

mail. However, a large number of taxpayers do not have bank accounts. These taxpayers are not able to fully participate in electronic filing because the IRS cannot transmit their refunds to them electronically. The NTA recommended that the Department of Treasury develop a program to enable taxpayers to receive refunds on stored value cards. On April 15, 2010, a provision to require the Secretary of Treasury, in consultation with the National Taxpayer Advocate, to conduct a study on the feasibility of delivering federal tax refunds on debit cards, prepaid cards, or other electronic means passed the House in H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010.

STUDY ON TIMELY PROCESSING AND USE OF INFORMATION RETURNS

Under current law, the IRS processes tax returns before it processes related information returns, such as Forms W-2 and Forms 1099. The IRS does not match information on income tax returns to information returns until after the filing season has ended. There are two reasons for the delay: (1) the deadline for filing information returns generally is March 31 and (2) the tax filing season begins in mid-January. A provision to require the Secretary of Treasury to study, and make recommendations on, the administrative and legislative steps required to allow the IRS to receive information returns before it processes income tax returns passed the House in H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010.

CLARIFY THAT THE BAD CHECK PENALTY APPLIES TO ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Taxpayers are subject to a penalty if their check or money order in payment of their tax liabilities is not honored. On April 15, 2010, a provision to ensure fair application of the penalty by clarifying that the penalty applies to all commercially acceptable instruments of payment (i.e., electronic payments) passed the House in H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010. On July 2, 2010, this provision was enacted into law as part of the Homebuyer Assistance and Improvement Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-198).

TRADE

The Trade Subcommittee is developing Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reauthorization legislation addressing two important oversight issues explored at a May 2010 hearing: (1) correcting the agency's failure to collect antidumping and countervailing duties; and (2) addressing cost overruns and delayed implementation of the agency's new, modernized computer system, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE).

COMBATING THE EVASION OF ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY ORDERS

The U.S. government loses hundreds of millions of dollars every year when foreign companies employ fraudulent tactics to evade U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty orders. Such tactics include misrepresenting the country of origin of imported products or mislabeling the types of products being imported on Customs import documentation. The resulting impact in the United States is two-fold. Not only is there lost revenue to the government, but also American businesses and workers are denied relief from the illegal trade practices that the antidumping and countervailing duties are designed to neutralize. The Trade Subcommittee is preparing legislation to counter these kinds of practices and aims to move that legislation shortly. This legislation: (1) establishes clear, expeditious timeframes for CBP to investigate and determine whether evasion is occurring; (2) requires maximum cooperation between CBP and the Department of Commerce in making and en-

forcing such determinations; and (3) provides authority for CBP to collect unpaid duties and assess penalties. This legislation will diminish substantially the duties lost to evasion as well as the corresponding harm to the U.S. industry.

ENSURING EFFICIENT USE OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS IN FURTHER ACE DEPLOYMENT

The Trade Subcommittee is preparing legislation that will support the positive steps taken by CBP since its May 20th hearing to get ACE deployment back on track and moving in the right direction. ACE development to date has cost over \$3 billion, and the system continues to have limited functionality to attract a critical mass of users. Completion of ACE promises significant benefits to CBP, businesses, and workers alike, increasing U.S. competitiveness and saving taxpayer dollars. The Trade Subcommittee is developing legislation to ensure that: (1) ACE is completed expeditiously and with strong functionality; and (2) the funds invested in this project, going forward, are used efficiently and effectively.

SOCIAL SECURITY

In December of 2009, Congress enacted H.R. 4218, the No Social Security Benefits for Prisoners Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-115) to prevent retroactive Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefit payments from being issued to individuals while they are in prison, along with beneficiaries in violation of conditions of parole or probation, or who are fleeing to avoid prosecution for a felony or a crime punishable by sentence of more than one year. The Social Security Act already barred payment of monthly benefits to such individuals. This new law ensures the prohibition applies to retroactive benefit payments as well, and allows payments to be paid once the beneficiary is no longer prohibited from receiving payments under the provisions of this bill.

In response to a Social Security Administration Inspector General report that as many as eight states use prison industries to perform work that allows inmates access to individual Social Security numbers, Chairman Pomeroy introduced H.R. 5854, the No Prisoner Access to Social Security Numbers Act of 2010. The bill would protect the accuracy of Social Security records and help shield individuals from identity theft and other potential crimes by prohibiting federal, state, and local governments from employing prisoners in any capacity that would allow inmates access to full or partial SSNs of other individuals. The Federal Bureau of Prisons already proscribes such work by federal inmates by regulation. This bill would extend this policy to all of the states.

In recent years, we have substantially increased funding for program integrity at the Social Security Administration, which will save billions of dollars in overpayments and payments to people who have become ineligible for benefits. Because the Social Security Administration uses innovative predictive modeling techniques to identify cases with the highest risk of an overpayment and targets those cases for careful review, they are able to generate savings of as much as \$12 for every dollar invested in program integrity, despite Social Security's already very low error rate. For example, in 2008 their computer models allowed them to target the beneficiaries most likely to have medically improved for full eligibility reviews, saving \$3.8 billion in Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SSI benefits. If SSA had randomly selected cases for intensive review, they would only have saved \$900 million.

Because the return on investment is so significant, we plan to work on legislation that will increase our investment in Social Security's fight against fraud, waste, and abuse.

FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE HOUSE BUDGET ENFORCEMENT RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Budget Enforcement Resolution that the House passed on July 1, I hereby submit an outline of changes within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction to help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, by promoting efficiency and reform of government, and by controlling spending.

While the Budget Committee does not have jurisdiction over specific government programs, it does maintain a broad oversight role over the federal budget as well as budget process.

This year Congress enacted statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) legislation, a measure under the Budget Committee's jurisdiction. The legislation was the culmination of years of work on the part of Congressional Democrats to restore statutory PAYGO after the previous statute expired in 2002. That version of PAYGO reined in new entitlement spending and required new tax cuts to be offset in the 1990s, with the result that the federal budget returned to surplus. The new law likewise will help set budgetary priorities and restore fiscal responsibility. Since its enactment in February, Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation into law with PAYGO provisions reducing the federal deficit by a total of \$58.4 billion over the next five years and a total of \$43.1 billion over the next ten years, according to the most recent OMB scorecard.

The passage of statutory PAYGO built on the internal House PAYGO rule, adopted during the opening week of the Democratic majority in 110th Congress—along with a rule that fast-track budget reconciliation procedures cannot be used for legislation that increases the deficit. The Budget Committee works continuously with other House committees to ensure that legislation coming to the House floor for a vote meets the requirements of these deficit-reducing rules.

One of the critical roles that the Budget Committee plays each year is to set the overall level of discretionary spending for the annual spending bills produced by the Appropriations Committee. This year, the appropriations cap is \$7 billion below the comparable level proposed by the President, and follows a similar reduction of \$7 billion below the President's request last year. Approving these more disciplined spending levels encourages Congress to find efficiencies and reduce wasteful spending while providing enough room to fund critical services and investments at a time when the economy is still recovering from the worst recession in decades.

In addition, on May 28 of this year, I introduced H.R. 5454—the Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act of 2010—that will enhance fiscal discipline by allowing the President to sign spending bills into law while culling out unneeded or wasteful items and proposing that Congress rescind them. "Expedited rescission" under this bill requires Congress to consider the President's recommendations as one package, without amendment and on a

fast-track basis, guaranteeing an up-or-down vote within a specified time frame. While expedited rescission will not eliminate the federal deficit, it will be one more tool to control spending. Forty Democrats have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, including five Budget Committee members.

Finally, in light of the Budget Committee's broad oversight role on the federal budget, four Committee members have been appointed to the President's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform. With representation on both sides of the aisle from the House, the Senate, and the private sector, the Commission is charged with building consensus on ways to wipe out the deficit and improve the long-term fiscal sustainability of major entitlement programs. The House Democratic leadership has pledged to vote this year on any legislative recommendations reported by the Commission and approved by the Senate, and agrees that deficit reduction as a result of the recommendations cannot be used to offset costs of future legislation. The deficit-reduction proposals of the bipartisan commission will be issued in December.

The Budget Committee will continue to examine ways to reduce the deficit and increase efficiency in government spending. I look forward to working further with all Members of Congress to address the long-term budget challenges facing the nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH M.
WOJCICK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Joseph M. Wojcik, a native and lifelong resident of South River, New Jersey. Mr. Wojcik's outstanding legacy of public service, commitment and dedication to his community, as well as civic achievements, are unquestionably worthy of this body's recognition.

Joseph M. Wojcik's career of public service began early as a student studying at Rutgers University. While attending college, he ran for positions on the South River Board of Education and the South River Town Council. His enthusiasm for and commitment to service continued into his professional life when Mr. Wojcik served the South River Planning Board as well as the South River Recreation Commission. Furthermore, he has dedicated time to the South River Knights of Columbus where he has had the honor to serve as Deputy Grand Knight, as well as Grand Knight in recent years. Currently, Mr. Wojcik is actively working for the Borough of South River.

Mr. Wojcik's time and energy has also been dedicated to engaging with the Polish community in Middlesex County, of which he is a member. His efforts have been repeatedly recognized and, in a special tribute to his status in the community, this year he has been given the honor of serving as the Grand Marshall of the Middlesex County Pulaski Day Parade. Mr. Wojcik's father led the same parade as Grand Marshall in the early 1980's. As a proud citizen of Polish heritage, Mr. Wojcik embodies what the Parade's highest honorary position entails.

Madam Speaker, Joseph Wojcik epitomizes what it means to give back to one's community. Please join me in leading this body in acknowledgment of the extraordinary contributions of Joseph M. Wojcik. He has worked tirelessly throughout his life to assist the residents of South River and his dedication should be an inspiration to us all.

HONORING SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF CORNING,
MISSOURI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Saint John's Lutheran Church of Corning, Missouri, as they celebrate their sesquicentennial anniversary.

Since being founded as the Deutsch Evangelisch Lutheraner St. Johannes in 1860, the St. John's congregation has remained a pillar of the community. The efforts of the community to save the church during the historic floods of 1951 and 1993 highlight the importance of this church to the surrounding area. The historical nature of the church was recognized in 2008 when it was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Saint John's Lutheran Church of Corning, Missouri for their 150 years of service to the Corning community.

FINDINGS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS RELATING TO EFFICIENCY
AND REFORM PURSUANT
TO H. RES. 1493

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(C) of House Resolution 1493, "Sense of the House on Deficit Reduction," requesting Committees of the House of Representatives to submit findings which identify changes in law that would help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement and which promote efficiency and reform of government and control spending in programs under committee jurisdiction, I submit this report. It includes an accounting of Committee legislation that: (a) has been enacted into law; (b) has been passed by the House and/or considered by the Committee; or (c) is presently being drafted in Committee under my direction. In each case I have ensured that legislation accomplishes, or will accomplish, the objectives called for the Budget Enforcement Resolution.

ENACTED LEGISLATION

The Committee reported out the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2009 (H.R. 1886), which streamlined and developed tighter benchmarks and accountability measures for the substantial American economic and military assistance being provided to the Government of Pakistan. In conference with the Senate, this bill was

passed as the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009, which became Public Law 111-73.

PASSED BY THE HOUSE

On June 4, 2009, the Committee reported H.R. 2410, authorizing appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, and to modernize the Foreign Service and other international affairs-related programs and agencies.

Title II, Section 211, of the legislation requires the Secretary of State to improve coordination among all the various efforts within the government to conduct public diplomacy.

Section 216 reauthorizes an Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy charged with conducting an in-depth review of public diplomacy programs, policies, and activities to assess their effectiveness.

Section 302 of the legislation directs the development of a national review of diplomacy and development every four years in order to make policies and programs more effective and efficient.

Section 303 authorizes the establishment of a Lessons Learned Center in order to provide support for best practices in our diplomacy and development efforts.

The legislation also contains such cost savings proposals as limiting compensatory time off for travel by Foreign Service Officers and providing for the suspension of Foreign Service Officers without pay.

Title VIII of the legislation, entitled "Export Control Reform And Security Assistance," includes:

Section 828 which require the Secretary to present plans to make defense trade licensing self-financing.

Section 807, permits the Secretary to use registration fees for licensing functions currently supported by appropriated funds.

Section 826 grants the President the flexibility to remove satellites and related components from the munitions list, thus reducing licensing costs for these items.

Title IX, "Actions To Enhance the Merida Initiative," requires the President to establish and implement a program to assess the effectiveness of assistance provided under the Merida Initiative.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Committee introduced the Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009 (H.R. 2139) that requires the Administration to develop a National Strategy for Global Development which would define and streamline the roles of each department and agency engaged in development policies. It includes a provision that requires the development and implementation of a rigorous system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of United States foreign assistance.

LEGISLATION BEING DRAFTED

The Committee has also begun work on two major legislative reforms:

The first is an extensive effort to rewrite the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. The purpose of the overhaul is to increase the accountability, transparency and effectiveness of foreign aid programs, which are currently fragmented across 12 departments, 25 different agencies, and nearly 60 government offices. In so doing, I hope to clear away many of the inefficiencies and program duplications which have developed since the last major re-write of the legislation in 1985.