

Twain and his rich contributions to our country's literary history. This wonderful occasion has also inspired me to rediscover the great works of Mark Twain with my granddaughter and connect this imaginary world with the reality of his boyhood home in Hannibal. It is critical for us to foster a love for reading among children and our grandchildren because it is part of what makes them kids.

I am also extremely honored and fortunate to represent Hannibal in Congress and would encourage folks to visit the area in northeast Missouri and discover the inspiration for some of the greatest literary works of American history. Mark Twain and the city of Hannibal are integral parts of Missouri's heritage, and I am proud to recognize him on this very special day.

To that end, a Mark Twain quote: "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones that you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sail. Explore, dream, discover."

I urge all Members to join me in strong support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, as a boy growing up in southern Oregon, Medford, Oregon, I was blessed with a wonderful public school system. Of course, that is about a half century ago now, but you only have a good school system if you have good teachers, and I did: Mr. Merriman and Elsie Butler and Devere Taylor and John Smock and Mrs. Leininger and Irv Myrick, and I do a disservice to all of them by naming just a few.

Chuck Nevi was one of those teachers, and he helped me explore America and humanity through the words of Mark Twain.

For a boy growing up in 1950s America, the world of riverboats, scalawags, runaway slaves, and sassy, independent, barefooted boys was magical. The world of Mark Twain taught readers universal truths about the human animal, and some of those truths are not flattering. Like all youngsters, I imagined myself to be Huckleberry Finn, and when Huck Finn chooses what he believes will be hell and eternal damnation so that his love, loyalty, and friendship with a runaway slave will be preserved, well, for me, being raised in a town with few minorities, I learned both about racism and about the power of even young boys to find the real truths and confront confusing human institutions that allowed racism to persist.

A few weeks ago, I saw the news report of Tina Fey winning the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, and it reminded me that this year, 2010, should be acknowledged for the 100th anniversary of Mark Twain's death and

the 175th anniversary of his birth. And so even though it was late in the session, I filed this resolution on his birthday to honor Mark Twain.

Mr. Speaker, when parents are away from their babies, particularly during these holidays, we talk about our kids, and so I will. My 4-year-old, Penn, and my three 2-year-olds, Aubrey, Wyatt and Sullivan, are the four little boy Huck Finns in our Arkansas household geographically not far from Huck Finn's world, but such a different world now, one that 19th century contemporaries of a young Sam Clemens would not recognize, except, of course, for his insights into the strengths and weaknesses of human nature. And because of that genius, that genius expressed with humor, I hope my young boys, my young Huck Finns, learn to love the world and works of Mark Twain.

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, again I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1733, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GPRA MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2142) to require the review of Government programs at least once every 5 years for purposes of assessing their performance and improving their operations, and to establish the Performance Improvement Council.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "GPRA Modernization Act of 2010".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Strategic planning amendments.
- Sec. 3. Performance planning amendments.
- Sec. 4. Performance reporting amendments.
- Sec. 5. Federal Government and agency priority goals.
- Sec. 6. Quarterly priority progress reviews and use of performance information.
- Sec. 7. Transparency of Federal Government programs, priority goals, and results.
- Sec. 8. Agency Chief Operating Officers.
- Sec. 9. Agency Performance Improvement Officers and the Performance Improvement Council.

Sec. 10. Format of performance plans and reports.

Sec. 11. Reducing duplicative and outdated agency reporting.

Sec. 12. Performance management skills and competencies.

Sec. 13. Technical and conforming amendments.

Sec. 14. Implementation of this Act.

Sec. 15. Congressional oversight and legislation.

#### SEC. 2. STRATEGIC PLANNING AMENDMENTS.

Chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking section 306 and inserting the following:

#### "§ 306. Agency strategic plans

"(a) Not later than the first Monday in February of any year following the year in which the term of the President commences under section 101 of title 3, the head of each agency shall make available on the public website of the agency a strategic plan and notify the President and Congress of its availability. Such plan shall contain—

"(1) a comprehensive mission statement covering the major functions and operations of the agency;

"(2) general goals and objectives, including outcome-oriented goals, for the major functions and operations of the agency;

"(3) a description of how any goals and objectives contribute to the Federal Government priority goals required by section 1120(a) of title 31;

"(4) a description of how the goals and objectives are to be achieved, including—

"(A) a description of the operational processes, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information, and other resources required to achieve those goals and objectives; and

"(B) a description of how the agency is working with other agencies to achieve its goals and objectives as well as relevant Federal Government priority goals;

"(5) a description of how the goals and objectives incorporate views and suggestions obtained through congressional consultations required under subsection (d);

"(6) a description of how the performance goals provided in the plan required by section 1115(a) of title 31, including the agency priority goals required by section 1120(b) of title 31, if applicable, contribute to the general goals and objectives in the strategic plan;

"(7) an identification of those key factors external to the agency and beyond its control that could significantly affect the achievement of the general goals and objectives; and

"(8) a description of the program evaluations used in establishing or revising general goals and objectives, with a schedule for future program evaluations to be conducted.

"(b) The strategic plan shall cover a period of not less than 4 years following the fiscal year in which the plan is submitted. As needed, the head of the agency may make adjustments to the strategic plan to reflect significant changes in the environment in which the agency is operating, with appropriate notification of Congress.

"(c) The performance plan required by section 1115(b) of title 31 shall be consistent with the agency's strategic plan. A performance plan may not be submitted for a fiscal year not covered by a current strategic plan under this section.

"(d) When developing or making adjustments to a strategic plan, the agency shall consult periodically with the Congress, including majority and minority views from the appropriate authorizing, appropriations, and oversight committees, and shall solicit and consider the views and suggestions of those entities potentially affected by or interested in such a plan. The agency shall consult with the appropriate committees of Congress at least once every 2 years.

"(e) The functions and activities of this section shall be considered to be inherently governmental functions. The drafting of strategic plans under this section shall be performed only by Federal employees.

“(f) For purposes of this section the term ‘agency’ means an Executive agency defined under section 105, but does not include the Central Intelligence Agency, the Government Accountability Office, the United States Postal Service, and the Postal Regulatory Commission.”.

### SEC. 3. PERFORMANCE PLANNING AMENDMENTS.

Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking section 1115 and inserting the following:

#### “§1115. Federal Government and agency performance plans

“(a) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—In carrying out the provisions of section 1105(a)(28), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall coordinate with agencies to develop the Federal Government performance plan. In addition to the submission of such plan with each budget of the United States Government, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall ensure that all information required by this subsection is concurrently made available on the website provided under section 1122 and updated periodically, but no less than annually. The Federal Government performance plan shall—

“(1) establish Federal Government performance goals to define the level of performance to be achieved during the year in which the plan is submitted and the next fiscal year for each of the Federal Government priority goals required under section 1120(a) of this title;

“(2) identify the agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies, and other activities contributing to each Federal Government performance goal during the current fiscal year;

“(3) for each Federal Government performance goal, identify a lead Government official who shall be responsible for coordinating the efforts to achieve the goal;

“(4) establish common Federal Government performance indicators with quarterly targets to be used in measuring or assessing—

“(A) overall progress toward each Federal Government performance goal; and

“(B) the individual contribution of each agency, organization, program activity, regulation, tax expenditure, policy, and other activity identified under paragraph (2);

“(5) establish clearly defined quarterly milestones; and

“(6) identify major management challenges that are Governmentwide or crosscutting in nature and describe plans to address such challenges, including relevant performance goals, performance indicators, and milestones.

“(b) **AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—Not later than the first Monday in February of each year, the head of each agency shall make available on a public website of the agency, and notify the President and the Congress of its availability, a performance plan covering each program activity set forth in the budget of such agency. Such plan shall—

“(1) establish performance goals to define the level of performance to be achieved during the year in which the plan is submitted and the next fiscal year;

“(2) express such goals in an objective, quantifiable, and measurable form unless authorized to be in an alternative form under subsection (c);

“(3) describe how the performance goals contribute to—

“(A) the general goals and objectives established in the agency’s strategic plan required by section 306(a)(2) of title 5; and

“(B) any of the Federal Government performance goals established in the Federal Government performance plan required by subsection (a)(1);

“(4) identify among the performance goals those which are designated as agency priority goals as required by section 1120(b) of this title, if applicable;

“(5) provide a description of how the performance goals are to be achieved, including—

“(A) the operation processes, training, skills and technology, and the human, capital, information, and other resources and strategies required to meet those performance goals;

“(B) clearly defined milestones;

“(C) an identification of the organizations, program activities, regulations, policies, and other activities that contribute to each performance goal, both within and external to the agency;

“(D) a description of how the agency is working with other agencies to achieve its performance goals as well as relevant Federal Government performance goals; and

“(E) an identification of the agency officials responsible for the achievement of each performance goal, who shall be known as goal leaders;

“(6) establish a balanced set of performance indicators to be used in measuring or assessing progress toward each performance goal, including, as appropriate, customer service, efficiency, output, and outcome indicators;

“(7) provide a basis for comparing actual program results with the established performance goals;

“(8) a description of how the agency will ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data used to measure progress towards its performance goals, including an identification of—

“(A) the means to be used to verify and validate measured values;

“(B) the sources for the data;

“(C) the level of accuracy required for the intended use of the data;

“(D) any limitations to the data at the required level of accuracy; and

“(E) how the agency will compensate for such limitations if needed to reach the required level of accuracy;

“(9) describe major management challenges the agency faces and identify—

“(A) planned actions to address such challenges;

“(B) performance goals, performance indicators, and milestones to measure progress toward resolving such challenges; and

“(C) the agency official responsible for resolving such challenges; and

“(10) identify low-priority program activities based on an analysis of their contribution to the mission and goals of the agency and include an evidence-based justification for designating a program activity as low priority.

“(c) **ALTERNATIVE FORM.**—If an agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, determines that it is not feasible to express the performance goals for a particular program activity in an objective, quantifiable, and measurable form, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may authorize an alternative form. Such alternative form shall—

“(1) include separate descriptive statements of—

“(A)(i) a minimally effective program; and

“(ii) a successful program; or

“(B) such alternative as authorized by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, with sufficient precision and in such terms that would allow for an accurate, independent determination of whether the program activity’s performance meets the criteria of the description; or

“(2) state why it is infeasible or impractical to express a performance goal in any form for the program activity.

“(d) **TREATMENT OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**—For the purpose of complying with this section, an agency may aggregate, disaggregate, or consolidate program activities, except that any aggregation or consolidation may not omit or minimize the significance of any program activity constituting a major function or operation for the agency.

“(e) **APPENDIX.**—An agency may submit with an annual performance plan an appendix covering any portion of the plan that—

“(1) is specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy; and

“(2) is properly classified pursuant to such Executive order.

“(f) **INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS.**—The functions and activities of this section shall be considered to be inherently governmental functions. The drafting of performance plans under this section shall be performed only by Federal employees.

“(g) **CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICERS.**—With respect to each agency with a Chief Human Capital Officer, the Chief Human Capital Officer shall prepare that portion of the annual performance plan described under subsection (b)(5)(A).

“(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this section and sections 1116 through 1125, and sections 9703 and 9704, the term—

“(1) ‘agency’ has the same meaning as such term is defined under section 306(f) of title 5;

“(2) ‘crosscutting’ means across organizational (such as agency) boundaries;

“(3) ‘customer service measure’ means an assessment of service delivery to a customer, client, citizen, or other recipient, which can include an assessment of quality, timeliness, and satisfaction among other factors;

“(4) ‘efficiency measure’ means a ratio of a program activity’s inputs (such as costs or hours worked by employees) to its outputs (amount of products or services delivered) or outcomes (the desired results of a program);

“(5) ‘major management challenge’ means programs or management functions, within or across agencies, that have greater vulnerability to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement (such as issues identified by the Government Accountability Office as high risk or issues identified by an Inspector General) where a failure to perform well could seriously affect the ability of an agency or the Government to achieve its mission or goals;

“(6) ‘milestone’ means a scheduled event signifying the completion of a major deliverable or a set of related deliverables or a phase of work;

“(7) ‘outcome measure’ means an assessment of the results of a program activity compared to its intended purpose;

“(8) ‘output measure’ means the tabulation, calculation, or recording of activity or effort that can be expressed in a quantitative or qualitative manner;

“(9) ‘performance goal’ means a target level of performance expressed as a tangible, measurable objective, against which actual achievement can be compared, including a goal expressed as a quantitative standard, value, or rate;

“(10) ‘performance indicator’ means a particular value or characteristic used to measure output or outcome;

“(11) ‘program activity’ means a specific activity or project as listed in the program and financing schedules of the annual budget of the United States Government; and

“(12) ‘program evaluation’ means an assessment, through objective measurement and systematic analysis, of the manner and extent to which Federal programs achieve intended objectives.”.

### SEC. 4. PERFORMANCE REPORTING AMENDMENTS.

Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking section 1116 and inserting the following:

#### “§1116. Agency performance reporting

“(a) The head of each agency shall make available on a public website of the agency and to the Office of Management and Budget an update on agency performance.

“(b)(1) Each update shall compare actual performance achieved with the performance goals established in the agency performance plan under section 1115(b) and shall occur no less than 150 days after the end of each fiscal year,

with more frequent updates of actual performance on indicators that provide data of significant value to the Government, Congress, or program partners at a reasonable level of administrative burden.

“(2) If performance goals are specified in an alternative form under section 1115(c), the results shall be described in relation to such specifications, including whether the performance failed to meet the criteria of a minimally effective or successful program.

“(c) Each update shall—

“(1) review the success of achieving the performance goals and include actual results for the 5 preceding fiscal years;

“(2) evaluate the performance plan for the current fiscal year relative to the performance achieved toward the performance goals during the period covered by the update;

“(3) explain and describe where a performance goal has not been met (including when a program activity's performance is determined not to have met the criteria of a successful program activity under section 1115(c)(1)(A)(ii) or a corresponding level of achievement if another alternative form is used)—

“(A) why the goal was not met;

“(B) those plans and schedules for achieving the established performance goal; and

“(C) if the performance goal is impractical or infeasible, why that is the case and what action is recommended;

“(4) describe the use and assess the effectiveness in achieving performance goals of any waiver under section 9703 of this title;

“(5) include a review of the performance goals and evaluation of the performance plan relative to the agency's strategic human capital management;

“(6) describe how the agency ensures the accuracy and reliability of the data used to measure progress towards its performance goals, including an identification of—

“(A) the means used to verify and validate measured values;

“(B) the sources for the data;

“(C) the level of accuracy required for the intended use of the data;

“(D) any limitations to the data at the required level of accuracy; and

“(E) how the agency has compensated for such limitations if needed to reach the required level of accuracy; and

“(7) include the summary findings of those program evaluations completed during the period covered by the update.

“(d) If an agency performance update includes any program activity or information that is specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and is properly classified pursuant to such Executive Order, the head of the agency shall make such information available in the classified appendix provided under section 1115(e).

“(e) The functions and activities of this section shall be considered to be inherently governmental functions. The drafting of agency performance updates under this section shall be performed only by Federal employees.

“(f) Each fiscal year, the Office of Management and Budget shall determine whether the agency programs or activities meet performance goals and objectives outlined in the agency performance plans and submit a report on unmet goals to—

“(1) the head of the agency;

“(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(3) the Committee on Oversight and Governmental Reform of the House of Representatives; and

“(4) the Government Accountability Office.

“(g) If an agency's programs or activities have not met performance goals as determined by the Office of Management and Budget for 1 fiscal year, the head of the agency shall submit a performance improvement plan to the Office of

Management and Budget to increase program effectiveness for each unmet goal with measurable milestones. The agency shall designate a senior official who shall oversee the performance improvement strategies for each unmet goal.

“(h)(1) If the Office of Management and Budget determines that agency programs or activities have unmet performance goals for 2 consecutive fiscal years, the head of the agency shall—

“(A) submit to Congress a description of the actions the Administration will take to improve performance, including proposed statutory changes or planned executive actions; and

“(B) describe any additional funding the agency will obligate to achieve the goal, if such an action is determined appropriate in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, for an amount determined appropriate by the Director.

“(2) In providing additional funding described under paragraph (1)(B), the head of the agency shall use any reprogramming or transfer authority available to the agency. If after exercising such authority additional funding is necessary to achieve the level determined appropriate by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the head of the agency shall submit a request to Congress for additional reprogramming or transfer authority.

“(i) If an agency's programs or activities have not met performance goals as determined by the Office of Management and Budget for 3 consecutive fiscal years, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit recommendations to Congress on actions to improve performance not later than 60 days after that determination, including—

“(1) reauthorization proposals for each program or activity that has not met performance goals;

“(2) proposed statutory changes necessary for the program activities to achieve the proposed level of performance on each performance goal; and

“(3) planned executive actions or identification of the program for termination or reduction in the President's budget.”

#### **SEC. 5. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY PRIORITY GOALS.**

Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 1119 the following:

##### **“§ 1120. Federal Government and agency priority goals**

“(a) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITY GOALS.**—

“(1) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall coordinate with agencies to develop priority goals to improve the performance and management of the Federal Government. Such Federal Government priority goals shall include—

“(A) outcome-oriented goals covering a limited number of crosscutting policy areas; and

“(B) goals for management improvements needed across the Federal Government, including—

“(i) financial management;

“(ii) human capital management;

“(iii) information technology management;

“(iv) procurement and acquisition management; and

“(v) real property management;

“(2) The Federal Government priority goals shall be long-term in nature. At a minimum, the Federal Government priority goals shall be updated or revised every 4 years and made publicly available concurrently with the submission of the budget of the United States Government made in the first full fiscal year following any year in which the term of the President commences under section 101 of title 3. As needed, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may make adjustments to the Federal Government priority goals to reflect significant

changes in the environment in which the Federal Government is operating, with appropriate notification of Congress.

“(3) When developing or making adjustments to Federal Government priority goals, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall consult periodically with the Congress, including obtaining majority and minority views from—

“(A) the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

“(B) the Committees on the Budget of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

“(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives;

“(E) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

“(F) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

“(G) any other committees as determined appropriate;

“(4) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall consult with the appropriate committees of Congress at least once every 2 years.

“(5) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall make information about the Federal Government priority goals available on the website described under section 1122 of this title.

“(6) The Federal Government performance plan required under section 1115(a) of this title shall be consistent with the Federal Government priority goals.

##### **“(b) AGENCY PRIORITY GOALS.—**

“(1) Every 2 years, the head of each agency listed in section 901(b) of this title, or as otherwise determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall identify agency priority goals from among the performance goals of the agency. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall determine the total number of agency priority goals across the Government, and the number to be developed by each agency. The agency priority goals shall—

“(A) reflect the highest priorities of the agency, as determined by the head of the agency and informed by the Federal Government priority goals provided under subsection (a) and the consultations with Congress and other interested parties required by section 306(d) of title 5;

“(B) have ambitious targets that can be achieved within a 2-year period;

“(C) have a clearly identified agency official, known as a goal leader, who is responsible for the achievement of each agency priority goal;

“(D) have interim quarterly targets for performance indicators if more frequent updates of actual performance provides data of significant value to the Government, Congress, or program partners at a reasonable level of administrative burden; and

“(E) have clearly defined quarterly milestones.

“(2) If an agency priority goal includes any program activity or information that is specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and is properly classified pursuant to such Executive order, the head of the agency shall make such information available in the classified appendix provided under section 1115(e).

“(c) The functions and activities of this section shall be considered to be inherently governmental functions. The development of Federal Government and agency priority goals shall be performed only by Federal employees.”

#### **SEC. 6. QUARTERLY PRIORITY PROGRESS REVIEWS AND USE OF PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.**

Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 1120 (as added by section 5 of this Act) the following:

##### **“§ 1121. Quarterly priority progress reviews and use of performance information**

“(a) **USE OF PERFORMANCE INFORMATION TO ACHIEVE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITY**

**GOALS.**—Not less than quarterly, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, with the support of the Performance Improvement Council, shall—

“(1) for each Federal Government priority goal required by section 1120(a) of this title, review with the appropriate lead Government official the progress achieved during the most recent quarter, overall trend data, and the likelihood of meeting the planned level of performance;

“(2) include in such reviews officials from the agencies, organizations, and program activities that contribute to the accomplishment of each Federal Government priority goal;

“(3) assess whether agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies, and other activities are contributing as planned to each Federal Government priority goal;

“(4) categorize the Federal Government priority goals by risk of not achieving the planned level of performance; and

“(5) for the Federal Government priority goals at greatest risk of not meeting the planned level of performance, identify prospects and strategies for performance improvement, including any needed changes to agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies or other activities.

“(b) **AGENCY USE OF PERFORMANCE INFORMATION TO ACHIEVE AGENCY PRIORITY GOALS.**—Not less than quarterly, at each agency required to develop agency priority goals required by section 1120(b) of this title, the head of the agency and Chief Operating Officer, with the support of the agency Performance Improvement Officer, shall—

“(1) for each agency priority goal, review with the appropriate goal leader the progress achieved during the most recent quarter, overall trend data, and the likelihood of meeting the planned level of performance;

“(2) coordinate with relevant personnel within and outside the agency who contribute to the accomplishment of each agency priority goal;

“(3) assess whether relevant organizations, program activities, regulations, policies, and other activities are contributing as planned to the agency priority goals;

“(4) categorize agency priority goals by risk of not achieving the planned level of performance; and

“(5) for agency priority goals at greatest risk of not meeting the planned level of performance, identify prospects and strategies for performance improvement, including any needed changes to agency program activities, regulations, policies, or other activities.”.

#### **SEC. 7. TRANSPARENCY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, PRIORITY GOALS, AND RESULTS.**

Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 1121 (as added by section 6 of this Act) the following:

##### **“§ 1122. Transparency of programs, priority goals, and results**

“(a) **TRANSPARENCY OF AGENCY PROGRAMS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than October 1, 2012, the Office of Management and Budget shall—

“(A) ensure the effective operation of a single website;

“(B) at a minimum, update the website on a quarterly basis; and

“(C) include on the website information about each program identified by the agencies.

“(2) **INFORMATION.**—Information for each program described under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) an identification of how the agency defines the term ‘program’, consistent with guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, including the program activities that are aggregated, disaggregated, or consolidated to be considered a program by the agency;

“(B) a description of the purposes of the program and the contribution of the program to the mission and goals of the agency; and

“(C) an identification of funding for the current fiscal year and previous 2 fiscal years.

“(b) **TRANSPARENCY OF AGENCY PRIORITY GOALS AND RESULTS.**—The head of each agency required to develop agency priority goals shall make information about each agency priority goal available to the Office of Management and Budget for publication on the website, with the exception of any information covered by section 1120(b)(2) of this title. In addition to an identification of each agency priority goal, the website shall also consolidate information about each agency priority goal, including—

“(1) a description of how the agency incorporated any views and suggestions obtained through congressional consultations about the agency priority goal;

“(2) an identification of key factors external to the agency and beyond its control that could significantly affect the achievement of the agency priority goal;

“(3) a description of how each agency priority goal will be achieved, including—

“(A) the strategies and resources required to meet the priority goal;

“(B) clearly defined milestones;

“(C) the organizations, program activities, regulations, policies, and other activities that contribute to each goal, both within and external to the agency;

“(D) how the agency is working with other agencies to achieve the goal; and

“(E) an identification of the agency official responsible for achieving the priority goal;

“(4) the performance indicators to be used in measuring or assessing progress;

“(5) a description of how the agency ensures the accuracy and reliability of the data used to measure progress towards the priority goal, including an identification of—

“(A) the means used to verify and validate measured values;

“(B) the sources for the data;

“(C) the level of accuracy required for the intended use of the data;

“(D) any limitations to the data at the required level of accuracy; and

“(E) how the agency has compensated for such limitations if needed to reach the required level of accuracy;

“(6) the results achieved during the most recent quarter and overall trend data compared to the planned level of performance;

“(7) an assessment of whether relevant organizations, program activities, regulations, policies, and other activities are contributing as planned;

“(8) an identification of the agency priority goals at risk of not achieving the planned level of performance; and

“(9) any prospects or strategies for performance improvement.

“(c) **TRANSPARENCY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITY GOALS AND RESULTS.**—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall also make available on the website—

“(1) a brief description of each of the Federal Government priority goals required by section 1120(a) of this title;

“(2) a description of how the Federal Government priority goals incorporate views and suggestions obtained through congressional consultations;

“(3) the Federal Government performance goals and performance indicators associated with each Federal Government priority goal as required by section 1115(a) of this title;

“(4) an identification of the lead Government official for each Federal Government performance goal;

“(5) the results achieved during the most recent quarter and overall trend data compared to the planned level of performance;

“(6) an identification of the agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax ex-

penditures, policies, and other activities that contribute to each Federal Government priority goal;

“(7) an assessment of whether relevant agencies, organizations, program activities, regulations, tax expenditures, policies, and other activities are contributing as planned;

“(8) an identification of the Federal Government priority goals at risk of not achieving the planned level of performance; and

“(9) any prospects or strategies for performance improvement.

“(d) **INFORMATION ON WEBSITE.**—The information made available on the website under this section shall be readily accessible and easily found on the Internet by the public and members and committees of Congress. Such information shall also be presented in a searchable, machine-readable format. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to ensure that such information is provided in a way that presents a coherent picture of all Federal programs, and the performance of the Federal Government as well as individual agencies.”.

#### **SEC. 8. AGENCY CHIEF OPERATING OFFICERS.**

Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 1122 (as added by section 7 of this Act) the following:

##### **“§ 1123. Chief Operating Officers**

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—At each agency, the deputy head of agency, or equivalent, shall be the Chief Operating Officer of the agency.

“(b) **FUNCTION.**—Each Chief Operating Officer shall be responsible for improving the management and performance of the agency, and shall—

“(1) provide overall organization management to improve agency performance and achieve the mission and goals of the agency through the use of strategic and performance planning, measurement, analysis, regular assessment of progress, and use of performance information to improve the results achieved;

“(2) advise and assist the head of agency in carrying out the requirements of sections 1115 through 1122 of this title and section 306 of title 5;

“(3) oversee agency-specific efforts to improve management functions within the agency and across Government; and

“(4) coordinate and collaborate with relevant personnel within and external to the agency who have a significant role in contributing to and achieving the mission and goals of the agency, such as the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Human Capital Officer, Chief Acquisition Officer/Senior Procurement Executive, Chief Information Officer, and other line of business chiefs at the agency.”.

#### **SEC. 9. AGENCY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICERS AND THE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL.**

Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding after section 1123 (as added by section 8 of this Act) the following:

##### **“§ 1124. Performance Improvement Officers and the Performance Improvement Council**

“(a) **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICERS.**—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—At each agency, the head of the agency, in consultation with the agency Chief Operating Officer, shall designate a senior executive of the agency as the agency Performance Improvement Officer.

“(2) **FUNCTION.**—Each Performance Improvement Officer shall report directly to the Chief Operating Officer. Subject to the direction of the Chief Operating Officer, each Performance Improvement Officer shall—

“(A) advise and assist the head of the agency and the Chief Operating Officer to ensure that the mission and goals of the agency are achieved through strategic and performance planning, measurement, analysis, regular assessment of progress, and use of performance information to improve the results achieved;

“(B) advise the head of the agency and the Chief Operating Officer on the selection of agency goals, including opportunities to collaborate with other agencies on common goals;

“(C) assist the head of the agency and the Chief Operating Officer in overseeing the implementation of the agency strategic planning, performance planning, and reporting requirements provided under sections 1115 through 1122 of this title and sections 306 of title 5, including the contributions of the agency to the Federal Government priority goals;

“(D) support the head of agency and the Chief Operating Officer in the conduct of regular reviews of agency performance, including at least quarterly reviews of progress achieved toward agency priority goals, if applicable;

“(E) assist the head of the agency and the Chief Operating Officer in the development and use within the agency of performance measures in personnel performance appraisals, and, as appropriate, other agency personnel and planning processes and assessments; and

“(F) ensure that agency progress toward the achievement of all goals is communicated to leaders, managers, and employees in the agency and Congress, and made available on a public website of the agency.

“(b) PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Performance Improvement Council, consisting of—

“(A) the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget, who shall act as chairperson of the Council;

“(B) the Performance Improvement Officer from each agency defined in section 901(b) of this title;

“(C) other Performance Improvement Officers as determined appropriate by the chairperson; and

“(D) other individuals as determined appropriate by the chairperson.

“(2) FUNCTION.—The Performance Improvement Council shall—

“(A) be convened by the chairperson or the designee of the chairperson, who shall preside at the meetings of the Performance Improvement Council, determine its agenda, direct its work, and establish and direct subgroups of the Performance Improvement Council, as appropriate, to deal with particular subject matters;

“(B) assist the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to improve the performance of the Federal Government and achieve the Federal Government priority goals;

“(C) assist the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in implementing the planning, reporting, and use of performance information requirements related to the Federal Government priority goals provided under sections 1115, 1120, 1121, and 1122 of this title;

“(D) work to resolve specific Governmentwide or crosscutting performance issues, as necessary;

“(E) facilitate the exchange among agencies of practices that have led to performance improvements within specific programs, agencies, or across agencies;

“(F) coordinate with other interagency management councils;

“(G) seek advice and information as appropriate from nonmember agencies, particularly smaller agencies;

“(H) consider the performance improvement experiences of corporations, nonprofit organizations, foreign, State, and local governments, Government employees, public sector unions, and customers of Government services;

“(I) receive such assistance, information and advice from agencies as the Council may request, which agencies shall provide to the extent permitted by law; and

“(J) develop and submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or when appropriate to the President through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, at times and in such formats as the chairperson may specify, recommendations to streamline and

improve performance management policies and requirements.

“(3) SUPPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide administrative and other support for the Council to implement this section.

“(B) PERSONNEL.—The heads of agencies with Performance Improvement Officers serving on the Council shall, as appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, provide at the request of the chairperson of the Performance Improvement Council up to 2 personnel authorizations to serve at the direction of the chairperson.”.

## SEC. 10. FORMAT OF PERFORMANCE PLANS AND REPORTS.

(a) SEARCHABLE, MACHINE-READABLE PLANS AND REPORTS.—For fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter, each agency required to produce strategic plans, performance plans, and performance updates in accordance with the amendments made by this Act shall—

(1) not incur expenses for the printing of strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reports for release external to the agency, except when providing such documents to the Congress;

(2) produce such plans and reports in searchable, machine-readable formats; and

(3) make such plans and reports available on the website described under section 1122 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) WEB-BASED PERFORMANCE PLANNING AND REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 1, 2012, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to agencies to provide concise and timely performance information for publication on the website described under section 1122 of title 31, United States Code, including, at a minimum, all requirements of sections 1115 and 1116 of title 31, United States Code, except for section 1115(e).

(2) HIGH-PRIORITY GOALS.—For agencies required to develop agency priority goals under section 1120(b) of title 31, United States Code, the performance information required under this section shall be merged with the existing information required under section 1122 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing guidance under this subsection, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall take into consideration the experiences of agencies in making consolidated performance planning and reporting information available on the website as required under section 1122 of title 31, United States Code.

## SEC. 11. REDUCING DUPLICATIVE AND OUTDATED AGENCY REPORTING.

(a) BUDGET CONTENTS.—Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating second paragraph (33) as paragraph (35); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(37) the list of plans and reports, as provided for under section 1125, that agencies identified for elimination or consolidation because the plans and reports are determined outdated or duplicative of other required plans and reports.”.

(b) ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY AGENCY REPORTING.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is further amended by adding after section 1124 (as added by section 9 of this Act) the following:

### “§1125. Elimination of unnecessary agency reporting

“(a) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY REPORTS.—Annually, based on guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chief Operating Officer at each agency shall—

“(1) compile a list that identifies all plans and reports the agency produces for Congress, in accordance with statutory requirements or as directed in congressional reports;

“(2) analyze the list compiled under paragraph (1), identify which plans and reports are outdated or duplicative of other required plans and reports, and refine the list to include only the plans and reports identified to be outdated or duplicative;

“(3) consult with the congressional committees that receive the plans and reports identified under paragraph (2) to determine whether those plans and reports are no longer useful to the committees and could be eliminated or consolidated with other plans and reports; and

“(4) provide a total count of plans and reports compiled under paragraph (1) and the list of outdated and duplicative reports identified under paragraph (2) to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(b) PLANS AND REPORTS.—

“(1) FIRST YEAR.—During the first year of implementation of this section, the list of plans and reports identified by each agency as outdated or duplicative shall be not less than 10 percent of all plans and reports identified under subsection (a)(1).

“(2) SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—In each year following the first year described under paragraph (1), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall determine the minimum percent of plans and reports to be identified as outdated or duplicative on each list of plans and reports.

“(c) REQUEST FOR ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY REPORTS.—In addition to including the list of plans and reports determined to be outdated or duplicative by each agency in the budget of the United States Government, as provided by section 1105(a)(37), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may concurrently submit to Congress legislation to eliminate or consolidate such plans and reports.”.

## SEC. 12. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES.

(a) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Performance Improvement Council, shall identify the key skills and competencies needed by Federal Government personnel for developing goals, evaluating programs, and analyzing and using performance information for the purpose of improving Government efficiency and effectiveness.

(b) POSITION CLASSIFICATIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, based on the identifications under subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall incorporate, as appropriate, such key skills and competencies into relevant position classifications.

(c) INCORPORATION INTO EXISTING AGENCY TRAINING.—Not later than 2 years after the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall work with each agency, as defined under section 306(f) of title 5, United States Code, to incorporate the key skills identified under subsection (a) into training for relevant employees at each agency.

## SEC. 13. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) The table of contents for chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 306 and inserting the following:

“306. Agency strategic plans.”.

(b) The table of contents for chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to section 1115 and 1116 and inserting the following:

“1115. Federal Government and agency performance plans.

“1116. Agency performance reporting.”.

(c) The table of contents for chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1120. Federal Government and agency priority goals.

- "1121. Quarterly priority progress reviews and use of performance information.  
 "1122. Transparency of programs, priority goals, and results.  
 "1123. Chief Operating Officers.  
 "1124. Performance Improvement Officers and the Performance Improvement Council.  
 "1125. Elimination of unnecessary agency reporting."

#### SEC. 14. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.

(a) INTERIM PLANNING AND REPORTING.—  
 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall coordinate with agencies to develop interim Federal Government priority goals and submit interim Federal Government performance plans consistent with the requirements of this Act beginning with the submission of the fiscal year 2013 Budget of the United States Government.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each agency shall—  
 (A) not later than February 6, 2012, make adjustments to its strategic plan to make the plan consistent with the requirements of this Act;

(B) prepare and submit performance plans consistent with the requirements of this Act, including the identification of agency priority goals, beginning with the performance plan for fiscal year 2013; and

(C) make performance reporting updates consistent with the requirements of this Act beginning in fiscal year 2012.

(3) QUARTERLY REVIEWS.—The quarterly priority progress reviews required under this Act shall begin—

(A) with the first full quarter beginning on or after the date of enactment of this Act for agencies based on the agency priority goals contained in the Analytical Perspectives volume of the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget of the United States Government; and

(B) with the quarter ending June 30, 2012 for the interim Federal Government priority goals.

(b) GUIDANCE.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prepare guidance for agencies in carrying out the interim planning and reporting activities required under subsection (a), in addition to other guidance as required for implementation of this Act.

#### SEC. 15. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT AND LEGISLATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting the ability of Congress to establish, amend, suspend, or annul a goal of the Federal Government or an agency.

(b) GAO REVIEWS.—

(1) INTERIM PLANNING AND REPORTING EVALUATION.—Not later than June 30, 2013, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress that includes—

(A) an evaluation of the implementation of the interim planning and reporting activities conducted under section 14 of this Act; and

(B) any recommendations for improving implementation of this Act as determined appropriate.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION EVALUATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General shall evaluate the implementation of this Act subsequent to the interim planning and reporting activities evaluated in the report submitted to Congress under paragraph (1).

(B) AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION.—

(i) EVALUATIONS.—The Comptroller General shall evaluate how implementation of this Act is affecting performance management at the agencies described in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code, including whether performance management is being used by those agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agency programs.

(ii) REPORTS.—The Comptroller General shall submit to Congress—

(I) an initial report on the evaluation under clause (i), not later than September 30, 2015; and  
 (II) a subsequent report on the evaluation under clause (i), not later than September 30, 2017.

(C) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING AND REPORTING IMPLEMENTATION.—

(i) EVALUATIONS.—The Comptroller General shall evaluate the implementation of the Federal Government priority goals, Federal Government performance plans and related reporting required by this Act.

(ii) REPORTS.—The Comptroller General shall submit to Congress—

(I) an initial report on the evaluation under clause (i), not later than September 30, 2015; and  
 (II) subsequent reports on the evaluation under clause (i), not later than September 30, 2017 and every 4 years thereafter.

(D) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Comptroller General shall include in the reports required by subparagraphs (B) and (C) any recommendations for improving implementation of this Act and for streamlining the planning and reporting requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

First of all, I want to thank Government Oversight Committee Chairman ED TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA. We worked on this legislation together to address a bill that I believe will be important for the Congress to strengthen its oversight over the executive branch. If we don't pass this, Congress will not be in a strong position to provide legislative oversight. I think everybody agrees that every Member of Congress should do everything to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending. In order to eliminate Federal Government waste, we must know which Federal agencies and programs are working and which are not. We need to examine data of performance efficiency at Federal agencies in order to make responsible budgetary decisions. We need the Senate amendment to H.R. 2142, the Government Performance Results Modernization Act of 2010. The concept is not complicated. We can cut down on the debt by cutting down on waste. With greater government efficiency, we can produce cost savings for every American taxpayer.

This bill will shine light on ineffective Federal programs to root out wasteful spending. Federal agencies are supposed to clearly identify ambitious, high-priority goals and assess their performance and effectiveness to evaluate its direct impact on the American people and the government. This will provide the needed information to make informed budgetary decisions. It also eliminates duplicative, outdated, and unused reporting. In the first year, all old-fashioned, ineffective reporting

will be eliminated by 10 percent. And we will continue to streamline across the board. It requires OMB and agencies to submit recommendations to Congress about how to improve the reporting process. This eliminates stacks of unused performance reports that nobody reads or uses at this time. It also heightens transparency to generate government credibility. The information generated will be easily accessible and made publicly available to Congress and the American people.

□ 0930

It also increases government accountability. Federal agencies are held accountable by requiring all agencies to conduct quarterly performance reports on how effectively they are working to meet their goals and to make sure that there is government accountability, and, therefore, we have government accountability. This will lead to government credibility also.

It elevates the role of agencies to bring accountability. Instead of paper-pushing across government, the deputy secretary or chief operating officer is held accountable for the effectiveness and success of the agency. This puts a face and a name to performance of agencies and programs. It creates a mechanism to penalize agencies that fail to meet goals.

This was an amendment that Senator COBURN added over there on the Senate side, and on the Senate side we worked with Senator MARK WARNER, and so I want to thank him, JOE LIEBERMAN, and Senator AKAKA. But we worked closely with Senator COLLINS, Senator VOINOVICH, and Senator COBURN, who added an amendment, the amendment that creates this mechanism to penalize agencies that don't meet its goals. And we at the last minute spoke to Senator JEFF SESSIONS about this particular bill, and this bill got the support. As you know, it was UC'd. It passed unanimously in the Senate yesterday with the input of our Republican colleagues on the Senate side.

The amendment that Senator COBURN added creates a mechanism to penalize agencies that fail to meet goals. Which means, if an agency program has not met its performance goals for a fiscal year, this bill will require action, and this will ensure the goals are met and actively pursued throughout the year.

The bottom line is, this will allow us to provide legislative oversight over the executive branch. Whether it is a Democratic or a Republican President, this is something we need to do. The American taxpayers deserve a government that is transparent, efficient, and accountable, and I ask Members to support H.R. 2142.

We do have Republican colleagues in the Congress here that, when we passed this bill unanimously from the House floor some months ago, we had Republicans that cosponsored this.

So at this time, I would ask Members to support H.R. 2142.

I reserve the balance of my time.



Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I will be brief.

Mr. CUELLAR, you have been a good Member. You have worked hard on this. We worked together on this.

When this number left the House, it was a different bill. In the first hour of the new Congress, I intend on working hard to bring up a bill that looks more like your original bill, has some additional learning experiences, and try to bring it back as quickly as possible.

I cannot support your bill today. This is not the bill that left the House. It is also a bill that still has \$75 million not paid for.

But it's not the \$75 million. As much as we talked about paid-for and PAYGO and offset and how do we do things, our real problem here today is that, as it came back from the Senate, it looks an awful lot like somebody just picked up your number and redid your bill.

Now, I know you want this, and you deserve it for the hard work you did. But this bill is simply a series of mandates that codifies a management style that needs no legislation. This legislation does not create something that the President cannot and is not already doing.

We, in Congress, want goal-setting. Historically, we look to OMB, and that goal-setting is intended to be objective, to hold agencies to standards determined not just by their own agency. As the bill is written today, basically, an agency sets its own goals, announces its own goals, and OMB has a secondary role. This does not create a real requirement for performance-based program analysis. The bill that left with an amendment that you very much helped carve, and we did it together, would have done that.

I don't like the idea that, in the day after the day after the day after we probably should have long gone home but we are waiting for the CR, that they bring something on suspension. Given a few days of regular order, given one round-trip to the committee, we could change this. But if we changed it, of course we would be back with the Senate, which UC'd a completely different bill than the one you worked so hard on.

It might pass today, but it won't have my vote, my support, and I will urge and am urging all the Members on both sides of the aisle to defeat the bill, not because you don't deserve a bill with your name on it on this subject. You have worked hard. But because this isn't the bill that you deserve to have become law.

I know you are leaving Congress. You are a good Member who has worked hard on our committee, and I thank you for that. And I promise you, starting January 5, we will work together with you, if you will donate the time, to do the bill you wanted to do. And that, I guarantee you, will be my first priority, if it is not passed today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds all Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the ranking member, who will be the chairman of Government Oversight. I want to thank him and his staff, because we did work on this together.

It went over to the Senate. We were trying to move it over here as quickly as possible. The Senators did make some changes, but the biggest change, I believe, was to reduce the cost. Because, you recall, it was an authorization of \$150 million, got cut in half to \$75 million, which means that the agencies will be absorbing this cost, so it won't cost any appropriations, number one.

Number two, I believe one of the major amendments was Senator COBURN from Oklahoma, who basically put the teeth on requiring Congress and OMB to take action if an agency or a program doesn't meet those performance goals.

So, again, I respectfully disagree with you on that. But I believe the amendments that Senator COBURN added are actually good, because it does add the teeth or the mechanism to enforce if an agency doesn't do its job by meeting those goals.

I do want to thank again the ranking member and the chairman, also, and the staff on both sides, the Republican staff and our side. We worked on this bill, because this is a bill that Mr. ISSA and I believe strongly in, and TODD PLATTS, also. So I want to say thank you for the work that we are doing. And hopefully we can work on other items. If not, we will be working together on this bill again. But I do want to say thank you for the work that Members on both sides of the aisle have done.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think we've both said what comes from our heart. We're losing a good Member who worked hard on our committee. This is not a good bill. This is not the bill he would have done. So I respectfully ask all Members to vote "no" on this. I will vote "no" not because of the author and not because of his effort, but because it simply isn't good enough.

If we are going to spend even \$75 million on new mandates, we have a standard that has to be a standard of excellence, a standard that truly makes improvements, and a standard that in fact does not simply allow the President to do what he already has the power to do. We can do this in the next Congress. We will do this.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I express my interest in working with members of the committee now and members of the committee in the future to fashion a bill with this same name, and, if I'm allowed, even the same number, so that we can pass it in its original form or in

an improved form in the next Congress. I reluctantly say we must oppose this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. I again thank the ranking member. I urge all Members to support H.R. 2142, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 2142.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. ISSA. 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.

□ 0940

#### RECOGNIZING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1621) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the historic founding of Catholic Charities USA.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1621

Whereas Catholic Charities USA was founded in 1910 on the campus of Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, as the National Conference of Catholic Charities;

Whereas under the leadership of Msgr. John O'Grady, who served as Executive Secretary from 1920 to 1961, the National Conference of Catholic Charities became a leading voice for compassionate social reforms grounded in Catholic teachings;

Whereas in 1986, the National Conference of Catholic Charities changed its name to Catholic Charities USA;

Whereas this year, 2010, Catholic Charities USA is celebrating its centennial anniversary;

Whereas Catholic Charities USA is the national office for over 1,700 local Catholic Charities agencies and institutions nationwide;

Whereas Catholic Charities' mission is to provide service to people in need, to advocate for justice in social structures, and to call people of goodwill to do the same by working with individuals, families, and communities to help them meet their needs, address their issues, eliminate oppression, and build a just and compassionate society;

Whereas Catholic Charities USA has the goal of providing strong leadership and support to assist local diocesan agencies in their efforts to reduce poverty, support families, and empower communities;

Whereas Catholic Charities USA, inspired by Catholic teachings, maintain programs focused on poverty in the United States, parenthood, immigration, human trafficking, disaster response and relief, and climate change;