

Hawaii at Hilo. 17 percent at UH Manoa. 18 percent at UH West Oahu. 22 percent at Chaminade. 13 percent at Hawaii Pacific University.

The underlying bill turns a blind eye to these 19,000 students in Hawaii, and 9 million students nationwide. H.R. 1 would slash Pell grants by more than 15 percent, the largest cut in the program's history.

Investing in education is an investment in our future. Employees with a bachelor's degree earn more than \$20,000 per year more than those without a degree, and in turn contribute more to the economy in taxes and spending. For low-income families struggling to make ends meet, Pell grants are a lifeline to help students pay for college.

Meanwhile, Pell grants have not kept pace with rising tuition costs. In 1979, Pell grants helped low-income students at four-year public colleges pay for 77 percent of their tuition, fees, room, and board. Today, the grant covers less than half that—just 34 percent of college expenses.

In this difficult economy, slashing investments in education like Pell is exactly the wrong move to make. The Chu amendment would restore full funding to the Pell grant program, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 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:

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to Section 2226 of the bill, which will cut funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program from the current level \$3.948 billion to \$1.5 billion, a 62 percent decrease.

This drastic reduction would have a devastating impact on communities all across America, including my district, and hinder our ability to continue doing our part in aiding the Nation's economic recovery.

CDBG works. In Los Angeles County, for example, CDBG funding has provided a direct benefit to low- and moderate-income residents and their neighborhoods, something that simply would not have been possible without this federal-local partnership.

Over the past five years, Los Angeles County's CDBG program has accomplished the following: 1. created or retained 1,109 jobs; 2. provided loans and technical assistance to over 14,000 businesses; 3. provided assistance to over four million individuals in unincorporated areas and participating cities in Los Angeles County; 4. preserved 6,217 housing units; 5. provided improvements to almost 23,000 facilities; and 6. removed over 28 million square feet of graffiti.

Mr. Chair, reducing CDBG funding would mean curtailing or cancelling the following types of activities in my district and countless

others across the Nation: 1. Housing Rehabilitation Loans and Grants for families the elderly and disabled persons; 2. Commercial Facade Improvements in distressed areas; 3. Youth Programs providing afterschool, child care, gang prevention, and intervention services; 4. Senior Programs that offer meals, housing placement, and recreation; 5. Construction and improvement of critical public facilities and infrastructure; and 6. Business Loan Programs to bring development and jobs into our communities.

Mr. Chair, the federal budget is not merely a ledger documenting receipts and expenditures but a reflection of our national values. And certainly nothing is more central to our national character than its strong, healthy, and vibrant local communities. The CDBG program is indispensable if we are to continue the important community and economic development initiatives needed to revitalize our economy, create jobs, and put people back to work in homes they own and can afford.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

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. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment.

The Continuing Resolution on the floor today makes irresponsible and dangerous cuts in transportation and development, doing harm to a construction sector already facing 20 percent unemployment and delaying the investments needed to bring our nation's infrastructure into a state of good repair. These cuts, which are opposed by our business community, come with a price—lost productivity, less safety, and a higher cost for repairs later as our system continues to deteriorate.

Eliminating funding for DC Metro is just one example of the Republicans' penny-wise, pound-foolish approach to deficit reduction. The Federal Government relies on the Metro system to bring thousands of employees to work every day—to the Pentagon, to the Department of Homeland Security, to all the Federal agencies that help provide services to the American people. More than half of Metrorail stations serve Federal facilities. When the Metro does not work, the government cannot work.

This \$150 million investment makes the capital improvements that are necessary to make the system safe and reliable. And every dollar is matched by our local partners in Maryland, DC, and Virginia. These funds are budgeted to make critical safety improvements, replace aging rail cars, and rebuild miles of track. Without them, we will see reduced reliability and degraded customer service.

Mr. Chair, short-sighted cuts to infrastructure eliminate home-grown jobs and delay crit-

ical improvements that would make transportation safer and more efficient. If we do not make these investments now, we will certainly pay more later. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and oppose these reckless, job-killing cuts to critical infrastructure programs.

HONORING MARVIN MANNING

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend, Marvin Manning, for his 85th birthday. Born in Ohio, Marvin valiantly served his country during World War II in the United States Navy. Upon returning from his service, Marvin used the G.I. Bill to graduate from The Ohio State University.

In 1987, after serving for years as the Chief Financial Officer for a jewelry company, Marvin retired to South Florida. After the move, Marvin quickly became involved in politics and in the community. Marvin chaired the Dade County Community Coalition, was the Chief Community Advisor for Congressman Bill Lehman, and worked for Senator BILL NELSON's 1990 gubernatorial campaign.

In 1997, Marvin moved from Dade County into Florida's 19th Congressional district. Here, he continued his volunteerism where he has served as President of the Century Village Democratic Club, President of the Century of Boca Raton Umbrella Association, COBRUA, as President of the Yarmouth Association, was on the Half Penney Board, and serves on the Executive Board of the West Boca Community Council.

I, along with much of the South Florida community, am most grateful for Marvin's close work and relationships with our local elected officials. When Hurricane Wilma devastated South Florida, Marvin's hard work, along with the help of former Congressman Robert Wexler, Commissioner Burt Aaronson, and other local officials led to a speedy response which guaranteed that Century Village got the assistance it needed in the aftermath of the storm.

It has been an honor to count Marvin as a colleague, an advisor, and most of all a friend. I would like to congratulate Marvin and his family on his 85th birthday, and I look forward to many more years of working together with Marvin to better the South Florida community.

HONORING ZELPHA (ZEP) MONTGOMERY-WHATLEY THE BUILDER OF "MISS BERNICE'S HOUSE"

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Zelpha (Zep) Montgomery-Whatley, The Builder of "Miss Bernice's House." The Northside Haven Association, Inc., and Miss Bernice's House exist today, primarily because of two women—two Black women of Holmes County, Mississippi. One had great spiritual wisdom, strength and

focus; the other, unwavering faith and a strong belief in the power and purpose of God. Their names: Mrs. Bernice Patton Montgomery-Johnson (Miss Bernice) and her elder daughter, Zelpha la'Marr Montgomery-Whatley, who is just called, Zep.

Zep caught her mother's dream to build a house—a great house for people who are sick, homeless, in need of housing and gentle personal care. Zep gave up her life's work of public service where she lived “up North” and having been accepted to the Peace Corps to work in West Africa.

Instead and as God would have it, Zep packed up and moved back home to Holmes County, Mississippi, breaking a long standing vow never to return to Mississippi again! She moved back home, she thought, to help her mother, Miss Bernice, to fulfill a dream to build “a house of help” for poor senior citizens of Holmes County and Mississippi. Miss Bernice convinced her daughter that “back home” was her “Peace Corps” and her “West Africa.” Zep said, “Yes,” to her mother and has since proclaimed that this is the best, most challenging and rewarding work God has ever assigned to her hands. Her boldness for the “street work” of God—“helping hurting people,” is unmatched!

To know Zep Montgomery—to really know her, is to know that she rarely considers the word, “No” as a final answer to any unsolved problem. She says her daddy taught her to “just look for another way.” She will push herself and she will push and pull others until “the way is found.” This attitude is testimony to the mere existence of Miss Bernice's House—a Personal care/Assisted Living facility, Holmes County's first and only one. When she was told “No,” by her local and State governments, she turned to Washington, D.C., and her Congressman. It was understood that “No” was not an answer, nor was it an option. The Federal government responded with an \$800,000 dollar, loan/grant package to build the house envisioned by her mother, who on the day of approval went home to be with the Lord!

Additionally, Zep knew when the mailman had trouble delivering the mail on the wet, muddy road where she lived, she put on her rubber boots and went to see the Holmes County Board of Supervisors. They said it couldn't be done; the road couldn't be built and probably wouldn't be built during the next 20 years! Within 2 years a new paved road was built, including two new concrete bridges for approximately \$500,000 dollars! Again, when the current water system could not accommodate Miss Bernice's House and her community, Zep requested assistance from the local water authority and was told, “No, it couldn't be done.” Today, a \$550,000 dollar new water system has been installed for her community and Miss Bernice's House as a direct result of Zep's faith, her tenacity and her hard work.

Zelpha is a professional helper. She believes there is no greater reason for any human being to get up in the morning other than to help another human-being.

Zep proclaims, “I'm in business to help people.”

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

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:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1.

This deeply flawed bill does nothing to create jobs or promote economic growth. In fact, it actually undercut these critical priorities, threatening to destabilize our fragile economic recovery.

The bill cuts billions of dollars from programs that increase transportation and housing choices, reduce traffic on our highways, and lower energy costs for American families. It cuts Community Development Block Grants that empower local cities and counties to prioritize the housing and infrastructure projects that make the most sense for them. And it eliminates funding for the Sustainable Communities Initiative—a program that strengthens local economic competitiveness and reduces commutes to jobs, shops and schools.

These proven programs are already creating jobs and stimulating economic growth. They help local communities attract new businesses and jumpstart their economies. They help improve local business districts and provide affordable housing options nearby. And rather than build expensive new roads and highways, these programs focus on fixing what we already have.

In short, these programs create jobs. High tech jobs. Clean energy jobs. Construction jobs. High quality, local jobs that pay well and can't be shipped overseas.

Rather than enhancing these proven job creators, the Majority is eliminating them. The irrational spending cuts in this bill completely undermine these proven programs and threaten to cripple our fragile economic recovery. It makes no sense.

But I suppose we shouldn't be surprised, given the Majority's record on the issue. It's been nearly two months and we have not voted on a single bill to create jobs or promote economic growth. Not one.

Mr. Chair, we can't simply cut our way to economic prosperity.

This CR is nothing more than a negligent political gimmick. But this gimmick has real consequences. Real consequences for our local communities whose crumbling infrastructure will only deteriorate further; real consequences for the millions of unemployed Americans whose search for a job will only get longer; and real consequences for Middle Class families whose struggle to stay afloat will only get tougher.

It's time this Congress starts doing what our constituents sent us here to do—create jobs. I urge my colleagues to support jobs creation and oppose H.R. 1.

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAINTENANCE

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a matter of vital importance to our Nation's business and economic recovery. I am extremely concerned about recent actions by the Army Corps of Engineers and its failure to maintain the Lower Mississippi River deep draft navigation channel. Approximately 60 percent of all U.S. grain exports are shipped from the Mississippi River, and 25 percent of all large commercial bulk ships that arrive in the U.S. come through the mouth of the Mississippi River. U.S. Customs and Border Protection estimates that the river system facilitates between \$85 billion and \$104 billion annually in foreign trade through its district on the Lower Mississippi River. Without immediate maintenance dredging of that channel, domestic transportation costs will significantly increase for a wide range of U.S. products and goods, and many businesses will be placed at a competitive disadvantage for participation in the Nation's export trade.

At this time, the Corps is not meeting navigation channel maintenance requirements, and as a result, the width and depth of the channel has been reduced because of silting in the lower stretches of the river. The maritime transportation capabilities of the waterway are deteriorating rapidly, and river pilots now have imposed operating restrictions on commercial vessels transiting the mouth of the Mississippi River, restrictions that will significantly add costs and delays in the export of American products to international markets. Therefore, I urge the Corps of Engineers to maintain the Lower Mississippi River deep draft navigation channel at a depth and width that will not inhibit transportation on this vital waterway.

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAINTENANCE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address concerns that many of my colleagues have expressed to me regarding maintenance to the Lower Mississippi River deep draft navigation channel. As the Chairman of the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, I am well aware of the economic benefits provided by the Mississippi River system that connects approximately 30 States in our Nation's heartland with international markets. Accordingly, the Subcommittee works hard to ensure that the Lower Mississippi River deep draft navigation channel is maintained by the Corps to meet export and import trade and other domestic transportation needs.

As Congress considers the Continuing Resolution for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011, I want to assure my colleagues that I have provided sufficient flexibility within the \$2,361,000,000 in the operation and maintenance account for the Corps to maintain the