

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I cannot support this bill in its current form.

It's telling that every domestic program in this year's budget is taking a hit—in some cases, a huge hit. The House majority seems perfectly fine with cutting grant funding for our firefighters, our cops, and other first responders. The House majority thinks it's good public policy to cut programs designed to help the most vulnerable in our society, but any suggestion that we need fewer defense contractors provokes howls of protest. Any suggestion that national security-related corporate welfare should be ended—and I'm referring to the over-budget F-35 program as a prime example—evinces the most hysterical rhetoric about “weakening America's defenses.”

Let's deal with the facts. We spend more on defense than most of the rest of the world combined. We won the Cold War over 20 years ago, yet this budget continues to fund unnecessary and radically over-cost Cold War legacy weapons programs that we don't need, can't afford and won't help us deal with the kind of terrorist threat we face now and into the future. The House majority is throwing the poor under the bus even as it throws a kiss to the military-industrial complex.

The bill also continues funding a war that should have been over long ago. As I've said since 2009, our continued presence in Afghanistan is prolonging the conflict, not helping end it. The President's ill-considered assassination-by-drone policy in Pakistan, which now features Vietnam war-style “signature strikes” against groups of individuals without verification of their status as terrorists, has led to the deaths of an increasing number of innocent civilians. Indeed, the escalation of the drone strikes and the loosening of the intelligence standards under which they operate comes even after Osama bin Laden was killed last year.

The original rationale for invading Afghanistan—getting bin Laden and his associates—no longer exists, yet this bill continues to fund a war whose purpose has clearly been achieved. There is perhaps no greater example of a policy on autopilot than our war in Afghanistan, which is one of the many reasons I do not support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 103RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I am pleased to recognize the National Association for Advancement of Colored People for its 103rd year of pursuing justice and equality for everyone in America, regardless of color, religion, or gender. The NAACP is one of our nation's most revered and outstanding organizations dedicated to social, political, and economic equality. It has fought countless battles—from race riots to voter suppression—to protect the rights of all persons.

I commend the leadership of President Benjamin Jealous who has been outspoken on the

most pressing issues in our communities. He has inspired thousands of Americans across the country to take action, whether it is organizing the “Justice for Trayvon Martin” movement or protests against unfounded voter ID laws.

Furthermore, I am pleased to acknowledge the Mid-Manhattan branch of the NAACP located in my district for its unwavering commitment to our community. The branch is involved in mentorship programs, youth development, and encouraging people to be politically and socially active. This year they helped to organize the “Silent Stop and Frisk” march in June, which rallied roughly 72,000 of our community. I had the pleasure of marching in unison with them against unjust stop and frisk practices that discriminately target minorities and violence in our communities. The event was an example of NAACP's continuous efforts to galvanize and mobilize our communities to stand up for equality.

I am proud to congratulate the Mid-Manhattan branch for receiving the Thalheimer award for outstanding membership enrollment at their annual convention in Houston, Texas earlier this month. I applaud them for their accomplishments in health and education advocacy, fighting for economic empowerment, and continuously standing up for justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring the NAACP during its 103rd anniversary for its accomplishments and tireless commitment to uplifting all communities throughout America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 487 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

H.R. 5856: THE MORAN AMENDMENT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, last week the House voted on an amendment by Mr. MORAN which prohibits U.S. funds from being used to purchase Russian-made Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). After more than 10 years at war, we recently reached the grim milestone of losing our 2,000th service member in this war. It has been clear for a long time that more of our blood and our money will not help us “win” Afghanistan. Yet long after the last member of our Armed Forces leaves Afghanistan, U.S. taxpayers will be footing the bill for more than half of the \$4 billion per year it will take to support the ANSF over the next decade. This financial support includes military equipment, training and uniforms.

The underlying bill includes a total of \$238.7 billion to continue operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, on top of the \$1.3 trillion we have already spent. It is time for the U.S. to end its

nation-building exercise in Afghanistan, stop funding military spending there and bring the troops home safely and responsibly.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF MS. BEATRICE BEILER OF LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tireless service and dedication of one of my own constituents, Ms. Beatrice Beiler. Ms. Beiler has been an essential part of the Long Beach foster care program for over 20 years and has a truly inspirational story.

Upon retiring from Hughes Aircraft in 1992, rather than living the life of leisure that many retirees do, Ms. Beiler chose to be of service. Coming from a big family herself, she has always been very family oriented and it is this experience that opened her mind to the idea to giving back through foster care.

Her caring spirit and giving nature instilled Ms. Beiler with a heart that is able to see the needs of others and immediately try to fulfill those needs. When Ms. Beiler found out that there was a shortage of foster homes able to house multiples of siblings of two or more, she volunteered her home to foster children siblings without hesitation. As a result, she helped many children to avoid damaging transitions by helping them to stay together and maintain a sense of family in spite of the turmoil that led to their entry into the foster care system.

In California there are over 80,000 children in the foster care system, the majority of whom are placed there as a result of parental abuse or neglect. As a member of the Congressional Caucus of Foster Youth I am particularly impressed by the service that Ms. Beiler has done for my community and the many families and children she has helped to reunite. Through her work, many children have had the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving environment that they might not have otherwise had.

Ms. Beiler has been able to help many foster children succeed despite their painful pasts. Children like Kelsey, a foster child Ms. Beiler has raised since she was just 8 months old until the age of 17, find not only shelter but also love and nurture while in the care of Ms. Beiler. She has seen students go from struggling to stay in school to making straight A's. She has watched many go from dire situations to reunification with their families. It is stories like these that fuel her passion to continue to reach out to anyone whose life she can change for the better. Along with her dedication to the foster care system, Ms. Beiler has also opened a daycare facility to continue to be able to help parents and children in need. It is her mission to touch as many hearts and lives as she can.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Beiler is the type of woman we should all look to emulate. She is selflessly committed and graciously generous with her time, her money, her home, and her love. It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity recognize the hard work and dedication of this unsung hero.

RECOGNIZING THE CITIZEN'S
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commend the Citizen's Commission on Human Rights on the opening of their new National Public Affairs Office here in Washington, DC.

I want to thank my friend Sam Brunelli, the President and CEO of Team Builders International, for the role he played in bringing the good work of the Citizen's Commission on Human Rights to my attention. Since 1969, the Citizen's Commission on Human Rights has tirelessly worked to educate the public about the dangers of some drugs. As part of this effort, CCHR has been at the forefront of the debate over whether parents' have a fundamental right to raise their children as they see fit; and that includes making decisions about evaluation and treatment of mental health conditions.

As some of my colleagues may recall, back in 2003 a Presidential Commission recommended that the government implement mental health screening in public school. The Commission contended that early detection, assessment, and links with treatment and support programs would help prevent mental health problems from worsening. However, neither the Commission's report nor any related mental health screening proposal under discussion at the time required active parental consent before a child was subjected to mental health screening.

I appreciate the value of having mental health problems diagnosed and treated early, but cutting the parents out of the process was deeply troubling to me. More often than not, the typical course of action when a child is diagnosed with a mental health condition—typically Attention Deficit Disorder, ADD, or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, ADHD, is to prescribe a powerful psychotropic drug, such as Ritalin. But these drugs have some serious side effects which include mania, violence and dependence. In fact, these drugs are so potentially dangerous that in 2007, under pressure from members of Congress and groups like CCHR, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, FDA, was finally compelled to require that the makers of all antidepressant medications update their black box warning on their products' labeling to include warnings about increased risks of suicidal thinking and behavior, known as suicidality.

Yet, inexplicably, not only were parents being cut out of the loop with regard to these drugs, parents who were informed, and who wanted to say no, were actually being threatened by school districts with child abuse charges for not drugging their children.

As a Christian, parent and grandparent, I have throughout my Congressional career staunchly defended the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children as they see fit. I believe this right is embedded in the U.S. Constitution, affirmed by Supreme Court case precedent, and exemplary of the inalienable rights and freedoms this country was founded on. To deny parents the right to know about the potential dangers of these drugs and the right to say "no, this is not the right

treatment for my child," is simply mindboggling. This is the same flawed mentality that condones putting toxic substances like mercury in medical products like vaccines and dental fillings and then not telling people the mercury is in there. Mercury is the most toxic substances on earth after radioactive materials. It has no place in any medication for children or adults; and I'm proud of the work I've done in Congress to get mercury removed from medicine. I'm also proud to have worked with CCHR and other like-minded groups to raise awareness of the potential dangers of psychotropic drugs, and to fight to put parents back in charge of their children's health care decisions instead of government bureaucrats.

Unfortunately, the price of defending our freedoms from the intrusion of big government is to be eternally vigilant. The economic and political life of America has changed profoundly over the last four years, and once again, the government is trying to intrude upon the relationship of parent to child.

In the past, parents were threatened by government officials with child abuse charges if they resisted efforts to drug their children with ADHD medications. Today, parents are penalized by government for sending their children to school with a brownbag lunch that does not meet some arbitrary government nutritional guidelines. These may seem like widely separate things but they are at the most basic level the same; an usurpation by the government of the right of parents to make decisions for their children.

Under the rubric of "Children's Rights," advocate of big government are pushing the argument that children should have, and the state should recognize, greater autonomy for children from their parents in deciding how to live, or that government agencies must have the power to step in to protect children from "bad parents."

I believe this concept of "Children's Rights" is flawed for two reasons. First, parents possess the maturity, experience, and capacity for judgment required for making life's difficult decisions that children lack. Second, as the Supreme Court said in the case of *Parham v. J.R.* 19 simply "because the decision of a parent is not agreeable to a child or because it involves risks, does not automatically transfer the power to make that decision"—nor in my opinion should it—"from the parents to some agency or officer of the state."

In his Oval Office farewell address, President Ronald Reagan said two things that are particularly relevant to our discussion tonight; he said: "As government expands, liberty contracts;" and that "All great change in America begins at the dinner table."

President Reagan understood that family is the foundation of our society; and that parents do have a profound impact on their children. If we are to recapture a common denominator of right and wrong in America, we must begin in the homes of America with conversations at the dinner table between moms and dads and growing children.

By respecting and defending a parents' fundamental right to teach their children that there is acceptable behavior and unacceptable behavior, appropriate speech and inappropriate speech we can re-instill in our children a moral character of trust, honesty, respect and tolerance, qualities that are so necessary to having safe and prosperous communities—

and which are at the core of CCHR's own philosophy.

Make no mistake, though, stopping the further spread of government power in the area of the family and ensuring that parental rights are protected with the strength and certainty they deserve will not be a quick and easy victory. That is why organizations like CCHR are so important. If good people like the men and women who work for CCHR refuse to give up the fight, victory is inevitable.

Again, I want to commend CCHR on the opening of their beautiful new facility here in Washington, DC and wish them good fortune in their future endeavors.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS HISTORY PROJECT ACT

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 2012, I introduced the Reauthorization of the National Women's Rights History Project Act. This legislation was intended to be introduced with Mr. RICHARD HANNA (NY-24) as an original cosponsor.

TRIBUTE TO DEWAYNE BUNCH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 23, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dewayne Bunch, a brave member of the Kentucky National Guard, a leader in the State legislature, and a dedicated teacher at Whitley County High School: His passing is a great loss and he will be deeply missed by Whitley and Laurel County and across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Dewayne's life encompassed the true meaning of a public servant. Described as "a mighty man of valor," Dewayne helped lead our Commonwealth with an extraordinary level of dedication and excellence. While serving in the Kentucky National Guard, Dewayne proudly fought for our country in Iraq as a first sergeant and received multiple honors, including the Bronze Star. Dewayne was also a veteran of the United States Army and after 24 years of service to the Kentucky National Guard, Dewayne was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives in the fall of 2010 and thoughtfully represented Whitley and Laurel Counties. In his brief legislative career in Frankfort, Dewayne showed tremendous potential as a legislator.

In April of 2011, Dewayne was severely injured while trying to break up a fight between two students at Whitley County High School where he taught math and science for 17 years. Dewayne was highly regarded by his students and faculty, and shared a vision with lawmakers for a better Kentucky, especially in the field of education. After his injury, Dewayne resigned from the Kentucky legislature, and the position was filled by his dutiful wife, Regina Bunch.