

day of Wednesday, May 9, I missed House votes in order to attend the college graduation of my daughter, Elisa. Up to this point, I was proud to boast a 100 percent voting record in the Second Session of the 112th Congress. However, if I had been present for these votes, here is how I would have voted:

Davis (IL) amendment rollcall No. 213 vote no; Grimm amendment rollcall No. 214 vote no; Huizenga amendment rollcall No. 215 vote yes; Johnson (GA) amendment rollcall No. 216 vote no; Flake amendment rollcall No. 217 vote yes; Westmoreland amendment rollcall No. 218 vote yes; Scott (GA) amendment rollcall No. 219 vote yes; Black amendment rollcall No. 220 vote yes; Blackburn amendment rollcall No. 221 vote yes; Broun amendment rollcall No. 222 vote yes; Southerland amendment rollcall No. 223 vote yes; H.R. 2072 rollcall No. 224 vote no; H.R. 4133 rollcall No. 225 vote yes; Chaffetz amendment rollcall No. 226 vote yes; Tierney amendment rollcall No. 227 vote no; Blackburn amendment rollcall No. 228 vote yes; Duncan (SC) amendment rollcall No. 229 vote yes; Garrett amendment rollcall No. 230 vote yes; Schweikert amendment rollcall No. 231 vote yes; Webster amendment rollcall No. 232 vote yes; Flores amendment rollcall No. 233 vote yes; Flores amendment rollcall No. 234 vote yes.

STATEMENT ON SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT RECONCILIATION ACT

HON. DAVID RIVERA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. RIVERA. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I am going to vote in favor of the Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012 (SRRA) because I firmly believe the government's budget deficit is far too big, bad for the economy, and compromises our Nation's future. Additionally, the automatic across-the-board sequestration enacted last year is not targeted and does not reflect good policy.

Most proposals to reduce the deficit are painful measures, requiring tough choices and trade-offs. On the whole, this legislation is a step in the right direction. It sends an important message about our seriousness in righting the Federal fiscal ship, and includes sup- portable measures.

But one provision of the bill in particular is inadvisable. The provision that would cut the Federal share of Medicaid in the territories approximately two-thirds through Fiscal Year 2019 should not be included in any budget legislation.

The Federal government already underfunds Medicaid in Puerto Rico and other territories, as the Republican Governors Association has recognized. The territories' Medicaid programs have not provided all services provided in the States and do not cover people who would otherwise be eligible in the States. If Puerto Rico were treated as a State, the Federal share of its Medicaid program would be about 80 percent. The unwise proposal in SRRA would cut the federal share of Puerto Rico's program by 65 percent, with the territory left to cover the bulk of the program with local funds. This inequitable treatment would not stand in

any of the 50 states, and it should not be imposed on Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico and other territories do not have votes in the Federal system. This imposes on us a responsibility to ensure that their needs are met.

While I will be casting a yes vote for the SRRA today, I urge removal of this provision unfairly treating Puerto Rico's Federal Medicaid Funding. 4 million American Citizens in Puerto Rico deserve equal treatment as those living in the States.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Lewis-Johnson amendment to H.R. 5326, the Fiscal Year 2013 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. This amendment prevents funds in the FY13 CJS Appropriations bill from being used to shut down the regional Department of Justice Antitrust Division Offices in Atlanta, Dallas, Cleveland, and Philadelphia. These closures will have a serious adverse effect upon antitrust enforcement in 21 states including Texas, and my district in particular. The Dallas Antitrust Office has been responsible for approximately \$1 billion in criminal fines to date. It has been a priority of this Administration to reign in waste, fraud, and abuse, and that is exactly what the Dallas Antitrust office has been doing.

Mr. Chair, I would ask to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of my April 23, 2012, letter to Attorney General Holder highlighting the critical role the Dallas Field Office serves upholding vital antitrust laws in our region and the United States.

APRIL 23, 2011.

Hon. ERIC H. HOLDER, Jr.,
Attorney General, Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. ATTORNEY GENERAL: In October 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced its plans to close the Dallas Antitrust Division Field Office. The Dallas Field Office is joined by three other offices planned for closure in Atlanta, Cleveland, and Philadelphia. I strongly oppose this proposal and believe that millions of Americans and many U.S. companies across multiple states stand to be severely impacted by this closure.

The Dallas Field Office serves Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oklahoma in enforcing antitrust laws. By closing the Dallas Field Office and reassigning those enforcement positions to the remaining field offices, the Department is seriously curtailing the government's ability to enforce lawful business practices. DOJ's Antitrust Division has an extensive history of promoting fair competition in the marketplace. Shutting the Dallas Field Office will sig-

nificantly undo the progress that has been made during this Administration, paving the way for future corruption and abuse.

In DOJ's October 2011 press release, you cite the potential cost savings of nearly \$8 million as one of the primary factors behind this decision. I respectfully reject any arguments for cost savings in this context, particularly because there is a failure to consider the millions of dollars that the Dallas Field Office has brought in through criminal fines. While the Dallas Office costs roughly \$3.5 million to operate each year, it has returned approximately \$1 billion in criminal fines to date. These gains do not include criminal fines levied through the Atlanta, Cleveland, or Philadelphia field offices. Thus, closure of the Dallas Field Office is short-sighted for both long-term enforcement of federal antitrust laws, and the lost revenues that criminal penalties bring back to the American people.

Another aspect of your reasoning centers around consolidating offices in order to focus on larger international investigations. Aside from the obvious implications that this would have for local or regional enforcement of antitrust laws, history has demonstrated the ongoing need to keep that focus at home in a similar, if not greater, capacity. The Dallas Field Office has served a vital role in numerous cases here in the U.S., while still managing to have an effective international presence, as demonstrated in the case of Hoffman-LaRoche. The \$500 million fine paid by the global healthcare company still represents the largest criminal fine ever collected by the Antitrust Division or Department of Justice.

Understanding this, I am respectfully requesting additional insight into the agency's rationale behind this proposal. The Dallas Field Office serves a critical role in upholding vital antitrust laws in the United States. Closing this office will open the doors for further violations of federal antitrust and competitive bidding laws.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Justin Maturo of my staff at Justin.Maturo@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-8885.

Sincerely,

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of the Export-Import Bank, I regret that I was delayed in a constituent meeting and unable to reach the floor to cast my vote on rollcall No. 224, and I am glad to see it passed overwhelmingly, as I have advocated for. Had I not been delayed, I would have voted "yes," consistent with my position of working to create jobs and economic opportunities for working families.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference.

This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 10, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 15

- 10 a.m.
Finance
To hold hearings to examine tax reform, focusing on what it could mean for tribes and territories. SD-215
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Primary Health and Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the cost of HIV/AIDS drugs and the Prize Fund alternative. SD-430
- 2:30 p.m.
Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- Aging
To hold hearings to examine solving the long-term unemployment crisis for older workers. SD-562

MAY 16

- 10 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Children's Health and Environmental Responsibility Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine growing long-term value, focusing on corporate environmental responsibility and innovation. SD-406
- Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine identifying opportunities for health care delivery system reform, focusing on lessons from the front line. SD-430
- Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business. SD-342
- Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation. SD-226
- Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine seamless transition, focusing on a review of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System. SH-216

- 10:30 a.m.
Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Northern Command and Southern Command Programs. SVC-217

- 2 p.m.
Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine how the taxation of labor and transfer payments affect growth and employment. SD-G50
- 2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission. SR-253
- Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter William Bodde, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Piper Anne Wind Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Mongolia, and Dorothea-Maria Rosen, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia, all of the Department of State. SD-419

MAY 17

- 9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 2146, to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to create a market-oriented standard for clean electric energy generation. SD-366
- 10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students. SD-G50
- 2 p.m.
Appropriations
Department of Defense Subcommittee
To receive a closed briefing on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for European Command and Special Operations Command Programs. SVC-217

- 2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine fulfilling the Federal trust responsibility, focusing on the foundation of the government-to-government relationship. SD-628

MAY 22

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A
- 11 a.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SD-G50

- 2 p.m.
Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A

- 3:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Airland Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A
- 5 p.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A

MAY 23

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Strategic Forces Subcommittee
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A

- 2:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-222

MAY 24

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-222

- 2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine programs and services for native veterans. SD-628

MAY 25

- 9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue markup of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-222

JUNE 7

- 2:15 p.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Universal Service Fund Reform, focusing on ensuring a sustainable and connected future for native communities. SD-628

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 15

- 10 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine assessing grants management practices at Federal agencies. SD-342