

fight, but now some Washington politicians are threatening Social Security again with risky Wall Street schemes.

During this current economic crisis, more than 50 million Americans depend on Social Security to make ends meet. Without Social Security, one out of every two American seniors would fall into poverty. Dismantling Social Security would eliminate the safety net for millions of disabled Americans and survivors and many of their children.

No politician in Washington, D.C., has the right to threaten the American institution of Social Security. As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Social Security Act, I call on this Congress to defeat the proposals to cut Social Security benefits.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, I've done numerous America Speaking Out town halls all across the 10th Congressional District in Georgia. And what I hear from my constituents, from the most liberal communities all the way to the most conservative ones, is people in my district are asking, "Where are the jobs?" They understand that our economy is suffering and they understand that the stimulus bill has been an abject failure. They want to say, "Where are the jobs?" and that's what they're saying through americaspeakingout.com.

We need to get the ball rolling and leave dollars in the hands of small business, as well as the consumers, so that we can create jobs in the private sector. But that's not what our colleagues on the other side are doing. They're creating bigger government and creating more jobs in Washington, D.C., not in Georgia or any other State around this country. Only a few jobs are being created other than here.

I encourage people to go on americaspeakingout.com and speak about what we should be doing right here in Congress today, what we should be focusing on. What I'm hearing the American people saying is, "Where are the jobs?" We're trying to answer that question.

DEMOCRATS STAND BEHIND SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about Social Security. I rise because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this past weekend alone have said they want to return—they want to return to the Bush years. They want to return to privatizing Social Security. They want to do so so that they can help balance the deficit by cutting Social Security.

Can you imagine, had the Bush tax cuts gone through, had the Bush proposal for Social Security gone through, what would happen to so many of our citizens during this great recession? People who rely solely on Social Security would not have anywhere to turn to.

The concept and the idea we often criticize our colleagues saying they have no plan, but in fact they do. They want to privatize Social Security. Yes, they want to privatize Social Security. They want to voucher Medicare. They want to block grant Medicaid, and then they want to turn around and take your health benefits and treat them as ordinary income and tax them.

Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Democratic Caucus stand firmly behind Social Security and its benefits to all the American people.

THE HEROES OF CUBA

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. The world, and especially the press and the media in the United States, continue to treat the political prisoners in the gulags of the Cuban dictatorship as nonpersons.

The most well-known and respected political prisoner in Cuba is Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet. He has been in the gulags of the Castros for a decade due to his peaceful, pro-democracy work inside that enslaved island. Dr. Biscet is the Mandela of Cuba. Today is his 49th birthday. I wish him Godspeed and freedom, and freedom for Cuba.

To the press I ask, how long do the heroes of Cuba have to suffer before you acknowledge their existence?

THANK GOD BUSH IS GONE

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, it's been interesting listening to the discussions this morning and this afternoon. Social Security is 75 years old. It came about because of Franklin Roosevelt, a great Democratic President, and a Democratic Congress, evolving out of a Depression caused by Republican Herbert Hoover. And now 75 years later, we look at the situation where another Republican President, a Hoover George Bush, caused us the next worst financial crisis.

Republicans talk about privatizing Social Security. Social Security is money that needs to be there to preserve people's standards of living when Republicans who let the economy get out of hand because they don't have any regulations let it happen. This is the most foolish thought I've ever seen, if we didn't learn from September of 2008 that the market is a gamble and comes up and down. It's not social security; it's social insecurity.

People have gotten up here and said, "You haven't noticed that Bush is gone? That's all they can say is Bush is gone. Nobody can defend him, rated the second worst President in the history of the United States. A man who earned record deficits by giving tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires and fighting a war based on lies to raise great deficits, and now all they can say is he's gone. Thank God he's gone."

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of a great Floridian, Claude Pepper, who served this body and the other body for over 32 years. He was one of the greatest advocates for senior citizens in the history of this body, and I rise today in his memory to talk about the importance of Social Security to maintain the safety net for all Americans as we celebrate 75 years of Social Security being that safety net for seniors.

And I have some breaking news for everyone. Social Security is not the cause of the deficit. Let me repeat, Social Security is not the cause of the deficit. And the Republican plan to privatize Social Security is going to be dead on arrival.

□ 1410

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5266) to extend the final report deadline and otherwise reauthorize the National Commission on Children and Disasters.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5266

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 "National Commission on Children and Disasters Reauthorization Act of 2010".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) DEADLINE FOR FILLING VACANCIES.—Paragraph (2) of section 605(g) of the Kids in Disasters Well-being, Safety, and Health Act

of 2007 (title VI of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-161; 121 Stat. 1844, 2213)) is amended by inserting “not later than 90 days after the date of vacancy” after “shall be filled”.

(b) FREQUENCY OF INTERIM REPORTS.—Subsection (a) of section 611 of the Kids in Disasters Well-being, Safety, and Health Act of 2007 is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “INTERIM REPORT” and inserting “INTERIM REPORTS”; and

(2) by inserting “and annually thereafter” after “first meeting”.

(c) DEADLINE FOR FINAL REPORT.—Subsection (c) of section 611 of the Kids in Disasters Well-being, Safety, and Health Act of 2007 is amended by striking “not later than 2 years after the date of its first meeting” and inserting “not later than December 31, 2012”.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 612 of such Act is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 612. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, and \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2013.

“(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5266.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 5266 and ask for the support of the House. It is a bill to reauthorize the National Commission on Children and Disasters, sponsored by my colleague from Florida, Representative CORRINE BROWN.

The National Commission on Children and Disasters was created as a result of the indelible lessons of Hurricane Katrina and as a result of the effects that disaster had on children. The commission was authorized by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the Kids in Disasters Well Being Act of 2007, which was also sponsored by Chairwoman BROWN.

The commission's work has been well received, and many of its recommendations have been implemented, especially those related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. I was pleased to chair a hearing of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management that received testimony from Mark Shriver, the chair of the commission, on its interim report when it was issued last October.

The commission just issued a progress report on May 11, and I recently had a talk with Chairman Shriver about that report. While FEMA has made good progress on many of the recommendations, other agencies have not; and, therefore, the commission's work remains incomplete. The subcommittee will continue to work with the commission on the implementation of its recommendations.

H.R. 5266, the National Commission on Children and Disasters Act of 2010, reauthorizes the commission by extending the deadline for its final report until December 31, 2012, and requires annual interim reports from the commission. The commission will sunset 180 days after the date of its final report.

H.R. 5266 authorizes appropriations of \$1.5 million in fiscal years 2011 and 2012 and \$1 million in fiscal year 2013, the final year of the commission. The bill also rectifies a problem the commission experienced at the outset when it took nearly 5 months for all of the members of the commission to be appointed. The bill requires vacancies to be filled in 90 days, which should help minimize any delays in the commission's work in the event of a vacancy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5266, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I stand to support H.R. 5266.

In 2007, Congress created the National Commission on Children and Disasters to examine the needs of children in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. One lesson we learned from Hurricane Katrina is that we must ensure that our preparation for and response to disasters incorporate the unique needs of children. During Hurricane Katrina, many children were separated from their families, and schools and child care facilities were destroyed.

I had a personal experience of that as it took me about 2 weeks after Hurricane Katrina to find a child care facility for my daughters. At that time, one was 3 years old, and the other was around 9 months. It became clear that focused attention to children would be critical to helping families through a major disaster and through the recovery process.

The National Commission on Children and Disasters was created to ensure there is focused attention on the needs of children in disasters. The commission submitted an interim report last year, and under current law, a final report is due in October 2010. However, additional time is needed to allow for the proper review of the issues and to ensure full implementation of the commission's interim recommendations.

This legislation will provide the commission with the additional time to complete this important work. H.R.

5266 will ensure that the needs of children are properly incorporated in our preparation for and response to disasters.

I support the passage of this legislation, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of the bill, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5266, the National Commission on Children and Disasters Reauthorization Act.

I would like to thank Chairman OBERSTAR and subcommittee Chairwoman NORTON for their hard work and assistance in bringing this bill forward.

I would also like to thank Mark Shriver, the commission chair, for his work and dedication to children.

You all have provided crucial support in the creation of the National Commission on Children and Disasters and continue to do so in advancing this important bill to allow the commission to continue its important work.

The passage of H.R. 5266, the National Commission on Children and Disasters Reauthorization Act of 2010, is of extreme importance to our Nation's efforts in protecting our Nation's children before, during, and following a disaster.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, I authored the KIDS WISH Act to improve Federal, State, tribal, and local disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts for children who make up nearly 25 percent of our population but whose needs are often overlooked in disasters. Children are not little adults, and their needs are unique and cannot be easily inferred from disaster plans prepared only for adults.

The commission delivered its interim report in October 2009, which identified numerous gaps and made recommendations related to disaster management and recovery, child physical and mental health, education, child care, child welfare, juvenile justice, emergency sheltering, housing, evacuation, and family reunification.

As President Obama's administration has taken shape, the commission has played a vital role in fostering communication and coordination among Federal agencies and their partners in implementing the recommendations. While there are encouraging signs that the unique needs of children are receiving greater attention, there is still a great deal of important work ahead for the commission beyond the current fiscal year.

Just recently, in fact, in its interim report issued 8 months ago, the commission released a report which tracks the progress toward the implementation of the recommendations. Although the commission found that Federal agencies have taken some initial positive steps, many crucial recommendations remain substantially unad-

dressed, leaving children needlessly vulnerable in disasters. Therefore, I wholeheartedly believe that more work is needed to be done to bring about sweeping and permanent changes in the Nation's disaster planning and management, which still heavily favor able-bodied adults.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support our Nation's children and to vote "yes" on this bill.

Mr. CAO. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I want to join the chairwoman, Ms. CORRINE BROWN, not only in asking the House to pass this bill, but to commend her.

□ 1420

The chairwoman discovered this issue and acted on it. She discovered it in Florida, when there were refugees, as it were, from Katrina. She was moved by it. She decided to do, in fact, work on the ground in Florida for these children and others who were caught in Katrina, and she followed up with legislation, and never let up until this very day. And I know she won't let up until the other body sees fit also to pass the bill.

So I want to commend her for her discovery of a vital issue that my own committee, which has jurisdiction over FEMA, had not noted with nearly as much attention as the gentlelady from Florida.

I want also to note the work of Mark Schreiber, whose work on the commission went far beyond his chairmanship. He took this cause unto his own, pressed it with all that he had, and deserves great credit for making sure that we got to the day when we would pass the bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5266, the "National Commission on Children and Disasters Reauthorization Act of 2010", which extends the authorization for the Commission on Children and Disasters for an additional two years. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) for introducing this bill and the attention she has brought to the issue of the needs of children in disasters.

In 2007, Congress enacted the Kids in Disasters Well-being, Safety, and Health Act of 2007 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 110–161). This legislation established a 10-member Commission to examine the needs of children in response to and recovery from disasters and emergencies. The bill required the Commission to submit a final report to Congress with its findings two years after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, and sunset the authorization for the Commission 180 days after the submission of the final report.

Under current law, the report of the Commission is due in October 2010. H.R. 5266 extends the date for the final report to December 31, 2012, and requires annual interim reports from the Commission in the intervening years.

The Commission was created as a result of lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, a disaster that affected thousands of children. As

the Commission's May 2010 Progress Report reminds us, more recent disasters—such as last year's tsunami in American Samoa, this year's devastating earthquake in Haiti, and the recent H1N1 outbreak—disproportionately affected children compared to adults. However, serious impacts on children can occur in a disaster of any magnitude. Last month, tornadoes spread across my home state of Minnesota. The hardest hit area was Wadena, in my district, where preliminary damage assessments indicated that the community bore 90 percent of the damage to infrastructure and emergency response costs.

Shortly after the storm, I was in Wadena and saw the damage first-hand. One of the worst hit facilities was the Wadena Deer Creek High School, which was damaged beyond repair. Following a disaster, it is essential to reopen schools as quickly as possible in order to restore a sense of normalcy and stability for children and families. Children need to resume their education and reconnect with their friends, and with schools open, parents can get back to work. We are fortunate in Wadena that while the high school is being restored, the district will be able to use a recently closed parochial school and a local community and technical college campus.

We are also fortunate, as the Commission's May 2010 Progress Report points out, that Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made good progress in implementing the recommendations of the Commission, including the appointment of a Children's Working Group that reports directly to the Administrator. Unfortunately, other Federal agencies have been slow to implement the Commission's recommendations and, as a result, the work of the Commission remains incomplete.

In October 2009, the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing on the then-newly issued interim report of the Commission. Based on the testimony at this hearing and the Commission's findings, I included language in H.R. 3377, the "Disaster Response, Recovery and Mitigation Act of 2009", to require the Administrator of FEMA to take into account the recommendations of the Commission when drafting or updating agency plans, strategies, regulations, and policies. It is important for the Commission to be extended so it can advise Congress and the President on how FEMA is meeting this requirement.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5266.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5266, the National Commission on Children and Disasters Reauthorization Act of 2010. I commend my colleague on the Transportation Committee, Representative BROWN, for her work on this legislation and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, the National Commission on Children and Disasters is conducting a comprehensive study that examines and assesses children's needs as they relate to preparation for, response to, and recovery from all hazards, including major disasters and emergencies. The Commission will review relevant laws, regulations, and policies and report its findings and recommendations to the President and Congress.

This legislation, which reauthorizes this important commission, will also extend the dead-

line for submission of the final report to December 31, 2012. Due to delays in the appointment of Commission members and receipt of funding, the Commission was unable to hold its first meeting until 10 months after it was created. As a result, the work of the Commission remains incomplete and, without reauthorization, the Commission will be required to issue its final report on October 14, 2010, and will sunset 180 days thereafter.

According to the committee report for this bill, children comprise nearly 25 percent of the U.S. population; however, disaster plans are written largely for able-bodied adults, meaning that before, during, and after disasters, the unique needs of children are overlooked, unmet, and misunderstood. This legislation is necessary to ensure that the commission can complete its important work which will have lasting effects on the safety of children before, during, and after a disaster.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5266.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEAUTHORIZING PORTION OF POTOMAC RIVER WATER PROJECT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5545) to deauthorize a portion of the project for navigation, Potomac River, Washington Channel, District of Columbia, under the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5545

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

SECTION 1. PROJECT FOR NAVIGATION, WASHINGTON CHANNEL, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Upon the date of enactment of this Act, the following portion of the project for navigation, Potomac River, Washington Channel, District of Columbia, authorized by the Act of August 30, 1935 (chapter 831; 49 Stat. 1028) is deauthorized: Beginning at Washington Harbor Channel Geometry Centerline of the 400-foot-wide main navigational ship channel, Centerline Station No. 103+73.12, coordinates North 441948.20, East 1303969.30, as stated and depicted on the Condition Survey Anacostia, Virginia, Washington and Magazine Bar Shoal Channels, Washington, D.C., Sheet 6 of 6, prepared by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore district, July 2007; thence departing the aforementioned centerline traveling the following courses and distances: N. 40 degrees 10 minutes 45 seconds E., 200.00 feet to a point, on the outline of said 400-foot-wide channel thence binding on said outline the following three courses and distances: S. 49 degrees 49 minutes 15 seconds E., 1,507.86 feet to a point, thence; S. 29 degrees 44 minutes 42 seconds E., 2,083.17 feet to a point, thence; S. 11 degrees 27 minutes 04 seconds E., 363.00 feet to