

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, for a long time I have started discussions about health care with the phrase, "Setting aside the moral dimension, let's talk about the costs and the need to bring down costs."

I want to come back to that moral dimension. I want to come back to the fact that at the core of that moral dimension is the belief that we look after our own; that if you were attacked by your enemies, we send the best military in the world for hundreds of billions of dollars. If your house catches fire, we will send men and equipment to put out that fire. If an assailant enters your home, we will send men and equipment to look after our own.

But if you're one of the tens of thousands of people diagnosed with breast cancer, coronary disease, leukemia, well, then we're not sure. We might look after you if you have a job, if you can keep that job, if you don't have preexisting conditions, if you haven't committed the sin of getting older.

Madam Speaker, if we are to be true to what is the value of this country, that we look after our own, we will finally join the company of civilized nations and say, Every American, we will look after you; you will not die needlessly, by passing health care reform.

□ 0915

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, I understand that we need health care reform. I have a younger brother who has a kidney disease that put him on dialysis at the young age of 30 and forced him to have a kidney transplant. I have a father who is also on dialysis and struggling to survive. I have a younger sister who has been fighting lupus for over a decade. I also saw how my sister struggled and fought the insurance companies for coverage.

I understand the crushing costs of health care. I understand that we have to fight the insurance companies. But I also understand that abortion is wrong. Last week, I called my brother and apologized to him and told him that I cannot support the Senate health care bill. He told me that he understands, and I thank him for it.

Tomorrow will be a sad day for me as I cast a "no" vote against something I believe we need to prevent: The expansion of abortion, an absolute moral evil.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas) at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m.

PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS ACT OF 2009

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1192, I call up the bill (H.R. 1612) to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands, help restore the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources, train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, and promote the value of public service, 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 1192, the bill is considered read.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is adopted.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1612

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 "Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. REFERENCE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or a repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.; title II of Public Law 91-378).

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC LANDS CORPS ACT OF 1993.

(a) **NAME AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION CHANGES.**—*The Act is amended—*

(1) *by striking "Public Lands Corps" each place it appears and inserting "Public Lands Service Corps";*

(2) *in the title heading, by striking "PUBLIC LANDS CORPS" and inserting "PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS";*

(3) *in the section 204—*

(A) *in the section heading, by striking "PUBLIC LANDS CORPS" and inserting "PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS"; and*

(B) *in the heading of subsection (a), by striking "PUBLIC LANDS CORPS" and inserting "PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS";*

(4) *in the heading of paragraph (2) of section 210(a), by striking "PUBLIC LANDS CORPS" and inserting "PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS";*

(5) *by striking "conservation center" each place it appears and inserting "residential conservation center"; and*

(6) *by striking "appropriate conservation projects" each place it appears (except in paragraph (1) of section 204(e) as so redesignated)*

and inserting "appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation projects".

(b) **FINDINGS.**—*Section 202(a) of the Act is amended as follows:*

(1) *In paragraph (1), by striking "the natural and cultural" and inserting "natural and cultural".*

(2) *By redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:*

"(2) Participants in conservation corps receive meaningful training and their experience with such corps provides preparation for careers in public service.

"(3) Young men and women who participate in the rehabilitation and restoration of our Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic treasures will gain an increased appreciation and understanding of our public lands and heritage, and of the value of public service, and are likely to become lifelong advocates for those values."

(3) *In paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by inserting ", cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic" after "Many facilities and natural".*

(4) *By adding at the end the following:*

"(6) The work of conservation corps can benefit communities adjacent to public lands and facilities through renewed civic engagement and participation by corps participants and those they serve; improved student achievement; and restoration and rehabilitation of public assets."

(c) **PURPOSE.**—*Section 202(b) of the Act is amended to read as follows:*

"(b) **PURPOSES.**—*The purposes of this Act are to—*

"(1) introduce young men and women to public service while furthering their understanding and appreciation of the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources;

"(2) facilitate training and recruitment opportunities in which service is credited as qualifying experience for careers in public land management;

"(3) instill in a new generation of young men and women from across the Nation, including those from diverse backgrounds, the desire to seek careers in natural and cultural resource stewardship and public service by allowing them to work directly with professionals in agencies responsible for the management of the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources;

"(4) perform, in a cost-effective manner, appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation projects where such projects are not being performed by existing employees;

"(5) assist governments and Indian tribes in performing research and public education tasks associated with natural and cultural resources;

"(6) expand educational opportunities by rewarding individuals who participate in national service with an increased ability to pursue higher education or job training; and

"(7) promote public understanding and appreciation of the individual missions and natural and cultural resources conservation work of the Federal agencies through training opportunities, community service and outreach, and other appropriate means."

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—*Section 203 of the Act is amended as follows:*

(1) *By amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:*

"(1) **APPROPRIATE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROJECT.**—*The term 'appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation project' means any project for the conservation, restoration, construction, or rehabilitation of natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or scenic resources.*

"(2) **CORPS AND PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS.**—*The terms 'Corps' and 'Public Lands Service Corps' mean the Public Lands Service Corps established under section 204 of this title."*

(2) By striking paragraphs (3) and (8).

(3) By redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11), (12), and (13) as paragraphs (3) through (11), respectively.

(4) By amending paragraph (7) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

“(7) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term ‘public lands’ means any lands or waters (or interest therein) owned or administered by the United States, including those areas of coastal and ocean waters, the Great Lakes and their connecting waters, and submerged lands over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, except that such term does not include any Indian lands.”

(5) In paragraph (8) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) makes available for audit for each fiscal year for which the qualified youth or conservation corps receives Federal funds under this Act, information pertaining to the expenditure of the funds, any matching funds, and participant demographics.”

(6) In paragraph (10) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) with respect to the National Marine Sanctuary System, coral reefs, and other coastal, estuarine, and marine habitats, and other lands and facilities administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Secretary of Commerce.”

(7) By adding at the end the following:

“(12) RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION CENTERS.—The term ‘residential conservation centers’ means the facilities authorized under section 205.

“(13) CONSULTING INTERN.—The term ‘consulting intern’ means a consulting intern selected under section 206.

“(14) PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS PARTICIPANT.—The term ‘Public Lands Service Corps participant’, ‘Corps participant’ or ‘participant of the Corps’ means an individual who is enrolled in the Public Lands Service Corps pursuant to section 204(b).”

(e) PUBLIC LANDS SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM.—Section 204 of the Act is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (a)—

(A) in the heading, by adding at the end “PROGRAM”;

(B) by striking “and the Department of Agriculture a” and inserting “, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Commerce a service and training program titled the”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary of the Interior shall establish a department-level office to coordinate Public Lands Service Corps activities within the Department of the Interior. The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish within the U.S. Forest Service an office to coordinate Public Lands Service Corps activities within that agency. The Secretary of Commerce shall establish within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration an office to coordinate Public Lands Service Corps activities within that agency. The Secretary of each department shall designate a Public Lands Service Corps coordinator for each agency within that department that administers Public Lands Service Corps activities.”

(2) By amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary may enroll in the Public Lands Service Corps individuals between the ages of 16 and 25, inclusive, who are either hired by an agency under the Secretary’s jurisdiction to perform work authorized under this Act or who are members of a qualified youth or conservation corps with which the Secretary has entered into a cooperative agreement to perform work authorized under this Act.

The Secretary may also enroll resource assistants and consulting interns. All enrollees shall be considered Public Lands Service Corps participants, and may be enrolled for a term of up to 24 months of service, which may be served over more than two calendar years. The individuals may be enrolled without regard to the civil service and classification laws, rules, or regulations of the United States. The Secretary may establish a preference for the enrollment in the Corps of individuals who are economically, physically, or educationally disadvantaged.”

(3) In subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “contracts and”; and

(ii) by inserting “natural and cultural resources” after “appropriate”; and

(iii) by striking “subsection (d)” and inserting “subsection (e)”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3);

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) RECRUITMENT.—The Secretary shall undertake, or enter into cooperative agreements to provide, a program to attract eligible youth to the Corps by publicizing Corps opportunities through high schools, colleges, employment centers, electronic media, and other appropriate institutions or means.”; and

(D) by amending paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

“(3) PREFERENCE.—For purposes of entering into cooperative agreements under paragraph (1), the Secretary may give preference to qualified youth or conservation corps located in a specific area that have a substantial portion of members who are economically, physically, or educationally disadvantaged to carry out projects within the area.”

(4) By redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively.

(5) By inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall establish a training program based at appropriate residential conservation centers or at other suitable regional Federal or other appropriate facilities or sites to provide training for Corps participants. The Secretary shall—

“(1) ensure that the duration and comprehensiveness of the training program shall be commensurate with the projects Corps participants are expected to undertake;

“(2) develop department-wide standards for the program that include training in—

“(A) resource stewardship;

“(B) ethics for those in public service;

“(C) principles of national service;

“(D) health and safety;

“(E) teamwork and leadership; and

“(F) interpersonal communications; and

“(3) direct each participating agency to develop agency-specific training guidelines to ensure that Corps participants enrolled to undertake projects for that agency are appropriately informed about matters specific to that agency, including—

“(A) the history and organization of the agency;

“(B) the agency’s core values; and

“(C) any agency-specific standards for the management of natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources; and

“(4) take into account training already received by Corps participants enrolled from qualified youth or conservation corps, including in the matters outlined in paragraph (2).”

(6) In subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “The Secretary may utilize the Corps or any qualified youth or conservation corps to carry out appropriate” and inserting “The Secretary may use Corps participants to carry out, under appropriate supervision and training, appropriate natural and cultural resource”; and

(ii) by striking “law on public lands.” and inserting the following: “law. Such projects may include, but are not limited to—

“(A) protection, restoration, or enhancement of ecosystem components to promote species recovery, improve biological diversity, enhance productivity and carbon sequestration, and enhance adaptability and resilience of public lands and resources in the face of climate change and other natural and human disturbances;

“(B) promoting the health of forests and public lands, refuges, and coastal and marine areas, including—

“(i) protection and restoration of watersheds and forest, riparian, estuarine, grassland, coral reef, intertidal, or other habitat;

“(ii) reduction of wildfire risk and mitigation of damage from insects, disease, and disasters;

“(iii) erosion control;

“(iv) control or removal of invasive, noxious, or non-native species; and

“(v) restoration of native species;

“(C) collection of biological, archaeological, and other scientific data, including monitoring of climatological information, species populations and movement, habitat status, and other factors;

“(D) assisting in historical and cultural research, archival and curatorial work, oral history projects, documentary photography, and activities that support the creation of public works of art related to public lands; and

“(E) construction, repair, rehabilitation, green building retrofitting, and maintenance of roads, trails, campgrounds, and other facilities, employee housing, cultural and historic sites and structures, and facilities that further the purposes of the Public Lands Service Corps.”

(B) By redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively.

(C) By inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) VISITOR SERVICES.—The Secretary may—

“(A) enter into or amend an existing cooperative agreement with a cooperating association, educational institute, friends group, or similar nonprofit partner organization for the purpose of providing training and work experience to Corps participants in areas including, but not limited to, sales, office work, accounting, and management provided that the work experience directly relates to the protection and management of the public lands; and

“(B) allow Corps participants to help promote visitor safety and enjoyment of public lands, and assist in the gathering of visitor use data.

“(3) INTERPRETATION.—The Secretary may assign Corps participants to provide interpretation or education services for the public under the appropriate direction and supervision of agency personnel, including—

“(A) providing orientation and information services to visitors, including services for non-English speaking visitors and visitors who use American Sign Language;

“(B) assisting agency personnel in the delivery of interpretive or educational programs, including outdoor learning and classroom learning;

“(C) presenting programs on Federal lands or at schools, after-school programs, and youth-serving community programs that relate the personal experience of the Corps participant for the purpose of promoting public awareness of the Corps, its role in public land management agencies, and its availability to potential participants; and

“(D) creating nonpersonal interpretive products, such as Web site content, Junior Ranger program books, printed handouts, and audiovisual programs.”

(D) In paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by striking “Appropriate conservation projects” and inserting “Appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation projects”.

(7) In subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by striking “appropriate conservation project” inserting “appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation project”.

(8) By amending the text of subsection (f)(2) (as so redesignated) to read as follows: “will instill in Corps participants a work ethic and a sense of public service;”.

(9) In subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by striking “on eligible service lands”.

(10) By adding at the end the following:

“(h) **OTHER PARTICIPANTS.**—The Secretary may allow volunteers from other programs administered or designated by the Secretary to participate as volunteers in projects carried out under this section on such terms as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

(f) **RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION CENTERS AND PROGRAM SUPPORT.**—Section 205 of the Act is amended as follows:

(1) In the section heading, by striking “**CONSERVATION**” and inserting “**RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION**”.

(2) In subsection (a)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may establish residential conservation centers for—

“(A) such housing, food service, medical care, transportation, and other services as the Secretary deems necessary for the Public Lands Service Corps; and

“(B) the conduct of appropriate residential conservation projects under this Act.”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in the text, by inserting “residential” before “conservation centers”; and

(ii) in the heading, by inserting “RESIDENTIAL” before “CONSERVATION CENTERS”; and

(D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking “with a State or” and inserting “a cooperative agreement with another Federal, State, or”.

(3) In subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) The Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The Secretary may make arrangements with other Federal agencies, States, local governments, or private organizations to provide temporary housing as needed and available.

“(3) In project areas where Corps participants can reasonably be expected to reside at their own homes, the Secretary may fund or provide transportation to and from project sites.”.

(4) By redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (g).

(5) By inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **FACILITIES.**—The Secretary may, as an appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation project, direct Corps participants to aid in the rehabilitation or construction of residential conservation center facilities, including housing.

“(e) **GREEN BUILDINGS.**—The Secretary may seek the assistance of the Secretary of Energy in identifying and using solar and other green building technologies and modular housing designs that may be adapted for residential conservation center facilities, including—

“(1) designs from the Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon competition; and

“(2) logistical support, assistance, and training from Solar Decathlon participants.

“(f) **MENTORS.**—The Secretary may recruit from programs, such as agency volunteer programs, and from agency retirees, veterans groups, military retirees, active duty personnel, and from appropriate youth-serving organizations, such adults as may be suitable and qualified to provide training, mentoring, and crew-leading services to Corps participants.”.

(6) In subsection (g) (as so redesignated), by striking “are appropriate to carry out this title” and inserting “the Secretary determines to be necessary for the residential conservation center”.

(g) **RESOURCE ASSISTANTS AND CONSULTING INTERNS.**—Section 206 of the Act is amended as follows:

(1) In the section heading, by inserting “**AND CONSULTING INTERNS**” before the period.

(2) In subsection (a), by striking “The Secretary is authorized to provide individual placements of resource” and inserting the following: “The Secretary is authorized, to provide individual placements of the following:

“(1) Resource”.

(3) By inserting after subsection (a)(1) (as so designated), the following:

“(2) Consulting interns with any Federal land, coastal, or ocean management agency under the jurisdiction of the Secretary to carry out management analysis activities on behalf of the agency. To be eligible for selection as a consulting intern, an individual must be a current enrollee and have completed at least one full year at a graduate or professional school that has been accredited by an accrediting body that has been recognized by the Secretary of Education. The Secretary may select consulting interns without regard to the civil service and classification laws, rules, or regulations of the United States.”.

(4) In subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “or consulting interns” before “through private sources”; and

(B) in the second sentence, before the period, by inserting “; up to 15 percent may be in-kind”; and

(C) by striking “Resource Assistants” and inserting “resource assistants or consulting interns”.

(5) By adding at the end the following:

“(c) **COST SHARING REQUIREMENTS.**—At the Secretary’s discretion, the requirements for cost sharing applicable to participating nonprofit organizations for the expenses of resource assistants and consulting interns under subsection (b) may be reduced to not less than 10 percent.”.

(h) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—The Act is amended by redesignating sections 207, 208, 209, 210, and 211 as sections 208, 209, 210, 211, and 212, respectively.

(i) **GUIDANCE.**—The Act is amended by inserting after section 206 the following:

“**SEC. 207. GUIDANCE.**

“Not later than 18 months after funds are made available for this purpose, the Secretaries shall issue guidelines for the management of the Public Lands Service Corps programs for use by regional and State directors, and the supervisors of individual parks, forests, districts, sanctuaries, reserves, hatcheries, and refuges.”.

(j) **LIVING ALLOWANCES AND TERMS OF SERVICE.**—Section 208 of the Act (as so redesignated) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) **LIVING ALLOWANCES.**—The Secretary shall provide each Corps participant with a living allowance in an amount established by the Secretary. The Secretary may—

“(1) apply a cost-of-living differential to such allowances; and

“(2) reimburse Corps participants for travel costs at the beginning and end of their term of service if the Secretary deems appropriate.”;

(2) by amending the text of subsection (b) to read as follows: “Each Corp participant shall agree to participate in the Corps for such term of service as may be established by the Secretary enrolling or selecting the individual.”;

(3) in the heading of subsection (c), by adding at the end “**PREFERENCE AND FUTURE EMPLOYMENT**”; and

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

“(1) grant to a participant of the Public Lands Service Corps credit for service time in the Corps to be used as qualifying experience toward future Federal hiring;

“(2) provide to a former participant of the Public Lands Service Corps noncompetitive hir-

ing status for a period of not more than two years after the date on which the participant’s service with the Public Lands Service Corps is complete (not counting any time spent enrolled in an academic institution or trade school), if the candidate—

“(A) has served a minimum of 960 hours on an appropriate natural or cultural resource conservation project that included at least 120 hours through the Public Lands Service Corps; and

“(B) meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards for the position to which the candidate is applying;”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) develop a system to provide consideration for participants who cannot meet the requirements of paragraph (2);

“(4) provide to an individual who has successfully fulfilled the resource assistant program noncompetitive hiring status for a period of not more than two years after the date on which the individual has completed an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution;

“(5) provide to an individual who has successfully fulfilled the consulting internship program noncompetitive hiring status for a period of not more than two years after the date on which the individual has completed a graduate degree from an accredited institution; and

“(6) provide, or enter into cooperative agreements with qualified employment agencies to provide, alumni services such as job and education counseling, referrals, verification of service, communications, and other appropriate services to participants who have completed their Corps service.”.

(k) **NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.**—Section 209 of the Act (as so redesignated) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “If a” and all that follows through “shall be eligible” and inserting “If a Corps participant also serves in an approved national service position designated under subtitle C of title I of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.), the Corps participant shall be eligible”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking—

(A) “either participants in the Corps or resource assistants” and inserting “participants in the Corps”; and

(B) “or a resource assistant”.

(l) **NONDISPLACEMENT.**—Section 210 of the Act (as so redesignated) is amended to read as follows:

“**SEC. 210. NONDISPLACEMENT.**

“The nondisplacement requirements of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 shall be applicable to all activities carried out by the Public Lands Service Corps participants.”.

(m) **FUNDING.**—Section 211 of the Act (as so redesignated) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “appropriate conservation project” each place it appears and inserting “appropriate natural and cultural resources conservation project”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary may reduce to no less than 10 percent the non-Federal costs of a project when the Secretary determines that it is necessary to enable participation in the Public Lands Service Corps from a greater range of organizations.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “program” after “Corps”; and

(B) by inserting “, consulting interns” before “and qualified youth”.

(n) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 212 of the Act (as so redesignated) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “to the Secretary” after “authorized to be appropriated”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “to carry out” the first place it appears and all that follows through the period and inserting “such

sums as may be necessary to carry out this title.”;

(3) by striking subsection (b); and

(4) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After 1 hour of debate on the bill, as amended, it shall be in order to consider the further amendments printed in part C of House Report 111-445, each of which may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall be separately debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam 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. 1612.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1612, a bill I introduced last year to help repair and restore our Nation's public lands while employing and training thousands of young Americans and promoting the culture of public service.

In 1993, when the Public Lands Corps was established through the good work of our late colleague Bruce Vento of Minnesota, there were huge backlogs of labor-intensive work on national park lands, forests, wildlife refuges, historic sites, and Indian lands. Unfortunately, we still face those challenges and more. Years of inadequate funding have put our Federal land management agencies further behind on vital maintenance work, while infrastructure continues to crumble.

Despite the best efforts of these underfunded agencies, natural and cultural resources are being neglected, and in many places the effects of climate change are magnifying earlier problems such as fire risk, damage by insects and invasive species, coastal erosion, and fragmented habitat. The stimulus bill we passed in the first session has begun to attack the problem, but is only a start. Much remains to be done on the public lands.

My bill, H.R. 1612, will expand and reinvigorate an existing program, the Public Lands Corps, by streamlining its management, modernizing its scope, and providing new tools to help the program accomplish its mission, putting young people to work repairing our most treasured resources. Young people participating in the Public Lands Service Corps will work side by side with professional land managers to collect biological data, preserve his-

toric documents, rebuild roads and trails, attack invasive weeds, reduce fire risk and improve watershed health, paint visitor facilities, restore damaged wetlands, help build green buildings, and welcome visitors to our parks and public lands. These and a wide variety of other jobs will be available to Corps members for a period up to 2 years. Their term of service will include the training they need do these jobs.

My bill also allows the agencies to provide housing for Corps participants, and even allows the Corps members to build housing that can be used by future Corps members. The training and experience Corps members receive while working to improve the condition of our natural and cultural resources will give them a huge advantage when they enter the working world in such professions as science, land management, the building trades, academic disciplines such as history and education.

The legislation not only takes a decisive step forward in finishing desperately needed work on our national park lands, forests, wildlife refuges, historic sites and Indian lands, but also recognizes the importance of our coastal and marine systems and our national marine sanctuaries. This expanded public service initiative will introduce people from a greater diversity of social, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to our Nation's parks, forests, and public lands not only as possible future employees, but also as lifelong advocates and enthusiasts.

The legislation takes advantage of an opportunity to provide meaningful employment and training to young people who need it, while also improving the condition of our priceless natural and cultural resources. President Obama and Interior Secretary Salazar have made national service a priority and have graciously supported this legislation. I am also proud to have the support of preeminent conversation corps groups, as well as leading national parks advocacy groups.

I ask my colleagues to support the passage of this measure. At a time when unemployment among our youth and particularly the urban areas is at an all time high, H.R. 1612 begins to address that crisis and also to address the unmet needs of our public lands.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I, as well as many who are here on the floor, am just pleased to be here on a Saturday morning to discuss the bill that is the significance and the reason why we are here, and also the side-view of being able to count the number of arm splints that we see today so we can be part of an historical occasion.

This bill I do think happens to be one of the metaphors perhaps for this entire session as we begin this weekend reality play that definitely does fit

into the theater of the absurd. This is a good program, but there is much common good for which we could have found a great deal of common support had this bill been allowed to have some bipartisanship with it.

Both the ranking member of the full committee and the ranking member of the subcommittee had amendments that had been proposed in the committee that were withdrawn under the assumption that they would be worked upon and added to the final bill when it came here to the floor. That was not simply the case. So what could have been an easy bill to pass with common assumptions to it that would have been one of the things that could have been done in a bipartisan way has now been turned into something that has a partisan flavor to it, as the only rule bill that we have for this weekend so far simply because of the standards that we have had in this proposal. This is indeed a metaphor for what we are doing and what we have been doing for much of this session.

I do have some concerns, Madam Speaker, for this bill in three basic areas. First of all, the concept of funding and fiscal responsibility. Secondly, the concept of curriculum that will be involved in this program. And third, what I would probably call is the generalology of this particular program.

One of the amendments and one of the requests that we had is that this bill should be sunsetted in some particular way. In fact, there will be an amendment that will be brought to the floor to add a sunset provision to this particular bill. This bill as currently administered spends \$12 million a year. For some people, that is considered a lot of money. Around here, I realize that is simply a rounding error. But what it does, if you pass this particular bill, it takes off the cap that caps this program at \$12 million a year and allows it to be funded at any level one assumes. The CBO made the assumption that would be \$120 million over 5 years. How they reached that assumption no one really knows.

One of the things we should do if we were fiscally responsible would be to make sure that there was a specific cap on this program and that there was a sunset provision so it could be reviewed. One of the things we all realize around this country, especially as we talk about the increasing deficit of this country, is that there are some things that the Federal Government must do. Defense of this country is one of the things we must do. There are some things we should never do. And there are some things that fall into those limited categories of it would be nice to do if it meets with our priorities and we have the means to provide them. Providing for the Park Service, healthy forests is one of those things we should do. But it must be set in the environment of how much money we have and where our priorities lie.

Having kids being groomed to be future managers is a nice thing to do on

these public lands if it fits into our priorities. And that is why this program should be reviewed at a regular basis by Congress. Once these types of programs are passed on indefinitely and become embodied within the budget itself, it is never reviewed by this body again, which is our function and our responsibility.

If anything was done in a self-executing rule, the amendment we will talk about later to actually put a cap on this program and make sure that we review it on a regular basis, that should have been self-executing because it is our responsibility as Congress, and we should not abrogate that particular responsibility.

The second concern I have is what I call the curriculum of this particular program. It has been portrayed by groups to us that this is like a new version of the CCC coming along trying to make changes and improvements in public lands. If that were the case, we would probably have very little concern about it. But that is not necessarily what will be allowed if this bill actually goes into effect. See, when this program was originally started the goal was to have kids working on projects that would benefit specially our Forest Service and public lands. But unfortunately as this is now altered, there is no guarantee of where the funds will go and what the priorities may be, which is one of the things we simply wanted. Keep the program doing what the program was intended to do.

This time the government will send money, much of which will be handled by the Student Conservation Association. They will be the ones who will facilitate programs and give grants. How it's structured no one knows. Because once again, instead of ensuring that this is done to the betterment of public lands, this allows for money to go to political issues under the guise of some kind of conservationship. For indeed, this group has had an agenda in the past which has been anti-affordable energy, anti-coal fired plants, pro-higher taxes and energy costs.

Our staff had the opportunity of looking on the Web site of this particular group. They sponsored a conference here in Washington several years ago sponsored by the National Park Service, some funding from the National Park Service in which the curriculum for that conference was not just about how we improve our public lands, but also how one stages protests, how one can do a sit-in to prevent a timber harvest from taking place. In fact, as you look at their Web site their organizing chart lists to start small and then grow and make it fun in the process.

Now, once again, that is not what this program was intended to do, nor should it be the program. And there are no prohibitions to say that this program will not evolve into that form. Had they simply added amendments we wanted to say what the purposes and

the directions of this program were, once again it would be a very good bipartisan bill. But that was not allowed. It was not allowed by leadership here or in the Rules Committee to take that place and form.

This Student Conservation Association once again has taken a great deal of stimulus funds that were added in the stimulus bill. In each of those, once again, there was much that was involved that was advocacy outside building our public lands. One of the funds got 18 grand into my community to assist in building a public library so that they could associate at the refuge center with conservation efforts. One hundred twenty thousand dollars was given to this group so they could go to New England and show legal techniques and practices of how they could use the legal system to reach goals that they had. That is political activism, which is not what this program was about, not to which this program should evolve into itself.

One of the things, Madam Speaker, that was funded as part of this program is the Mo Udall Legacy bus tour. Actually, it was a 54-day bus tour promoted by the National Park Service. You can see their logos all the way around here, as well as Department of Interior, to promote sustainability in biodiesel buses. According to the kids, it was a wonderful 54-day trip. However, most of them actually said how great it was as they visited microbreweries in every one of those areas, especially biodiversified microbreweries.

Actually, I don't know how successful this tour was. I don't drink anything harder than Dr. Pepper, so I am going to ask some of the rest of you around here to see if their touring, their visiting to all of the bars they had in the cities in which they went on this particular trip really was worthwhile in making that particular kind of evaluation.

□ 1045

Nice trip. There is nothing wrong with these guys doing this as long as they do it on their own dime; not on the government's dime under the guise of creating some kind of better lands for our public services.

National Park Services, which will be in charge of the oversight of this, does not have a great record in that. In 2007, the IG in the Department of the Interior came up with this in one park service-managed job corps center—\$3 million of misreported expenditures and \$200,000 of improper charges. And that is the oversight that we're going to have. Those types of things should have been added to the bill.

We asked those to be added to the bill. It would have solved the problem of this particular bill, but they weren't done; therefore, we're here complaining about something which should have been and could have been a great program of bipartisan support, and it isn't.

Let me talk about the genealogy, for, indeed, this Student Conservation As-

sociation that will be managing this new program was an offspring created by the National Park Conservation Association, the godfather of this program, a special interest group with a history of what I consider to be extreme agendas—a history of filing lawsuits against this government, filing lawsuits against the Second Amendment rights, efforts to restrict hunting and recreation that are currently permitted on public lands, and presently involved in a national courtroom crusade to destroy the benefits of coal-fired plants with letters, with testimony. Once again, their motives may be pure, fine. It's okay to do that, but not on the government dime. And this bill is written so loosely that it is not clear if any money goes indirectly or directly back to this point to do it.

This bill, when originally established, this program, when originally established, was there to inspire use and needs and build needed programs on public lands. When this program was originally established, by law, it's highest priority was to generate a new generation of land managers trained specifically to improve public lands and specifically to implement the bipartisan Healthy Forest Restoration Act.

That was, under the current system, the highest priority: to help our lands, stop catastrophic fires, to improve our forests. It was managed for that. Seventy-five percent of the money went to that particular issue. That is what should be done.

But once again, in committee, when we said let's restate that at least as one of the important criteria—because, you see, when this bill was written, they removed anything that related to healthy forests from the language. Reinstatement that. We actually said, Why don't you reinstate it so at least 50 percent of this goes to improving the forests of this country? And that wasn't allowed either.

So there is no criteria. There is no reference once again to the purpose of this bill originally, which was to make sure that we had a healthy forest. Instead, we have an open-ended bill that could do anything, that could go anywhere, that may make any kind of function.

And see, Madam Speaker, all of this could have been avoided. These are not tough issues. This is not one of the bills that is going to make or break the Republic. It could be avoided if simply the Democrat majority had decided to try and do something in a bipartisan way. If they said, These are your objections. Let's draft something to make sure that your restrictions are what we do as well. We didn't need to be here.

As I said, the committee promised that they would work on this before it came to the floor. I was not privy to those negotiations. I don't know where it went down, but something happened that did not need to happen.

And the Rules Committee, we once again took these amendments to the

Rules Committee and, in their typical fashion, the Rules Committee dropped all of them except for two. That didn't need to take place. Typical of what we're doing around here is simply trying to push things through when we don't need to do it. If we had really had a spirit of bipartisanship, this is something that could easily be accomplished.

So you can sit back, if this happens to pass today, and simply tell yourself it could have been great. It could have been a united bill. It could have been something which we all could say of which we are now proud. But because of the process that we are using, that does not take place. In fact, Madam Speaker, what we are doing here is duplicative.

AmeriCorps, if you look on their enacting legislation on page 22 and page 24, everything this program—which was designed to help public lands, especially healthy forests—everything this is now opened up to do is done by AmeriCorps. It's part of their program. Why not funnel all of the money there and avoid the duplication?

What we are doing now is building a program that has no latitudes, no restrictions on what their options are, no restrictions on their funding. This is a hole so wide you could drive a Toyota Prius through it because there is nothing involved that could stop it. That is not the way you do good legislation. This is not the way you do good legislation. But it could be, and it should have been.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, part of the process that we also see today, that we're going to experience today and have been experiencing for a while, is an effort on the part of my colleagues across the aisle to erase history and to assume that everything that we're doing today is somehow misconstrued to increase the deficit and that it is a government takeover, that it's not bipartisanship; and we're at this place to take corrective steps legislatively, including this legislation, because we are working on a history, a history of deficit spending, a history of no priorities, and a history that, although people want to erase it from memory, is there, and this is the reason that we're in the situation that we are right now.

As in terms of conspiracies in terms of this legislation, the American Camp Association endorsed it. The National Trust for Historic Preservation endorsed it. The Boys and Girls Club endorsed it. Girl Scouts of Northern California endorsed it. The Wellness Coalition endorsed it. The Student Conservation Association endorsed it. The Hispanic Federation endorsed it. The Coalition of National Park Retirees endorsed it, and the National Trust for Public Lands endorsed it, and the Muddy Sneakers: The Joy of Learning Outside endorsed it. So I'm assuming that they must be also part of this vast and nefarious conspiracy that is going

on. Somebody should advise them of that.

With that, let me now yield to the gentlelady from the Virgin Islands, a member of our Committee on National Resources, Dr. CHRISTENSEN, for 3 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Chairman GRIJALVA.

And although I could be at home this weekend since I don't get to vote, as a physician, a family doctor, and a person who has worked all my life, all of my adult life to ensure that people had access to health care—especially minorities, people of color, those in our rural areas and territories who have often been left behind—I am pleased to be here this weekend for this historic vote.

And Chairman GRIJALVA, I want to thank you for introducing this legislation and thank you for your leadership as chairman of the Subcommittee on Parks, Recreation and Public Lands and your leadership in preserving some of our Nation's most important treasures.

Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to join my colleagues on the floor this morning in strong support of H.R. 1612, the Public Lands Service Corps Act. I am sure that my Park Superintendents Tutein and Hargrove are very much in support of this bill. In fact, Superintendent Hargrove and I have been trying to set up exactly what this bill would do in St. Thomas and St. John for several years.

H.R. 1612, in expanding and reinvigorating an existing program, addresses at least two important needs. First, it creates jobs—jobs that are so badly needed in our Nation today; jobs in an age group that has the highest and most chronic unemployment. In the absence of decent job opportunities, they're lured into drugs and criminal activity that is threatening to destroy the fabric of many communities, communities such as mine.

And then it helps to clear up a long-standing maintenance backlog in our Nation's parks and public lands, but it also begins to reestablish a relationship between the people in the involved communities and the public lands in their area.

If I can just speak about St. John for a moment. Two-thirds of that island is national park, and while it is the anchor of tourism there, for the most part, the native population are not the major stakeholders in that important mainstay of our economy. And though it's a small community, too many of our young people in St. John are in need of jobs and job training, especially those that don't require that they travel by boat to St. Thomas every day.

But more than that, with the Virgin Islands National Park occupying so much of the island, it is critical that we make more St. Johnians an integral part of what happens there and that they begin to regain a sense of belonging and ownership with our Nation that has been lost over the years.

The same is true for the Salt River and the other parklands in St. Croix and historic Hassel Island in St. Thomas, where those same young men and women are also in need of job training and jobs.

Although these public land service corps jobs would be just entry level jobs in the beginning, I am sure that once our young people are provided with the jobs and the training in preserving our national treasures that this bill would provide, they will want to go further.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentlelady an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. We will be building a cadre of new local park rangers, interpreters, and other positions, as well as management all the way up to superintendents in the future.

So Chairman GRIJALVA, thank you for this bill. I am glad to support it.

Mr. BISHOP. Madam Speaker, I reserve.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from California, Ms. BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Let me thank Chairman GRIJALVA for his leadership in bringing this bill, the Public Lands Service Corps Act, to the floor. And especially I want to thank you for bringing it to the floor and our leadership for allowing it to be brought to the floor today on such a historic day, a historic weekend. And Congressman GRIJALVA, I just want to salute you and Congresswoman WOOLSEY and all of you who fought so hard for this health care reform bill this weekend, especially for the public option.

And let me just say, when we cast this vote this weekend, we will be casting a vote on behalf of all of those uninsured and underinsured, on behalf of all of those who have died prematurely because they did not have preventative health care. And we will be casting this vote this weekend on behalf of our children and our grandchildren so that they may live longer and healthier lives.

So I'm very delighted that this bill is up this weekend so we would have a chance to talk about the importance of what we're doing within the context of this great bill.

This bill will train and connect young adults to service opportunities on public lands, putting a new generation of Americans back to work, finally, while instilling in them a great respect for America's legacy of conservation and stewardship.

The work done by the Public Lands Service Corps will do more than restore our public lands. It will also protect and preserve our environment, improve infrastructure, and help ensure the American public will always have access to the world's greatest recreational and scenic resources.

The bill would also engage with NOAA to allow young adults to serve

near coastal and marine waters along our treasured coastlines, such as those near my home in California in the Bay Area.

And we have many, many young people, especially those with the Martin Luther King Freedom Center, who work on many conservation projects. Also, they're learning about protecting our environment, ecology studies, nature studies. So this bill is going to be of tremendous help to the young people in my district.

But perhaps more importantly, this bill will provide service opportunities for our youth to work in restoring and preserving our public lands at a time when our young adults have been particularly hit hardest by the economic downturn. We have to remember that the youth unemployment rate now stands at more than 20 percent. Although low-income and minority youth populations face even greater challenges, African American youth, Latino youth, unemployment rates are now estimated to be as high as 42 percent.

□ 1100

In light of these harsh economic realities, I am so pleased that H.R. 1612 would encourage Federal agencies to prioritize outreach to underrepresented communities and populations and take steps to prepare participants—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentlelady 30 additional seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me just say that this bill would prioritize, actually, outreach to underrepresented communities and populations and would take steps to prepare participants for careers with those agencies or within related conservation fields.

Simply put, this bill could not come at a better time. So I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and to provide the necessary funding to start this valuable program as soon as possible.

And let me just thank you, Chairman GRIJALVA, once again, for your leadership.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Let me yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1612, the Public Lands Service Corps Act. And as I do so, I note the rather unusual markup of this bill or vote on this bill this afternoon here, or this morning here in our Nation's Capital on a Saturday. We are not usually gathered here, but that's because we have an historic opportunity tomorrow to cast a vote for major health care and health insurance reform legislation in the House of Representatives.

It's interesting the way the various topics are interconnected. When I think of health, we often think of people's health. But we can also think of

the health and survival, really, of our environment. And then I also believe that this is a jobs bill because this is a bill designed to put our young people to work. And that has a great deal to do with the subject very much on our minds these days with our slow economy and our great unemployment rate, and as the colleague who preceded me mentioned, the even higher unemployment rate among our young people.

This legislation will allow more of them to go to work and go to work in very healthy settings, out in the fresh air, engaged in exercise, learning to appreciate their natural surroundings. And I believe it really is a win-win all the way around.

So let me address the legislation. This important bill would help prepare, repair, and restore our Nation's public lands while also creating jobs for thousands of young Americans. Years of inadequate funding have left our public land management agencies with huge backlogs of labor-intensive work in our national parks, our forests, our wildlife refuges and our historic sites. Physical infrastructure is crumbling, and the natural resources have been neglected.

In many places, such as my home State of California, the effects of climate change are only magnifying the existing problems such as fire risk, damage from invasive species, coastal erosion, and fragmented habitat.

H.R. 1612 will help address all of these problems by expanding and strengthening the Public Lands Corps. It will streamline the corps' management, modernize its scope and provide new tools to help the program accomplish its mission. It will also expand the program to other agencies within the Department of the Interior and to the Commerce Department agencies, those which manage our coastal and marine systems, and our national marine sanctuaries.

This expanded public service initiative will introduce people from a greater diversity of social, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to our Nation's parks, our forests, and our public lands, not only as possible future employees, but also as lifelong enthusiasts. And this bill will create jobs. H.R. 1612 will provide meaningful training and employment to young people who especially need it now while also improving the condition of our priceless natural and cultural resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentlewoman 1 additional minute.

Mrs. CAPPS. As one who represents a national forest and a national marine sanctuary as well as a national park, the Channel Islands, I can attest to the great work of the Public Lands Corps and the importance of this legislation. So I thank you, Mr. GRIJALVA, for introducing this very important bill and for your great leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, may I inquire of the gentleman

from Arizona, my good friend, wrong on all the issues, but still a great guy, if he has any other speakers?

Mr. GRIJALVA. I have one additional speaker.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I will reserve.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I yield the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) 3 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, and to Congressman GRIJALVA, let me thank you for your leadership on this very important issue, and to Congressman BISHOP as well for managing this legislation and acknowledging the concerns that may have been expressed. And I offer maybe this rebuttal to some of the points that have been made, and celebrate legislation that really recognizes that we are not here on the floor to only provide jobs and support the student conservation association, if that is what it is being interpreted as, but frankly to be part of fixing America's crumbling infrastructure, and certainly our public lands need fixing.

Years of inadequate funding have left our public land management agencies with huge backlogs of labor-intensive work on national parklands, wildlife refuges, historic sites, and Indian lands. As we watch America take advantage of visiting their Capitol, for example, to see the many monuments and sites that are here, they don't want to come and see monuments that have chipped surfaces or that are dangerous to visit.

And this opportunity to employ our young people and to teach them character and integrity is a very important part of this legislation. I for one have spoken to my State parks management entity asking them to look more carefully at the parks in inner cities, the opportunities for them to be designated national parks and to be able to put more parks in the inner cities that are under the jurisdiction of our Federal Government.

Of course, that analysis takes long. But I want to applaud my own city of Houston that continuously looks to put public and open space for the many people that live in our community. Houston expects to be the third-largest city in the Nation. Green space, public opportunities to utilize parks is very important. So when I see a bill that is going to help fix the crumbling infrastructure, the physical crumbling infrastructure, the natural and cultural resources that have been neglected—and in many places the effects of climate change are magnifying earlier problems such as fire risks, damage from insects and invasive species, coastal erosion, and fragmented habitat—I am in support of this legislation.

I also come from the Gulf Coast region and have seen what happens to the deterioration and erosion of the Gulf Coast. In particular after Hurricane Ike, we are now trying to restore Galveston and those coastal lands to be able to provide for an economic engine. So this is a good bill. With a high rate

of unemployment among African American youth and youth around the country, the opportunity for them to work with their hands and minds is a positive step.

This legislation will be part of the road map to help expand park service and ensure that our sites are maintained and kept at the level that they should. And I hope to be able to work with the chairman of this committee as I assess the needs of Houston to be able to provide more green space in our community. Along with this bill—tomorrow we will provide real health care for America by the vote I make tomorrow.

I urge support for the legislation.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The first gentlelady from California who spoke talked about how important it was to start this program. May I reiterate, once again, we are not starting anything new. We have a program. All we are doing is changing things in that program. The current program has specific dollar amounts going which will be reviewed and specific programmatic responsibility, all of which were stripped out in this particular version.

The gentlelady from Texas, actually, I appreciate everything she said, she was right on. Everything for which she argued that is necessary is what the original program was intended to do. The problem we have is—and we could have easily, easily gone along with the expansion of this program if they had actually allowed us to come up with some kind of limitations, because unfortunately, as I mentioned before, what we have now done with this program, 75 percent of which was to go to make sure that we have healthy forests, where the actual priority was to go to help public lands, is you have taken out all that language and we have simply replicated AmeriCorps.

Once again, go on to the language of the legislation that created that document. On page 22 they list what they can do. It's exactly the same thing that has now opened up this possibility. Page 24, where can they go? Exactly the same thing. All we are doing is making a duplicate of a program that's already there when we have a good program with a specific goal, a specific recommendation, and we have taken out those specifics.

Now I suggested that there is plenty of opportunity for abuse in this particular program if you don't try and limit it to what we want it to accomplish, because we all agree on what we want it to accomplish. The unfortunate thing is the language in this bill doesn't say that. It doesn't specify that. And so indeed we can have instead people going in there to provide not jobs, but to provide internships for people to go in and have them assist professional staff in identifying problems, formulating legal strategies to address those problems, providing legal education and direct response represen-

tation, engaging in policy development.

There is nothing wrong with doing that, but not on the government dime. I don't have a problem with having a tour of this country talking about sustainability of processes and having drinking parties and all. That's fine, but not on the government dime. I don't mind actually having an agency that has a program here in Washington sponsored by the National Park Service, but not if it's going to teach people how to lead protests and sit-ins, not on the government dime. You can do all of these, but not subsidized by government funding. And that's what should be specified, that those type of activities should be beyond the opportunity and beyond the appropriation and beyond the concept of this program. That is what should have been in the bill. And had we done that, we would also all be singing Kumbaya or anything else that you want to with that.

But this bill, as I said before, is somewhat of a metaphor for everything that we have been doing for a large part of this session. It's simply, once again, a bill that there were assurances made in the committee that amendments would be applied to this bill. For whatever reason, they are not. Instead, we are standing up here protesting a bill which should have been and could have been a great piece of legislation to move us forward towards a common goal, but for whatever reason it was not allowed to be written in that form.

We are standing here on a bill that actually presents itself with a visual of why we need systemic change in this body. If the vast majority of Members were here on the floor to hear what these arguments are, I think they would say, yes, this is a logical limitation, it should be there. But as you look around, the vast majority of Members are not on this floor right now. So far too often we do things in a vacuum of understanding, which is why this body needs systemic change in the process that we use to reach conclusions.

Nothing, nothing more than the changes, nothing more than the process we are going through this weekend, reeks of the need for some kind of systemic change. Because if we did that systemic change and the expectation were the people were here to listen to the debate, they were there in the committees to hear the testimony, there were there in the committees to be part of the markup process, I am still convinced that we could have a better product and a bipartisan product.

But the process does not encourage that. The process encourages the exact opposite. We have a process that has evolved in the wrong direction, and if anything else, this weekend should show that we need systemic change in the process.

This bill, this program, is still a decent program. And with some limitations on the amount of spending, some review on a regular period, and some

limitations on what the product will be, what the kids will be working on as they go through these internships, we could have a very, very good positive program. And I hope before this bill actually goes all the way through the system, those kinds of limitations are put back in the bill so we can have something of which we can actually be proud.

I urge defeat of this bill until those changes are made.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. I rise to encourage support for H.R. 1612. Part of the discussion today was to say, from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, that it's a bad time to spend money on this program because unemployment is high and the deficit is high. I would respond that it is the perfect time for such investment.

This program is an investment in reducing unemployment among young people and in the long run will save money by preventing these maintenance problems in our public lands from getting worse. I want to talk about what is in the bill. Much of the limitations that were talked about by my good friend are not part of—some of the points that he made are not even part of the legislation. But let's talk for a second what this bill does do.

□ 1115

H.R. 1612 will broaden the scope of the program to include more agencies within the Department of the Interior, NOAA, within the Commerce Department; to expand the purposes of this program to make clear that a central aim is to attract participants from diverse backgrounds who are underrepresented among visitors and managers of our public lands; require establishment of coordinators with each agency eligible to participate in the program so that implementation of the program will be more uniform and efficient; authorize these Federal agencies to enter into cooperative agreements with non-profit youth or Conservation Corps to improve these partnerships; establish criteria and methodology for training programs for all participants; modernize the scope of eligible projects to include new challenges such as climate change and insect infestation; authorize participating agencies to provide housing for participants.

That is what the program does do. It is an appropriate time, it is a necessary time, and it is an investment that will pay huge dividends for our public lands and our young people, and I urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland). All time for debate on the bill, as amended, has expired.

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HOURLY OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.