

families enjoy after adoption. Their noble actions in caring for our youth are a public service—but more importantly—an act of service and humility in love for humanity.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes and honors the foster care and adoption agencies around the Nation that provide our youth with a sense of hope and a future. I support and congratulate all of these agencies and families in their honorable endeavors, and charge them to continue their efforts into the future.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1648, the annual National Adoption Day and National Adoption month resolution. I would like to thank my colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee for their work to bring this resolution to the Floor, and I want to commend in particular, my friend JIM McDERMOTT, the Chairman of the Income Security and Family Support Subcommittee, for his leadership on adoption, foster care and child welfare issues.

Adoption has been an essential part of my life and legislative service since 1968, when my late wife, Jo, unsuccessful in our hope for biological children, turned enthusiastically to adoption.

Like all prospective adoptive parents, we completed the paperwork and the home study process—which every adoptive parent can remember. We were overjoyed to welcome home our adorable 3-week old son Ted in 1968. Jo and I had no doubt that since we made the decision to accept as our own, one of God's children, that He blessed us with Noelle, Annie and Monica.

For these past 36 years, I have reveled in wearing my legislative hat, as a Member of Congress, as an advocate for effective public policy to eliminate the barriers to adoption and the need to work on behalf of children and families to promote this life-affirming experience.

Adoption has made enormous strides in these 36 years. In the late 1970s, I had the opportunity to bend the ear of President Carter with my radical proposal for an adoption deduction that would be equivalent to the cost of childbirth. In the 1980s, I joined with my former colleague, Tom Bliley, to create the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. In the 1990s, we enacted the \$5,000 tax credit for adoption and in 2001, we were successful in doubling the adoption tax credit to \$10,000. That same year, we created CCAI, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, to enhance our adoption advocacy.

As part of that advocacy, CCAI is one of the sponsoring organizations for National Adoption Day that celebrates the adoption finalization for thousands of families. National Adoption Day also raises awareness for the 114,000 children in foster care who are available for adoption and are seeking their “forever family.” I also want to commend the following sponsors for their leadership in promoting National Adoption Day: The Alliance for Children's Rights, Casey Family services, Children's Action Network, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and the Freddie Mac Foundation. I also want to express my appreciation for the work of my Legislative Director, Chip Gardiner, who has been a great advocate for the cause of adoption for the past 25 years.

It is fitting and proper for the House of Representatives to approve this resolution in No-

vember which is National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day which will take place this year on Saturday, November 20. As families prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving next week, National Adoption Day is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving as we celebrate this very special day when the dream of family has been realized for so many Americans. This year, more than 350 events will take place across all 50 states and Washington, D.C. to finalize over 4,500 adoptions from foster care.

When I have the opportunity to share my personal experience of adoption, I am reminded of the words of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet, Gabriela Mistral. “We are guilty of many errors and faults, but our worst crime is abandoning children, neglecting the fountain of life. Many things we need can wait; the child cannot. To the child, we cannot answer: ‘Tomorrow’ The child's name is ‘Today!’”

Today, let us reaffirm our support to assist the thousands of children in America in foster care who seek the love, support and stability of a family.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1648.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3774) to extend the deadline for Social Services Block Grant expenditures of supplemental funds appropriated following disasters occurring in 2008.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3774

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF EXPENDITURE DEADLINE OF SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT DISASTER FUNDING.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts made available to the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, under the heading “Social Services Block Grant” under chapter 7 of division B of Public Law 110-329, shall remain available for expenditure through September 30, 2011.

SEC. 2. BUDGETARY PROVISIONS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO.—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.—This Act—

(1) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-139; 2 U.S.C. 933(g));

(2) in the House of Representatives, is designated as an emergency for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles; and

(3) in the Senate, is designated as an emergency requirement and necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 3774.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3774, which extends the deadline for the use of supplemental social service block grant funds, also known as SSBG, that were made available following the disasters that occurred in 2008.

This extension would provide a 1-year extension for the use of supplemental SSBG grant funds that were appropriated in the Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriation Act of 2009 in response to the natural disasters that occurred in 2008. The legislation provided \$600 million for disaster recovery for States affected by hurricane, floods, and other natural disasters that occurred in the year 2008.

Over 60 percent of the money that was appropriated has been spent, leaving a great deal of funding available to address the ongoing needs in States that have been adversely affected by natural disasters. While a number of States have been successful in quickly drawing down the funds that were available to support disaster cleanup, many others need additional time to utilize the resources effectively.

The legislation follows a precedent that was established by the Congress in recent years when we acted to extend the availability of supplemental SSBG funds that were appropriated for the recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These funds were extended for a 2-year period to allow additional time for affected States to make use of these resources.

Additionally, the legislation is PAYGO compliant and will not add one dime to the Federal deficit. The funding has already been allocated. The bill simply makes the appropriation available for an additional year.

The legislation, which passed the Senate in late September by unanimous consent, is very similar to a bill

that was introduced in the House by Representative PETE OLSON that has bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 3774.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman on the other side very aptly summarized what this bill does so I will not repeat that.

In my home State of Florida, according to State officials, more time for this appropriation is absolutely vital but we're not alone. The latest HHS data suggests another 15 States had unexpended funds. Just like in Florida, residents of those States affected by the 2008 natural disasters stand to benefit from the additional flexibility resulting from this legislation.

Significantly, the Congressional Budget Office says that the bill will not add to the deficit. It would simply change the timing for the spending already approved of these funds. It is also important to note that this same sort of flexibility had previously been granted for recovery funds in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. So it makes sense to provide similar treatment for funds provided in the wake of the 2008 natural disasters, and I'm very pleased to support this legislation that will accomplish that.

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman, and particularly, I thank the Ways and Means Committee, both the managers on the floor today, Mr. McDERMOTT and Ms. BROWN-WAITE, for their leadership, and I thank the entire Texas delegation and as well my good friend Mr. OLSON, who I know will be appearing on the floor, for his leadership, along with Mr. CORNYN.

We worked together. This is a bipartisan effort and I am glad to be on the floor because we tried to do this on September 29, and I don't think we made our story clear. This is not a Texas issue. In fact, this issue impacts all of the disasters that occurred in 2008, and I would like to, Mr. Speaker, simply call some of the names: The State of Colorado, the State of Florida, Georgia, Illinois, the State of Iowa, the State of Mississippi, the State of Missouri, the States of Nevada, Oklahoma, Texas, and West Virginia, among the many that did not get a chance to help the desperate.

And so I'd like to particularly thank today, in addition to the members of the Texas delegation, Majority Leader HOYER, who continued to work with us and to ensure that we can move this as quickly as possible; and his staff, Terry Lierman and Austin Burnes, who also worked closely with my staff, Yohannes Tsehai and Shashrina Thomas, to bring this to the floor along with my colleagues.

□ 1910

Thousands of families who were victims of Hurricane Ike stopped receiving SSBG funds September 30, 2010, because the legislatively mandated deadline for these funds expired. We made and I made concerted efforts with the Department of Health and Human Services, and I would like to introduce into the RECORD a letter written by my office on September 21, 2010, as well as a letter written back from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, October 1, 2010, from which I read this sentence: "As soon as Congress restores the availability of Hurricane Ike SSBG funding, we will work expeditiously to implement the legislation and make the funds available to those doing the important work of assisting victims rebuild their lives."

There lies the story, Mr. Speaker. Rebuilding lives. For those of us who walked the streets after Hurricane Ike and for the many Members of Congress who walked the streets of their respective disasters, we know what disasters are all about. Not bricks and mortar. Disasters are about the human devastation that faces individuals, lost and lonely, not knowing where to go.

Hurricane Ike was the third-costliest hurricane ever to make landfall in the United States. Ike made its final landfall near Galveston, Texas, a strong Category 2 hurricane with a Category 5 equivalent storm surge. It devastated the island, but it also impacted Houston and my congressional district. It was a huge hurricane, some 500 miles across, making it nearly as big as Texas itself, and its hurricane-force winds extended 120 miles from the center. It was blamed for at least 195 deaths overall, with substantial death and injury in Texas.

The hurricane also resulted in the largest evacuation of Texas in the State's history. An estimated 100,000 homes were flooded in Texas, numerous boats washed away, smashing and flooding homes, knocking out windows, cutting electricity to an estimated 2.8 million to 4.5 million. Most of the people were devastated because the electricity went out for almost 8 weeks. And they were individuals without the ability to go to work and their jobs were cut off. So these dollars will not be misused.

The important point of this legislation is, there is a PAYGO provision in it. It will not spend more money. It will only have the opportunity to use the dollars that are already there. For those of us who have faced disaster, whether it is Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, the floods in the Midwest, or the various tornadoes that occur throughout our area, or the hurricanes that seem to come every year to the gulf region, I can assure you that these dollars are coming none too soon.

I want to thank the administration's Secretary Sebelius who has indicated that they will move quickly. As this bill passes, we hope that this will move quickly to the President's desk, the

bill is signed, and these moneys will come forward.

Let me acknowledge the groups that we have worked with: Angela Blanchard of the Neighborhood Centers; Harold Fattig of Catholic Charities; Mr. Raimor of the University of Texas Medical Branch; Mark Minick of Lutheran Social Services; Kristi Allen, Bay Area Council; Stephanie Carmona, Sunshine Center; United Way, Anna Babin; Kenna Bush, United Way of Galveston; Carolyn Rose of the Gulf Coast Center; Joe Compian, Gulf Coast Interfaith; Galveston County Food Bank, Mark Davis; Cindy Schulz; and a very strong worker in Ruama Camp, who worked throughout the area with people who could find no way themselves.

So this money will come and help those who are in need of these dollars posthaste. It extends the deadline until September 30, 2011. The bill does not appropriate new funds, as I indicated; and as you well know, they've extended this in years past with Katrina and Rita.

It's a terrible shame to say that people who need help are those who are costing us money. Today, Mr. Speaker, they're not costing us money. We're helping those who are hardworking Americans. I'm delighted to be able to support this legislation. I ask my colleagues to do it. Never forget, we have a role of being a good Samaritan. If you were in need, you would want help. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 21, 2010.

Hon. KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: In early 2009, in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, the State of Texas received \$219 million in recovery funds under the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) program from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As you know under federal law, if these grant funds are not spent by September 30, 2010, these funds will be permanently returned to the federal treasury.

Hurricane Ike has wreaked havoc on Texas, particularly in Galveston and Houston. As we move forward with recovery efforts, it is clear that the impact of this storm has been widespread and many people are still in need of assistance. Unfortunately, Texans are still in need of help, especially the neglected residents of North Galveston. More than 60 Americans and over 26 Texans have died as a result of Hurricane Ike. In addition, the hurricane has caused millions of dollars in damage throughout Houston and Galveston. The local agencies processing the people impacted by Hurricane Ike for which these funds were utilized, received these funds from the state and federal agencies six months late, and therefore have not been able to complete the process of serving the families impacted by Hurricane Ike. Losing these funds on September 30, 2010 will result in the terrible tragedy for the many people that are still suffering from the effect of one of the most costliest hurricanes in our region. Therefore, I am requesting an extension of an additional six months from September 30, 2010, for social services agencies throughout the State of Texas to utilize these grant funds.

Once again, I ask that you strongly consider extending the deadline for the \$219 million in recovery funds under SSBG for an additional six months from September 30, 2010. I have the support of my Congressional colleagues from Texas in my efforts to ensure that Houston and Texas receive the funds we so desperately need on the road to recovery. Thank you for your consideration to this urgent matter.

Very truly yours,

SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
Member of Congress.

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,
Washington, DC, October 1, 2010.

Hon. SHEILA JACKSON LEE,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE JACKSON LEE: I write in response to your letter of September 21, 2010, concerning the expiration of Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds that Texas received to assist in the recovery from Hurricane Ike. I asked our General Counsel to review this issue further to see if there were any possible avenues to extend the availability of these funds. Unfortunately, the original statutory language providing the funds does not give me the authority to extend their availability.

Ike was one of the most devastating storms to ever hit the Gulf Coast. The work of recovery has been arduous, and I thank the individuals and organizations who have been helping those who have suffered because of the hurricane. Their efforts should be commended. We want to support them as much as we can.

I recognize that the Senate has passed legislation making these funds available for another fiscal year and that Majority Leader Hoyer has affirmed plans for the House of Representatives to consider the matter when Congress returns in November. As soon as Congress restores the availability of Hurricane Ike SSBG funding, we will work expeditiously to implement the legislation and make the funds available to those doing the important work of assisting victims rebuild their lives.

I thank you for your leadership in helping these families and organizations.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS.

I rise today in strong support of S. 3774, to extend the deadline for Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) expenditures of supplemental funds appropriated following the disasters that occurred in 2008, particularly Hurricane Ike. I would like to thank all the Members and their staffs who worked in a collaborative and bipartisan manner to bring this essential legislation to the House floor today. I would like to especially thank Majority Leader HOYER and Terry Lierman and Austin Burnes of his staff, who worked closely with Yohannes Tsehai and Shashrina Thomas of my staff, to bring this important legislation to the House floor today.

Thousands of families who were victims of Hurricane Ike stopped receiving SSBG funds on September 30, 2010, because the legislatively mandated deadline for these funds expired. I made concerted efforts with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to extend this deadline administratively, but they determined that they needed legislative authority to extend these funds. I would like to thank Secretary Sebelius and the Department of Health and Human Services for responding favorably to my request to expeditiously implement this legislation as soon as it

passes and make the funds available to those organizations assisting victims on the road to recovery. I would also like to thank HHS Regional Director Marge Petty who accepted my invitation to come down to Houston and meet with the organizations in Houston and Galveston who are assisting thousands of families with home repairs and other unmet needs.

Some of the organizations who have been instrumental in these efforts include Neighborhood Centers Inc., Catholic Charities, the United Way, Gulf Coast Interfaith, and the University of Texas Medical Branch, to name a few. Moreover, I think it is crucial that we are providing this legislative authority today before the Thanksgiving holiday so that these families can continue on their road to recovery from the devastation of Hurricane Ike.

Hurricane Ike was the third costliest hurricane ever to make landfall in the United States, behind Hurricane Andrew of 1992 and Hurricane Katrina of 2005. Ike made its final landfall near Galveston, Texas as a strong Category 2 hurricane, with a Category 5 equivalent storm surge. Ike was a huge hurricane—some 500 miles across, making it nearly as big as Texas itself, and its hurricane-force winds extended 120 miles from the center.

Ike was blamed for at least 195 deaths overall, with substantial death and injury in Texas. The hurricane also resulted in the largest evacuation of Texans in this State's history; subsequently it became the largest search and rescue operation in U.S. history. The effects of Hurricane Ike in Texas have been crippling and long-lasting. An estimated 100,000 homes were flooded in Texas, and numerous boats washed ashore, smashing and flooding thousands of homes, knocking out windows in Houston's skyscrapers, uprooting trees, and cutting electricity to an estimated 2.8 million to 4.5 million customers for weeks and months. Galveston was declared uninhabitable, and Houston imposed a week-long nighttime curfew due to limited electric power.

When Hurricane Ike devastated Texas in September 2008, I immediately began to work with the Members of the Texas Congressional delegation to ensure Texas was appropriated recovery funds it so desperately needed. In early 2009, the State of Texas received part of these recovery funds, almost \$219 million under the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) program from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Although more than \$174 million of this have been drawn down, there remains over \$44 million to Texas that cannot be utilized without today's extension. Furthermore, of the total \$600 million in SSBG funding appropriated in 2009, there also remains more than \$152 million for 14 States that can be used with the passage of S. 3774.

What has now taken place until today's legislation passes is that SSBG funds which were not utilized by September 30, 2010, were made permanently unavailable for the thousands of Hurricane Ike victims who have been waiting for the completion of social services and their homes to be restored. It would be devastating to Hurricane Ike victims to lose these funds, especially when many of their homes are in the middle of repairs. Furthermore, the numerous local agencies assisting and processing the cases of families impacted by Hurricane Ike, received these funds from the state and federal agencies many months

late due to administrative delays. These delays have caused the agencies to not be able to complete the process of serving everyone impacted by Hurricane Ike since they did not get the benefit of the two years that Congress had intended.

The effects of Hurricane Ike on Texas were drastic and far reaching, affecting hundreds of thousands of people. According to FEMA, within the first week following the disaster, nearly 438,000 individuals or families had registered for individual assistance. By the end of the registration period in February 2009, a total of 734,000 Texans had registered with FEMA for individual assistance. Hurricane Ike destroyed 17,000 homes in Harris County alone.

Due to the lapse in the reimbursement of SSBG funds, many victims are unable to access services critical to their recovery such as unfinished home repairs, unmet needs, mental and physical healthcare, employment services, transportation and legal services. All of these issues are currently being aggravated until these funds to these victims' resumes. Once this extension is granted, not only will these families resume services, this extension will not require any additional funding. According to the Congressional Budget Office who have scored this legislation, this bill will not have a budget authority (BA) effect, but rather only an outlay effect on the timing of payments. Finally, there is also recent precedence for extending these types of disaster funds. Congress routinely extended the deadline for similar funds given to Hurricane Katrina and Rita victims.

Once this legislation passes, I will continue to work with the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that funding for social services agencies throughout the State of Texas is provided as expeditiously as possible so that the victims of Hurricane Ike receive the assistance they so desperately need on their road to recovery.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this essential legislation.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) who was forward-thinking enough to introduce this legislation to begin with.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Senate bill 3774. I introduced companion legislation, H.R. 5790, which would do the same thing as this good bill. Two years ago, Hurricane Ike tore through the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall in Galveston, Texas. It was the largest hurricane ever, ever to make landfall in the United States. Ike slammed into Galveston as a Category 2 hurricane but with a storm surge equivalent to that of a Category 4 storm, causing damages estimated at \$18 billion. Over 200 people lost their lives.

Two years later, what Ike destroyed in 12 hours continues to be rebuilt. In response to the storm, an emergency appropriations bill was passed for the purpose of assisting the victims of Ike. The funding came with a deadline that the State of Texas and the local communities now need extended. This is

not without precedent. A similar extension was granted for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

In the process of recovering from Ike, please consider that Catholic Charities reports that there are over 3,500 families in Galveston who are in the process of getting their homes repaired or replaced who still need rent assistance. The Gulf Coast Center in Galveston and Brazoria Counties is working with 19 agencies to provide mental health support and counseling to 3,000 clients each month who are still suffering from the impact of Hurricane Ike on their lives. The University of Texas Medical Branch reports that they are providing food assistance, medical care, and case management to 20,000 households each month. This will end without an extension.

In the words of one leader at the United Way, "We are not asking to access more funding, only to finish what we started." Do I wish this extension was not needed? Of course. We all do. But it is needed, and I ask that this Chamber join me in doing what is right and fair for a community that lost so much 2 years ago. I urge my colleagues to vote for Senate bill 3774, so the people of southeast Texas can finally put Hurricane Ike in their past.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3774, which would extend the deadline for Social Services Block Grant expenditures of supplemental funds appropriated following disasters occurring in 2008.

The FY2009 Supplemental Appropriation included funding for disasters that occurred in 2008. This included \$600 million in Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding eligible to be used for a wide variety of social services to assist in disaster recovery.

In the wake of Hurricane Ike, a total of 734,000 Texans had registered with FEMA for individual assistance and 17,000 homes in Harris County were destroyed.

Due to the magnitude of Ike, the State of Texas received \$219 million in recovery funds under the Social Services Block Grant program from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Under federal law, these SSBG funds must be spent by September 30, 2010. Any money not spent by that time must be returned to the federal Treasury. Texas currently has \$44 million in funding that will revert back to the federal government.

Many entities and local governments in Texas have expressed difficulty in meeting the September 30, 2010 deadline and are requesting a one year extension to September 30, 2011.

Although there have been significant successes through the recovery process, significant needs remain. In the Greater Houston area, more than 2,500 families in case management still cite needs in the area of home repair and/or unmet needs.

It is important to note that Texas is not the only state that would lose access to these funds—16 other states have remaining funds and an extension would assist those states as well.

A similar extension was granted by Congress for Hurricane Katrina SSBG disaster re-

covery funds. It is also important to note that this bill involves no new spending. The SSBG grant funds were released and dispersed to the states over a year ago. This bill will only give those who need it, extra time to expend these needed funds as they continue to recover from Hurricane Ike.

Senator CORNYN's legislation, S. 3774, passed out of the Senate on a unanimous consent. It would extend the deadline for Social Services Block Grant expenditures of supplemental funds appropriated following disasters occurring in 2008 for one year from September 30, 2010 to September 30, 2011.

Before the House recessed on September 29 we tried to bring up this legislation, but it came over from the Senate very late and we were unable to come to an agreement to bring up the legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to allow the states impacted by disasters that occurred in 2008.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. And with that, I would ask for support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3774.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TAX CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, sometime between now and December 31 we will be discussing tax cuts—specifically, whether to extend the President Obama tax cuts for the middle class or

whether to extend the George W. Bush tax cuts for the rich—and I think it is important for people to understand exactly who this money will be received by.

In the case of the Obama tax cuts, like the child tax credit, it will be received by needy parents who need the money in order to pay the mortgage, pay the rent, pay their car payments, their credit card payments. And in the case of the Bush tax cuts for the rich, it will be received by the rich.

In fact, for the top 1 percent of income in this country, the high and mighty, the people who make an average of \$1.4 million every single year, according to these charts I am about to show, you will see the following:

Mr. Speaker, the Republican plan for tax cuts is to give each millionaire, each person who makes \$1.4 million a year on the average, the top 1 percent of income in this country, the high and mighty, \$83,347 a year in tax cuts. \$83,347 a year, according to econometric modeling by Citizens for Tax Justice.

Let's give some thought as to what the high and mighty might actually do with that money.

Well, here is one possibility. They can buy an \$83,000 Mercedes-Benz E-Class car not just once, but every single year for the next decade. And each year when they get tired of their brand-new Mercedes-Benz E-Class car, they can just give it to somebody because they can afford another one. They can give it to a spouse, a sister, a son, a daughter, anybody. Every single year for the next 10 years, the Republican tax plan is to give millionaires enough money for a Mercedes-Benz.

Here is something else they can do with it. They can buy this gorgeous Hermes bag, a Birkin, for \$64,800, not once, but every single year for the next 10 years, to which they will say to the Republican party, "Thank you very much."

Here is something else they can do with their money. They can buy this bottle of Chateau d'Yquem wine, bottled in 1787, for only \$56,588. That will leave loose change in their pocket of \$25,000. They can buy a bottle of wine from 1787 every year for the next decade. Thank you, Republican Party.

Here is something else they can do. They can buy 20,000 jars of their favorite mustard, Grey Poupon, 20,000 jars. That is certainly enough for them, their family, their friends, even a few poor people. Thank you, Republican party.

Here is something else they can do with the \$80,000 that the Republican Party wants to put in their pocket every year for the next 10 years. They can buy 800 cigars. Think about that. That is one for the morning and one for the evening, 800 luxury cigars. Then they can light each one of those cigars with a \$100 bill. Thank you, Republican Party. You are letting the rich in this country enjoy two cigars each day for the next 10 years and light each one with a \$100 bill.