

Job Corps by \$300 million and eliminate any advance funding appropriated in FY 2010 for use in FY 2011, resulting in a \$900 million cut to the program. These cuts will force the closure of 75 out of 124 Job Corps centers, the loss of over 21,000 jobs, and leave 36,000 at-risk-youth without the mentoring and educational services of Job Corps, and;

Hispanic Serving Institutions by \$100 million, leaving many outstanding universities without the needed funds to educate and prepare the fastest growing demographic group in the country.

Every child deserves a quality education. H.R. 1 threatens America's progress and vision to remain competitive in the global arena. While the deficit should be a top priority, I urge my colleagues to ensure that this bill provides schools and universities the necessary resources to prepare our students for the future.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak against language in the underlying bill that would prevent HUD from spending money on a Sustainable Communities Initiative. The language in the bill would end a very successful HUD program that has helped communities plan for growth and halt a successful partnership between HUD, DOT, and EPA that promotes redevelopment and new transportation infrastructure. Secretaries Donovan, LaHood, and Administrator Jackson and their agencies have spent the last year cutting red tape and coordinating investments to meet multiple economic, environmental, and community objectives. Northern Virginia is already benefitting from these investments, by winning a TIGER grant to expand bus service dramatically, including in the congested I-95 and Route 7 corridors. The Sustainable Communities Initiative actually represents a conservative principle, because it emulates long-standing efforts by developers and local governments around the country. In Northern Virginia, Fairfax and Arlington counties have led the way with Transit Oriented Development years before the Federal Government figured it out. In Northern Virginia, developers led the way with visionary replanning proposals for Tysons Corner Center Mall, Merrifield Town Center, and numerous other Transit-Oriented Development proposals. These grants go to communities all around the country, large and small, urban and rural. The interest in these has been extraordinary. In 2010, when HUD announced their challenge grants, to be awarded jointly with DOT, a total of 630 communities requested \$1.2 billion in funding. HUD was able to award 61 grants worth \$69 million. HUD's sustainable communities re-

gional planning grants were as popular: 225 regions applied for \$450 million, and HUD was able to award 45 regions a total of \$98 million. It is high time the Federal Government emulated our local efforts in Northern Virginia, and I therefore strongly oppose Republican efforts to repeal this program and prevent federal support of our local programs.

HONORING VERN MOSS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Madera County Supervisor Vern Moss on his retirement from the Madera County Board of Supervisors; and to thank him for his dedicated, life-long spirit of community service.

Vern Moss was the first child of hard working parents who set an example Vern would adhere to his whole life. Vern grew up working in the fields picking cotton and cutting grapes. After graduating high school and briefly attending the College of the Sequoias, Vern enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1963.

Vern served honorably in both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army before his retirement in 1983 as a Lieutenant Colonel. His military service included a tour in Vietnam as the Executive Officer of the MACV 16, and an assignment to the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. For his service, he has received countless honors, including a Bronze Star. During his military service, he earned a Bachelors and a Masters Degree.

In addition to a long and successful career in the banking industry, Vern has participated actively in his community. He served twice as the Mayor of Chowchilla, as well as President of the Chowchilla Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce. The Chowchilla Chamber of Commerce has named him Citizen of the Year and Business Person of the Year. During his three terms as a member of the Madera County Board of Supervisors, Vern committed his time to various commissions and projects aimed at improving the life and welfare of Madera County citizens. While his retirement is well-deserved, his dedicated leadership on the Board of Supervisors will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Madera County Supervisor Vern Moss on his retirement and wishing him the best of luck and health as he moves on from this role.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, our country is in deep fiscal trouble, and cutting wasteful or

low-priority spending is part of getting back to fiscal balance. But there is nothing low-priority about the firefighters who protect our communities, our families, and our homes. It is another example of Republicans' short-sighted and reckless approach to cutting spending that they are willing to take 2,400 firefighters off of the streets by passing this spending bill. To prevent that blow to public safety, I support Rep. PASCRELL's amendment, which would protect funding for the vital FIRE and SAFER grant programs.

FIRE and SAFER help fire departments across America recruit, train, and retain skilled firefighters, and help departments equip them with the up-to-date tools they need to protect property and save lives. These grant programs have helped our community firefighters afford protective equipment that helps them enter burning buildings, backup power generators that keep their stations running during emergencies, and full staffing, so that fire departments are not sitting empty or underprepared when disasters strike. In an independent study, the U.S. Fire Administration found that grants like these are making fire departments across the country more prepared for emergencies, and better equipped to do their job.

The Republican spending bill would not only cost us the jobs of thousands of public servants who risk their lives for our safety—it would put communities across the country at greater risk. I urge my colleagues to pass this amendment and restore these vital investments in public safety.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the dangerous and irresponsible cuts to the State and Foreign Operations budget. This short-sighted budget slashing generates petty savings at the expense of America's long-term national security and economic growth.

There are no two ways about it: Our national security depends on investments in development, diplomacy, and defense. As Department of Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said, "The challenges confronting our nation can't be dealt with by military means alone." But this legislation and many of the amendments to it are tone deaf to this common sense.

Mr. Speaker, this fiscal negligence will come back to haunt us if we cripple our efforts to prevent conflict, promote rule of law, and support the creation of stable allies.

I am particularly upset that the Peace Corps, one of our government's most cost-effective tools of peacebuilding, is slashed by \$70 million. Do you know what Peace Corps could do with that money? Send 1,400 Americans to high-priority countries in the Middle

East, Africa, and around the globe to work on critical projects like education, agricultural development, and HIV/AIDS relief, while promoting goodwill towards America.

Similarly, I am concerned about amendments to defund the U.S. Institute of Peace. Our country is fighting a multi-billion dollar war. And as General Petraeus affirmed, USIP works closely with the military in both Afghanistan and Iraq to promote on-the-ground peacebuilding efforts and bring an end to conflict. Yet, as my colleagues propose to increase funding for the war, some have also proposed to eliminate funding for USIP, the only independent government actor that is dedicated solely to conflict prevention and resolution. That makes absolutely no economic sense.

Rather than make smart investments in civilian instruments of security, this bill and a lot of the amendments to it cut many other excellent foreign assistance programs with strong returns on investment. These include international family planning, poverty and infectious disease alleviation, and the Inter-American Foundation.

As Secretary Gates said, "Development is a lot cheaper than sending in soldiers." If we want to be better stewards of taxpayer dollars, then why are we ripping resources away from the low-cost, high-return international programs that create strategic alliances and prevent multi-billion dollar wars?

The foreign aid budget is less than two percent of our total federal budget. This boils down to about \$126 per American. That's about \$100 bucks less than an army service uniform. So, for just \$126 a head, America remains the beacon of democracy in the world. Now, that makes good economic sense.

Our job in this body is to serve the American people. But what kind of public servants are we if we vote to jeopardize America's national security so we can save a few bucks this year?

These cuts to foreign assistance masquerade as fiscal responsibility. But the reality is that this is a short-sighted proposal that endangers our long-term security, stability, and economic health. I strongly oppose this misguided legislation.

THE CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND ENHANCEMENT AMENDMENTS OF 2011

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have reintroduced a bill to enhance and reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. In the 111th Congress, I sponsored this legislation as H.R. 860, the "Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2009", which the House of Representatives passed by voice vote on September 22, 2009. The bill I have introduced today, with 12 of my colleagues, strengthens H.R. 860 without changing its original intent.

The conservation of coral reef ecosystems is essential to protect public health, ensure environmental sustainability, support thousands of American jobs, and guarantee the long-term

economic progress of coastal regions across the nation. United States waters contain some of the world's greatest coral reef biodiversity. From the waters off the coast of Guam and islands in the Pacific, to Florida and the U.S. Territories in the Caribbean, our reefs provide habitat and shelter for fisheries and food and recreation for our residents. These ecosystems also protect us from storm waves and are the basis for marine tourism industries.

Today, however, our coral reefs, and the numerous ecosystem services that they provide, are under threat from pollution, climate change, and overharvesting, among others stressors. Unless the United States acts in conjunction with the global community to support focused, long-term action on coral reef education, research, and management, the state of our coral reefs will continue to deteriorate.

Since its enactment, the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 has sparked a greater commitment to protect, conserve, and restore coral reef resources within our waters. We now have improved our understanding of the condition of our coral reefs, and have better focused our management capabilities. The Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2011 would further strengthen the original legislation by improving the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's, NOAA, ability to respond to emergency or disaster-related situations and minimize the likelihood of vessel impacts on coral reefs. Specifically, the legislation would establish community-based planning grants for states and territories to support projects that address emerging threats to corals. In addition, the legislation would promote international cooperation by authorizing NOAA to engage with international partners to protect coral reef ecosystems.

This bill would also codify the United States Coral Reef Task Force established in 1998 by President Clinton through Executive Order 13089. The work of the Task Force, and its mission to coordinate the efforts of the United States in promoting conservation and the sustainable use of coral reefs internationally, is vital to our interests and coastal economies.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation, enhance and conserve our coral reef ecosystems, and protect coastal jobs.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the significant cuts to community health centers included in this bill. The Continuing Resolution proposes to reduce funding to community health centers by \$1 billion, a nearly sixty percent reduction

from FY2010 levels. Over the past few years, millions of families lost their health insurance due to job losses, and they now depend on community health centers to receive health care. If these cuts are signed into law, 192,834 people in Texas alone would lose access to health care.

These cuts are especially harmful to the people of my district. Border communities face unique health concerns and challenges, and community health centers play a critical role. The cuts will have devastating effects on the communities and patients who most need access to care—patients with diabetes, heart disease, and HIV/AIDS, as well as children and pregnant women. Community health centers provide access to quality health care to those who would otherwise forgo a doctor's visit or seek treatment in an emergency when it's too late.

In my congressional district for example, Centro San Vicente, one of many community health centers, provides health services for over 10,000 people a year. The irresponsible cuts contained in the Continuing Resolution will merely shift the burden to local communities, such as the district I represent, where local property taxpayers have already spent more than \$500,000,000 since 1998 to pay for those who could not afford to pay for health care at our public hospital.

Republicans cannot merely ignore the problems that arise when 50 million people in the United States lack basic health coverage. They have voted to repeal the health insurance reform law, and now want to cut the very clinics that help lower health care costs by encouraging uninsured patients to seek treatment in a doctor's office, not in an emergency room, where the costs are substantially higher.

I understand the need for fiscal discipline, but drastically funding to a cost-effective program that has improved countless lives makes little sense from both a moral and fiscal perspective.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill which strips funding for community health centers.

THE LOWEY AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this amendment to restore funding to Title X family planning.

By slashing Title X family planning services in the budget, Republicans risk the lives and safety of millions of American women. These proposed cuts to family planning represent the opening salvo in an all-out war on women's health. I ask you to join with me and with my colleagues to restore this vital funding to Title X family planning.

Five million men and women depend on Title X providers for important preventive health care. Among other services, they received 2.3 million breast exams, 2.2 million cervical cancer screenings, and nearly 1 million HIV tests. These services prevent fatal illness; and for those who do have the misfortune to contract HIV/AIDS or cancer, Title X providers ensure that they receive life-saving