

the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to talk briefly about the amendment number 260, offered by my friend from Ohio, Mr. LATTA.

This amendment would cut \$10 million from the construction budget of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

NIST's buildings were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, and are no longer adequate for the research needed to support U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness, particularly in emerging technology areas like nanotechnology and biotechnology.

Independent analysis of NIST's maintenance needs recommends an annual investment target of \$70 to \$80 million to address critical deferred maintenance and bring the NIST facilities to fair condition.

The CR already slashes NIST's construction budget to \$58 million. This is an \$89 million reduction (60%) below the FY 2010 enacted level and significantly below what NIST requires.

Further cuts to the construction budget as proposed by the Latta amendment will erode basic repair and maintenance capability and hamstring NIST's ability to deal with emergencies like water or gas line breaks, storm damage, and power outages.

Improving and maintaining its laboratory facilities is critical for NIST to continue to engage in cutting edge research, delivering high quality science and research to foster innovation and technological advancement for the benefit of U.S. industry.

For these reasons, I must oppose this amendment and urge its defeat.

TRIBUTE TO MARK WILSON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to continue recognizing African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Mark Wilson of Kennesaw, Georgia, who is the founder and CEO of Ryla, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, Ryla is a leading call center solutions provider with expertise in customer contact solutions and business process outsourcing. As owner, Mark utilizes a "Small Yet Big" approach to managing his clients giving each of them the attention a small company can yield yet consistently delivering the results of a larger organization.

I have visited the call center on many occasions and one thing that consistently stands out is that I always see the employees wearing a smile on their faces. It is a credit to Mark that he has created the type of environment that brings out the best in his employees.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Mark Wilson for his contributions to his community.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

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. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, a strong definition for gainful employment is vital to protect vulnerable borrowers from unmanageable debts incurred from heavily overpriced programs. The failure of the regulatory agency to define gainful employment up to this point has left open an avenue by which bad actors have taken advantage of the lack of regulation and created a number of overpriced programs of dubious academic quality targeted at underserved communities, people of color, and low-income students who have not been adequately prepared for a form of employment that will make it possible for those students to pay their loans back.

This amendment stops this process in its tracks. A student who borrows large amounts of money to pay for a higher education should have a reasonable expectation that the degree or certificate she is working for will qualify her for employment at a job that will allow her to repay those loans at a manageable rate.

The vast majority of programs around the country subject to this definition, whether public or private, for-profit or not-for-profit, are doing a good job of providing quality education and training at a reasonable price. Those schools and programs that are doing an effective job have every reason to distance themselves from the ones taking advantage of a lack of oversight, who make the entire industry look bad.

This definition will not impede access to federal aid for any of these programs. In fact, if the rule were to be implemented in its current form, it would affect very few programs and many bad actors who are not concerned about the debts their students will be saddled with will continue to qualify.

It's incredible to me that this amendment is being sold as a move to protect minority students. I, myself, cannot fathom how low-income people of color are protected by being tied to unmanageable and unforgivable debts from federal loans that don't require a shred of evidence that the program will lead to any form of gainful employment for the borrower.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

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. MATSUI. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to the CR put forward by my Republican colleagues, and specifically to the amendment offered by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey and Mr. MACK of Florida, and a separate amendment by Mr. WALBERG of Michigan, which would either eliminate or drastically reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

In tough economic times, funding for the arts may appear to be an easy area to cut. But we cannot forget that the arts industry is an active and crucial part of the American economy.

The non-profit arts industry generates \$166.2 billion annually, and supports 5.7 million full-time jobs across the United States. Spending in the arts stimulates local economies, creates attractive communities, and supports tourism. Cultural tourism alone contributes \$192 billion annually to our country's economy.

And the federal government is not the lone supporter of these projects, but the federal funding is critical to leveraging local, state and private dollars. The direct grants from the National Endowment for the Arts that reach each and every congressional district around the country are often matched by other resources.

In my hometown of Sacramento, California, NEA funding is helping to support a thriving arts scene that is putting our city on the map. In addition to bringing intellectual diversity to the region, it is helping to support young artists, smaller museums, and cultural programs. NEA funding supports galleries and exhibits that are part an extended classroom for our students.

As a former docent of the Crocker Art Museum, I can tell you firsthand the effect that an individual piece of art, or a trip to a museum, can have on a child. Many children would never have the opportunity otherwise to participate in these inspiring experiences.

And the commitment of federal funding for our local artists and art venues sends a strong signal that we are a nation that thinks art is important, and that symbol's influence cannot be overstated.

We must make tough choices. But the question is where. I do not believe gutting our nation's cultural institutions is the place to do so. We cannot afford to stifle the creativity of our students and our citizens.

I urge my colleagues to vote against these harmful amendments and against this CR.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT STERLING T. WIMBERLY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to continue recognizing African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have had a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Master Sergeant Sterling T. Wimberly of Dallas, Georgia. MSG Wimberly is currently serving in an Active Guard Reserve role as the Senior Supply NCO for the 78th Aviation Troop Command.

There are over 700 soldiers in this command and because of MSG Wimberly's efforts, expertise, and dedication to Georgia Army National Guard Aviation, all units either passed or exceeded standards this past spring during the Forces Command Aviation Resource Management Survey inspection.

MSG Wimberly has also completed a tour in Afghanistan with a Georgia ARNG Infantry Embedded Training Team. Through this experience—and by participating in pre-mobilization validation training exercises—MSG Wimberly has developed an advanced ability to plan, coordinate, and execute complex logistic/supply operations.

He is an invaluable professional soldier whose dedication to mission accomplishment makes him worthy of recognition as a leader in the community, the National Guard, and our great nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Master Sergeant Sterling T. Wimberly for his service and his commitment to the betterment of his community.

OPPOSITION TO UNITED NATIONS CRITICISM OF ISRAEL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I am emphatically opposed to using the U.N. to single out Israel for criticism on the issue of settlements, whether that criticism is in the form of a resolution or a statement. Should a resolution criticizing Israel come before the Security Council, the United States should clearly veto it. To the extent that we have disagreements with Israel on policy matters, we should find a way to express those differences in private, just as we would with our other close allies. The Administration has to understand that we stand by our friends through thick and thin.

Let's be clear; the issue isn't settlements; the issue is negotiations. Israel froze settlement construction for ten months last year. Israel has shown it is ready to take risks for peace. The onus is on the Palestinian Authority. If Palestinians object to settlements or oppose building permits—negotiate.

Israel, a friend and ally of the United States, is located in a dangerous neighborhood. Anyone who has recently watched the news or read a newspaper has seen the collapse of multilateral talks on Iran's nuclear weapons program, Hezbollah's successful effort to topple the government of Lebanon, and a wave of unrest spreading throughout the Middle East. Given the threats facing Israel, the long friendship between our two nations, and Israel's strategic importance to the United States, it is critical that the U.S.-Israel relationship is strong at all levels of our government.

The United States is in the middle of a ten-year commitment of military aid to Israel and I hope that the long tradition of strong bipartisan support in Congress to fully fund this commitment, even at a time of fiscal constraint, continues.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

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:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I would like to talk briefly about the amendment offered by my friend from New Jersey, Mr. PASCARELL.

The Pascrell amendment would restore funding to the fire grant programs which was cut by the Republicans in the CR. I wholeheartedly support the notion of restoring this funding. However, I must oppose this amendment because it restores the fire grant funding by cutting an equal amount from the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate.

The proposed \$510 million cut to the Science & Technology Directorate is on top of an \$85 million cut already proposed in the CR. If this amendment is adopted, the budget for the Science and Technology Directorate will fall to \$410 million from \$1.005 billion in FY 2010. This would be a 59 percent cut from FY 2010 levels. The magnitude of this cut would cripple the DHS Science and Technology Directorate. Some of the specific effects of this cut include:

- Elimination of all border security and maritime security research and development which includes cargo security research and development;

- Termination of all first responder research and development;

- Termination of all cyber security research and development;

- Termination of all non-aviation explosives research and development;

- Elimination of all human factors research and development including all biometric identification work;

- Elimination of all infrastructure and geophysical research and development including first responder monitoring and tracking work;

- Significant cuts to chemical and biological research and development;

- Significant cuts to radiological and nuclear research and development;

- Elimination of all university programs including the Minority Serving Institution program.

While the Republican cuts to the fire grants program in the CR are devastating, I cannot support solving one problem by creating an equally devastating one. And make no mistake, these cuts to the S&T Directorate will cripple our nation's ability to respond to future threats. As terrorists evolve and adapt, we must do so as well, and the S&T Directorate is at the forefront of this effort.

For these reasons, I must reluctantly oppose the Pascrell amendment, and urge a "no" vote on its adoption.

TRIBUTE TO FITZ JOHNSON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to recognize African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Fitz Johnson of Marietta, Georgia, the owner of Atlanta's professional women's soccer team, the Atlanta Beat.

Already an accomplished businessman and influential Georgian, Fitz brought women's professional soccer to Atlanta in 2010. Mr. Speaker, the hard work and passion that made Fitz a successful business owner are fueling his drive to make the Beat a successful franchise.

Not only did he help Kennesaw State University build the only women's specific soccer stadium in the United States, he is working 15-hour days doing everything from handling ticket sales to janitorial services to build a winner in Atlanta.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Fitz Johnson for his contributions to his community, and wish him all the best with the Atlanta Beat.

ON THE BIRTH OF GENEVIEVE FRANCES DALTON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Sean Dalton and his wife Kathryn Howell Dalton on the birth of their new baby girl, Genevieve Frances Dalton, who was born on Friday, February 4, 2011, at 7:59 p.m. in Alexandria, Virginia. Genevieve was 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and 19 inches long.

I am so excited for this new blessing to the Dalton family and wish them all the best. I want to also congratulate Genevieve's grandparents Brenda and Larry Dalton of Cary, North Carolina, and Dorothy and Stan Howell of Charlotte, North Carolina, on this wonderful new addition to their family.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

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. MATSUI. Mr. Chair, I rise to express my opposition and urge my colleagues to oppose