get health care reform right now. I ask all of us to work together.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 965, CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK CONTINUING AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 726 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 726

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 965) to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to provide for the continuing authorization of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, and any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources; (2) the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by Representative Bishop of Utah or his designee, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PASITOR of Arizona). The gentleman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during the consideration of this rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCURI. I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 726.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 726 provides for consideration of H.R. 965, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act. I want to recognize my colleague from Maryland, Mr. JOHN SARBANES, for his leadership on this issue. He has worked diligently in a bipartisan fashion to protect the Chesapeake Bay so that it remains a vibrant recreational and economic network.

H.R. 965 will continue the important restoration and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay watershed by permanently authorizing the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. The Chesapeake Bay is our Nation's largest estuary. Many people often think of the bay as only part of Maryland and Virginia. But the bay's watershed covers 64,000 square miles in five States and the District of Columbia. In fact, the watershed's most northern point, or what we in upstate New York would call the starting point, extends into a significant portion of my congressional district in the village of Cooperstown.

As a result of its size and location, the Chesapeake Bay has played an important role in our country's history, from early settlement and commerce, to military battles and transportation development, as well as recreational uses. It truly is worthy of preservation, both for its natural beauty and its impact on our Nation's culture and economy.

The Chesapeake Bay Network is a comprehensive protection program for the bay. The programs authorized serve to identify, conserve, restore and interpret the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources within the watershed. These programs also educate local communities on the significant sites in the region and how their community impacts the overall health of the bay. This law requires a full matching requirement for grants awarded by the National Park Service to State and local agencies and not-for-profit corporations and organizations for such projects.

The resulting network is a system of over 150 parks, museums, historic communities, scenic roadways, water trails and water access points located within the vast Chesapeake Bay watershed. Each of these sites tells a piece of the vast Chesapeake story, while providing Federal support for the preservation and improvement of these sites to enhance both the historical and recreational user experience. The network is overseen by the National Park Service, but the Park Service only manages 10 of the network's sites. Other gateways are managed by local State and nongovernmental organizations.

The Chesapeake Bay Network has always been a bipartisan program. The legislation that created it in 1998 passed the House on suspension by voice vote, was agreed to by unanimous consent in the Senate, and signed into

law by President Clinton. In 2002, a clean 5-year reauthorization received similar unanimous support in Congress and was signed into law by President Bush. Last year, an identical bill, H.R. 5540, passed the House by an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

H.R. 965 will permanently reauthorize this bipartisan program, which the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation, headed by the Department of the Interior, has called a success story. It's worth noting that the National Park Service has also recommended permanent reauthorization of the network.

I encourage all my colleagues to vote for this rule and the underlying bill and to continue to support the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from New York, my good friend, Mr. ARCURI, for the time.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is spending 1 hour debating the rule that will be used to consider the underlying legislation being brought to the floor today, the Chesapeake Bay Watertrails Continuing Authorization Act. That simple and noncontroversial legislation, barely two pages in length, passed last Congress, as my good friend has mentioned, by an overwhelming vote. In fact, it passed by 321-86. That is a pretty impressive margin. I believe it will pass today by, at the very least, that margin.

So I would ask why the majority is going through all of this trouble of having the House consider a special rule for a two-page bill. Why is the House going to spend 2 hours today, approximately, discussing a bill that could have been handled in just a few minutes under suspension and ultimately pass by an overwhelming majority vote in this House?

□ 1030

I'm not sure of the answer. But I think it's noteworthy that the majority spends a week's worth of Congress' precious time on water trails and the Chesapeake while Americans face unemployment levels we have not seen in 26 years.

The majority is requiring the House today to consider the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act, a bill that spends \$5 million over 5 years through a process that requires hours of debate. But yesterday, we considered the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009 with only 40 minutes total of debate, and that bill authorized the expenditure of \$1 billion.

So I would ask, how is it appropriate for the majority to require up to 2 hours of debate to spend \$5 million, but it authorizes 40 minutes of debate for

\$1 billion? It may not be appropriate, but it is certainly common practice under this majority to rush important legislation through the House. I fear we may see that again when the House considers the majority's health care reform legislation.

Consider that this Chesapeake Bay water trails bill was introduced in February; it has remained unchanged since then, giving Members months to consider and read the two-page bill. And that is consistent with the Speaker's pledge, still on her Web site, that "Members should have at least 24 hours to examine bills and conference reports and texts prior to floor consideration." But will the majority live up to their pledge to allow Members time to read the health care bill when it finally comes together?

Perhaps if the majority had lived up to their promise, Members would have had time to properly read and consider the cap-and-tax as well as the so-called "stimulus" bill and voted them down. So let's see, Mr. Speaker, let's see if they live up to their promise when we consider the health care legislation. I won't be holding my breath.

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

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, we are here today to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. This is a program that did not have a single Member of Congress oppose its creation or its subsequent reauthorization. The program has been heralded as a success by the Bush administration and was unanimously reauthorized during that administration. This rule provides for consideration of the legislation that would now permanently extend the authorization for this bipartisan program, a move endorsed by the National Park Service.

We all agree that the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network is a good program that has had a positive impact on preservation and recreation within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but it's clear that some of us disagree on whether to make the reauthorization permanent, which is why we've made in order a substitute amendment that would reauthorize the program for 5 years to allow a full debate.

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.

CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS AND WATERTRAILS NETWORK CONTINUING AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 726, I call up the bill (H.R. 965) to amend the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 to provide for the continuing authorization

of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 726, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 965

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 "Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 502 of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 105-312) is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

"(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After 1 hour of debate on the bill, it shall be in order to consider the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in House Report 111-249 if offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) or his designee, which shall be considered as read, and shall be debatable for 20 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 965.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 965, introduced by our friend and colleague, Representative JOHN SARBANES. H.R. 965 is a simple, straightforward bill that would permanently authorize the highly successful Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.

Over 10 million people each year visit one of the 166 gateway sites supported by this program. They come to kayak or canoe, hike or bike, picnic, hunt or fish, or to watch wildlife. Others come to visit the Chesapeake's many maritime museums or to renew their acquaintance with the turning points in our Nation's history, such as the sites at Fort McHenry and Yorktown battlefield.

Each of these visitors comes away with a strengthened awareness of the crucial role the Chesapeake Bay plays in our national story and as the ecological and economic heart of the mid-Atlantic. And that is the goal of the gateway network, to renew our connection with that great Bay. The program