

have to live in fear because of important victim protections under this law.

This Republican alternative bill threatens to dismantle this progress by deliberately placing domestic violence victims from LGBT, immigrant, tribal, and other marginalized communities in harm's way.

□ 1230

#### REPUBLICAN BILL ENDANGERS WOMEN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I rise today to oppose H.R. 4970. Under current law, a woman who is married to a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident and is a victim of spousal abuse can file a self-petition for legal permanent residency in order to leave that abusive relationship.

This provision has helped women like Maria, whose husband physically abused her and threatened to kill her two children. Without his knowledge, she started a VAWA self-petition process, meeting with an attorney at the laundromat on her usual laundry day and hiding her paperwork.

What this bill does is exposes women like Maria. It strips confidentiality protections and allows government officials to contact the spouse. Why would we do that? For these women, tipping off abusive spouses is nothing short of putting them in harm's way. It's a shame.

It's a shame that this so-called Violence Against Women bill could actually cause violence to women. Mr. Speaker, this bill is outright dangerous, and I urge my colleagues to say "no."

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4970, VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4310, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 656 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 656

*Resolved*, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 4970) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amend-

ed, and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services. After general debate, the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion. No further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

#### POINT OF ORDER

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order against H. Res. 656 because the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act. The resolution contains a waiver of all points of order against consideration of the bill, which includes a waiver of section 425 of the Congressional Budget Act, which causes a violation of section 426(a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentlewoman has met the threshold burden under the rule, and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration.

Following debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration as the statutory means of disposing of the point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I raise this point of order not necessarily out of concern for unfunded mandates, although there are some unfunded mandates in the underlying bill, H.R. 4970; rather, I am here today because this is the only opportunity to voice opposition to this bill, given the strict, closed terms of our debate today.

It is baffling to me, Mr. Speaker, that we would be so shut out of today's debate and that House Republicans would so completely abandon any pretense of bipartisanship on a bill like the Violence Against Women Act. This bill has always been a bipartisan effort, and I would argue that on an issue like this, it is incredibly important to have a well-rounded discussion.

We obviously disagree about the key elements that are critical to include in a Violence Against Women Act reauthorization. Well, why not allow us to have a healthy debate? More importantly, Mr. Speaker, why not allow us

our chance to try to improve the legislation before us?

Our allies in the domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy community have literally spent years compiling input and data from service providers, law enforcement, and victims themselves about what we must do to update VAWA in a reauthorization. And I am here to be a voice of protest because their input is invaluable; yet, for the very first time, their input has been cast aside.

Last night I offered a substitute, along with Representative CONYERS and Representative LOFGREN, that would have allowed us to consider the Senate-passed version of the Violence Against Women Act, a version which I proudly introduced in March here in this House of Representatives. This legislation was passed in the Senate with sound bipartisan support and includes the improvements that have been endorsed by a broad array of individuals and organizations, including law enforcement agencies.

But, unfortunately, today we will not be allowed to vote on the Senate bill. We will have to vote on the Adams bill, which is now officially opposed by over 325 organizations. Yes, Mr. Speaker, you heard it right—325 organizations.

I would like to share my time with my colleagues who are here with me today and would like for their voices to be heard. So, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I am going to yield to a number of Members for unanimous consent, the first of whom is Ms. YVETTE CLARKE from Brooklyn, New York.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit my remarks in opposition to a Republican bill that weakens protections for violence against women and in support of the bipartisan Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in vehement opposition to H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012 (VAWA). This egregious bill is another example of this Republican-led Congress waging political warfare on women.

H.R. 4970 would roll back years of progress and bipartisan commitment on the part of Congress to protect vulnerable immigrant victims of domestic violence, stalking, sex crimes, other serious crimes, and trafficking. Choosing one type of victim over the other.

Mr. Speaker, this will greatly impact areas with heavy concentrations of immigrants, which includes my district and other residents of New York City. Historically, NYC has been the beacon of immigration. Many in Congress, including Republicans, can trace their ancestry back to the immigrant population of NYC.

These new punitive measures within H.R. 4970 that hinder abused immigrants' ability to seek justice against their abusers, are a grave set of circumstances that will have future implications on the safety and security of our country.

It will jeopardize community relations with law enforcement, force those on a pathway to permanent residency or citizenship into the shadows, and threaten the moral fabric that binds civil society.

As the majority continues to pride itself as being the defenders of small government, fiscal responsibility, and moral authority, I am appalled at how almost every action taken in this 112th Congress has been to the contrary of their platform.

Mr. Speaker, I feel like I'm in that movie Groundhog Day, every day it is the same attacks over and over again. Are we running out of options? Are we so scared of tackling the real issues in this country like job creation, that we will continue to debate the same egregious legislative measures that curtail the rights and freedoms of women and cut off access to it for immigrants?

Mr. Speaker, it makes no sense that a nation of immigrants, built on the backs of immigrants, would not provide protection to immigrants.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise Members to confine their unanimous-consent requests to a simple, declarative statement of the Member's attitude toward the measure. Further embellishments will result in a deduction of time from the yielding Member.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. MOORE. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state her inquiry.

Ms. MOORE. The declarative statement that you referred to, am I not correct, Mr. Speaker, that that could also include a sentence, a complete sentence?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will only deduct time for embellishments.

Ms. MOORE. I thank the Chair.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit my remarks in opposition to a Republican bill that weakens protections for violence against women and in support of the bipartisan Senate bill that actually protects victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, today the House will consider a bill entitled the "Violence Against Women Act." This bill, however, does very little to stop violence or protect women.

Instead of continuing the tradition of coming together in a bi-partisan manner to pass this important reauthorization and achieve something we all should be able to agree on, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have turned the Violence Against Women Act into a partisan messaging platform.

VAWA should protect every victim from their abuser, regardless of their immigration status. Instead, this bill endangers immigrants by punishing victims who cooperate with law enforcement.

VAWA should protect every victim, regardless of their sexual orientation or the gender of their abuser. Instead, this bill endangers LGBTQ victims by including "gender-neutral"

language that ignores the reality that people are being underserved because of their sexual orientation.

VAWA should protect every victim, regardless of their Tribal affiliation. Instead, this bill endangers Native victims who are abused by non-Native Americans and leaves tribal courts without proper authority to protect victims and create safe communities.

Because the so-called "Violence Against Women Act" does none of these things, I stand in firm opposition to this bill.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit my remarks in opposition to a Republican bill that weakens protections for violence against women and in support of the bipartisan Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am disappointed by the direction the House Majority has taken with this version of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

VAWA is a landmark piece of legislation that has dramatically reduced violence against women and provided states and local communities with additional resources to address crimes against women.

As such, VAWA reauthorization has in past Congresses gained overwhelming bipartisan support. No matter what side of the aisle we're on, members of Congress have long understood the need to strengthen protections for victims of abuse. Just last month, the Senate passed its own version of VAWA, which garnered a bipartisan vote of 68-31.

And yet here we are today debating a partisan bill that weakens critical protections and fails to protect underserved communities like LGBT victims and Native American women.

A diverse coalition of 164 immigration, faith, labor, civil rights, human rights, and community groups have come together in strong opposition to H.R. 4970, even with the manager's amendments. Their message is clear: H.R. 4970 will set us back years in fighting domestic violence.

At a time when we need to modernize the VAWA to build upon our efforts, this bill would instead roll back existing protections.

This bill would make it much harder for battered immigrant women to leave their abusive relationship by adding unnecessary layers of bureaucracy.

Strong immigrant victim protections have helped countless women, including Maria, who's husband physically abused her and threatened to kill her two children. Without his knowledge, she started a VAWA self-petition process, meeting with an attorney at the Laundromat on her usual laundry day and hiding her paperwork. Repealing immigrant protections and adding red-tape and onerous requirements will endanger the safety of battered immigrants like Maria.

H.R. 4970 would also weaken the U visa program, which has encouraged immigrant victims of crime to report and help prosecute serious criminal activity.

Current law allows U visa recipients to apply to become permanent residents. This bill removes the opportunity of most victims to apply to become permanent residents, thereby discouraging victims from cooperating with local law enforcement as it could lead to deportation.

Strong protections in this area have helped countless immigrant women escape the cycle of domestic abuse and rebuild their lives.

Now, we should have a conversation about how to update VAWA so that MORE women can be served.

We've learned in the past years that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims experience domestic violence at the same rate as the general population. Yet, they do not receive the same protections and services they need because of discrimination and lack of training by law enforcement and service providers.

The Senate bill includes important provisions that ensure that services to LGBT victims are explicitly included in VAWA grant problems, as well as bans discrimination against victims based on their sexual orientation.

We have to ask the question as to why these key measures were not included in this regressive bill brought by the House majority.

As a mother and a grandmother, I can not stand by as we roll back decades of progress in protecting women from emotional, physical and sexual abuse.

It is time that we stop playing politics, reject this partisan proposal, and move forward with a bipartisan bill that ensures that all victims of violence are protected.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit my remarks in opposition to a Republican bill that weakens protections for violence against women and in support of the bipartisan Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit my remarks in opposition to a bill that weakens protections for violence against women and in support of the bipartisan Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, when the Violence Against Women Act was first passed, it was to prevent and raise awareness of domestic violence, and to create programs that help victims exit dangerous situations. Unfortunately, the bill we are debating today runs counter to these goals. It eliminates critical protections to help immigrant

women and it fails to extend the protections of VAWA to other populations that need them desperately. I support the Senate's bipartisan VAWA reauthorization bill, which builds on past progress by providing battered Native American women with recourse against their abusers and ensures that anyone who experiences domestic abuse has access to VAWA resources, including those in same-sex relationships. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4970 and ensure that the reauthorization of VAWA helps all victims of domestic abuse.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit my remarks in opposition to the Republican bill that weakens protections for violence against women and in support of the bipartisan Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Today, I stand with my Democratic colleagues and victims of domestic violence across our Nation in strong opposition to the H.R. 4970, the House Republican alternative to Violence Against Women Reauthorization bill. This bill severely undermines vital protections available to victims of violence and places these victims in danger of continued abuse.

Since its enactment in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has a long history of uniting lawmakers with the common purpose of protecting survivors of domestic violence. Each year across this Nation, thousands of women, children, and men who fall victim to domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking no longer have to live in fear because of important victim protections under this law. This Republican alternative bill threatens to dismantle this progress by deliberately placing domestic violence victims from LGBT, immigrant, tribal and other marginalized communities in harm's way.

While my Republican colleagues may think many of these discarded provisions are unnecessary, there is ample proof that they are sadly mistaken. Just last year, cases of LGBT domestic violence had increased by 38 percent. Of those who sought help, 44 percent of LGBT victims were turned away from traditional shelters. As for Tribal victims, Native American women face the highest rate of domestic violence in the U.S.—three and a half times higher than the national average. Proposed changes to current VAWA protections for immigrant survivors create an even larger obstacle for immigrant victims seeking to report crimes and increase the danger to immigrant victims by eliminating important confidentiality protections. These changes threaten to undermine current anti-fraud protections in place while rolling back decades of Congress's progress and commitments towards the protection of vulnerable immigrant victims.

Let's be clear, VAWA should not be used as a vehicle to pass immigration policy measures that are not germane to its purpose. VAWA has always been focused on protecting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking and this should not change. In just one day, over 5,363 victims and their chil-

dren receive services at domestic violence programs in California. On that same day, however, over 924 requests for services go unmet, largely due to lack of resources. This alone is proof that we need to expand the VAWA's programs and services and not eliminate them.

□ 1240

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I join the United States Conference of Mayors and the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination in opposition to the bill, and I ask unanimous consent to submit their letters for the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

THE UNITED STATES  
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,  
Washington, DC, May 15, 2012.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,  
Office of the Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Office of the Democratic Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: On behalf of the nation's mayors, we strongly urge the House of Representatives to support the protections for victims of domestic violence included in S. 1925, the bipartisan Senate bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Since 1994, this landmark law has provided a comprehensive, coordinated, and community-based approach toward reducing domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other forms of violence. VAWA's programs and services have provided lifesaving assistance to hundreds of thousands of victims and significantly strengthened the ability of the criminal justice system to hold violent perpetrators accountable. Over the past two decades, these efforts have helped dramatically reduce the incidence and impact of violence against women, including an over 50 percent decline in the annual rate of domestic violence.

Despite considerable progress in addressing the epidemic of violence against women, we recognize that much more needs to be done and that this reauthorization presents an opportunity for the Congress to strengthen our national commitment to tackling the challenges that remain. Like the 2000 and 2005 reauthorizations, we believe that the bipartisan Senate reauthorization does just that by expanding services and assistance to those communities who experience the highest rates of violence or who have the greatest difficulty accessing services.

We believe that it is essential that VAWA's vital services be provided to all victims regardless of group status and for that reason we strongly support the establishment of a uniform nondiscrimination provision for VAWA grant programs included in S. 1925. By replacing and clarifying the current patchwork of protections, the nondiscrimination provision will help ensure that victims are not denied services on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. This measure is needed in part to address the significant obstacles that lesbian, gay, and transgendered communities have faced in accessing services in recent years. Despite the fact that they experience domestic violence at the same rate as the general population, 45 percent of lesbian, gay, and transgendered victims are reportedly turned away when they seek help from

domestic violence shelters. This type of discrimination is simply unacceptable.

Since its first passage, VAWA has sought to protect immigrant victims whose non-citizen status can make them especially vulnerable to crimes of domestic and sexual violence. We are greatly concerned by a provision included in the VAWA reauthorization proposed by the House of Representatives, H.R. 4970, which would roll back confidentiality protections that enable undocumented women to safely come forward and report violent crimes. Rather than reducing the outlets for these victims, VAWA reauthorization should provide additional ways for law enforcement to work with these victims to investigate and prosecute serious crimes. The Senate version includes a provision that would allow the Department of Homeland Security to draw from a pool of previously authorized but never used U visas so that law enforcement officers have the tools to work with victims and bring violent offenders to justice.

The House bill, unlike the Senate version, also does not address the continuing challenge of violence in tribal communities. A recent study by the Center for Disease Control found that 46 percent of Native American women have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. As with immigrant victims, VAWA has aimed to address the terribly high rates of violence against women in tribal communities. Although some progress has been made, we believe the continuing high rates of violence on tribal lands require far greater attention. This reauthorization provides an opportunity to strengthen federal law enforcement tools and to expand the capacity of tribal governments to investigate and prosecute these crimes.

As mayors, we have seen the tremendous impact of the Violence Against Women Act in our communities. The lifesaving programs supported in the legislation should be quickly reauthorized to ensure the continuation and access of vital services for victims. We believe that these Senate provisions will help us better address continuing problems and remaining unmet needs, and strongly urge the House take up and pass the bipartisan Senate bill, S. 1925.

Sincerely,

Antonio R. Villaragosa, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA President; Annise D. Parker, Mayor of Houston, TX Chair, Criminal & Social Justice Committee; Mark Stodola, Mayor of Little Rock, AR; Wayne Powell, Mayor of Manhattan Beach, CA; Jerry Sanders, Mayor of San Diego, CA; Helene Schneider, Mayor of Santa Barbara, CA; Bill Finch, Mayor of Bridgeport, CT; James Baker, Mayor of Wilmington, DE.

Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA, Vice President; Thomas M. Menino, Mayor of Boston, MA, Past President; Patrick Hays, Mayor of North Little Rock, AR; Mary Ann Lutz, Mayor of Monrovia, CA; Ed Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, CA; Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento, CA; Pedro Segarra, Mayor of Hartford, CT; Susan Whelchel, Mayor of Boca Raton, FL.

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of New York, NY; Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director; Greg Stanton, Mayor of Phoenix, AZ; Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento, CA; Jan Marx, Mayor of San Luis Obispo, CA; Michael Hancock, Mayor of Denver, CO; Vincent C. Gray, Mayor of Washington, DC; Marilyn Gerber, Mayor of Coconut Creek, FL.

Patricia Gerard, Mayor of Largo, FL; Michael Ryan, Mayor of Sunrise, FL; Judy Abruscato, Mayor of Wheeling, IL; Harvey Johnson, Jr., Mayor of Jackson, MS; William Bell, Mayor of Durham, NC; Ken Miyagishima, Mayor of Las Cruces, NM; William Moehle, Mayor of Brighton, NY.

Michael Coleman, Mayor of Columbus, OH; Vaughn Spencer, Mayor of Reading, PA; Angel Taveras, Mayor of Providence, RI; Raul Salinas, Mayor of Laredo, TX; Michael McGinn, Mayor Seattle, WA; Dan Devine, Mayor of West Allis, WI; Lori Mosely, Mayor of Miramar, FL.

Shawn Connors, Pecatonica, IL; Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore, MD; John Engen, Mayor of Missoula, MT; Antonia Ricigliano, Mayor of Edison, NJ; Gerald Jennings, Mayor of Albany, NY; Paul Dyster, Mayor of Niagara Falls, NY; Sam Adams, Mayor of Portland, OR.

Thomas Leighton, Mayor of Wilkes-Barre, PA; Stephen Wukela, Mayor of Florence, SC; Deloris Prince, Mayor of Port Arthur, TX; Tom Barrett, Mayor of Milwaukee, WI; André Pierre, Mayor of North Miami, FL; Robert Sanonjian, Mayor of Waukegan, IL; William Wild, Mayor of Westland, MI; Anthony Foxx, Mayor of Charlotte, NC.

Susan Cohen, Mayor of Manalapan, NJ; Matthew Ryan, Mayor of Binghamton, NY; Stephanie Miner, Mayor of Syracuse, NY; Ed Pawlowski, Mayor of Allentown, PA; Victor Ortiz, Mayor of Gurabo, PR; AC Wharton, Mayor of Memphis, TN; John Marchione, Mayor of Redmond, WA; John Dickert, Mayor of Racine, WI.

THE COALITION AGAINST RELIGIOUS  
DISCRIMINATION,

Washington, DC, May 16, 2012.

Re Vote No on the Adams Amendment (#1).  
Reject Federally Funded Employment  
Discrimination.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned religious, education, civil rights, labor, and women's organizations write to voice our opposition to the language of the Adams Amendment (Amendment #1) to H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012. We oppose the Adams Amendment insofar as it would alter the nondiscrimination clause in the base bill to remove protections that bar federally funded religious discrimination. We urge you to Vote NO on the Adams Amendment, as government funds should not be used to underwrite employment discrimination within government-funded projects and activities.

We appreciate the important role religiously affiliated institutions historically have played in addressing many of our nation's most pressing social needs, as a complement to government-funded programs. Indeed, many of us are directly involved in this work. We also recognize that the separation of church and state is the linchpin of religious freedom. In our view, effective government collaboration with faith-based groups does not require the sanctioning of federally funded religious discrimination.

In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, religious organizations may prefer co-religionists in hiring when using their own private funds. The Adams Amendment, however, would permit religious organizations to take VAWA funds and use those funds to discriminate against a qualified individual based on nothing more than his or her religious beliefs. VAWA should protect against taxpayer dollars being used to underwrite jobs where religion is a factor in hiring decisions.

Adopting the language in the Adams Amendment would be inconsistent with the longstanding principle that federal dollars must not be used to discriminate. Accordingly, we urge you to vote No.

Sincerely,

African American Ministers in Action, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), American Humanist

Association, American Jewish Committee, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Anti-Defamation League, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

Catholics for Choice, Center for Inquiry, Council for Secular Humanism, Disciples Justice Action Network, Equal Partners in Faith, Family Equality Council, Feminist Majority, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Hindu American Foundation, Human Rights Campaign.

Institute for Science and Human Values, Interfaith Alliance, Japanese American Citizens League, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Jewish Women International, Lambda Legal, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Legal Momentum NAACP.

National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Council of Jewish Women, National Education Association, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund, National Partnership for Women & Families, National Organization for Women, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) National People For the American Way.

Secular Coalition for America, Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS), The Sikh Coalition, Transgender Law Center, Union for Reform Judaism, Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society, Women of Reform Judaism.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit my remarks in opposition to a Republican bill that weakens protections for violence against women and in support of the bipartisan Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit my remarks in opposition to a Republican bill that weakens protections for violence against women and in support of the bipartisan Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 656, Rule Providing Consideration of H.R. 4970, Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. Reporting a closed rule for the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act is another example of shutting Democrats out of the legislation process by ruling out any opportunity for Democrats to offer much needed Amendments.

The House version of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act unfortunately omits improvements contained in the Senate version of the bill. What is worse is that the House version in its current form removes existing protections for immigrant women, and puts them at greater risk of domestic and sexual abuse, and it does not provide adequate and equal protection for tribal women and the LGBT community.

For nearly two decades now, Democrats have firmly supported the Violence Against Women Act and the critical assistance it has provided for women, men, and children, and have worked with Republicans to ensure its reauthorization twice in the past. Unfortunately, since Republicans have taken over the

House, bipartisanship and compromise have fallen out of fashion. Republicans have continually played partisan politics and refused to compromise in an effort to move this country forward, and here we are again with another clear example of that.

Reporting a closed rule for consideration of Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act is a full-fledged promotion of the Republican attack against women and approval of legislation that is intended to silence the cries of millions of women around our country.

Violence Against Women Act has never been and should never be a partisan issue. It is astonishing how the Republican majority has lost sight of our purpose as lawmakers. We have been trusted with the responsibility of protecting society and ensuring justice to victims. Democrats and Republicans have always worked together to reauthorize Violence Against Women Act since its original passage in 1994. But that is not the case today.

This rule completely shuts out Democrats and does not allow for the possibility of a bipartisan consensus. I cannot support a rule making in order a bill that strips immigrant women, tribal women and the LGBT community of vital protections as this bill does.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand with me in opposition to this rule.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ladies who are submitting their statements for the RECORD.

The Members who join me today are just a few of the many people who would like to be here to offer their suggestions for improving the bill and to highlight the stories of women, men, and children in their district and communities who have experienced atrocious violence. There are lessons to be learned from their stories, and it is unwise and unkind of us to turn a blind eye.

I'm thinking of Rosalind in Milwaukee, who was killed by her girlfriend, Malika, and her family had concerns about her over-possessiveness. But, of course, this is an LGBT relationship, and an order for protection may have been ignored without these provisions.

I think of another person in my district, Diane's story, 26 years old, married to a non-Indian, beaten. Over a hundred incidences—slapped, kicked, punched, and living in terror. She called for help several times but no one ever came to her rescue. She was living on a tribal land.

The Violence Against Women Act has been a lifeline for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. It has allowed us to hold perpetrators accountable and to pave pathways out of violence for victims—all women. And since VAWA passed in 1994, domestic violence has dropped by more than half. We must not turn back, Mr. Speaker. We must not weaken or repeal some of VAWA's lifesaving protections.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 5 minutes remaining.

Ms. MOORE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to claim time in opposition to the point of

order and in favor of consideration of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 10 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. The question before the House is: Should the House now consider H. Res. 656? Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, or UMRA, excludes from the application of that act any legislative provision that establishes or enforces statutory rights prohibiting discrimination.

The Congressional Budget Office has stated that while they have not reviewed a provision in section 3 of H.R. 4970 for intergovernmental or private-sector mandates, since that provision prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or disability, other provisions of H.R. 4970 would impose no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.

CBO goes on to say the bill would impose private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA on brokers of international marriage and certain supervisors over persons under official control of the United States. However, CBO estimates that the cost of those mandates would fall well below the annual threshold established in UMRA: \$146 million in 2012, adjusted annually for inflation.

Mr. Speaker, the motion of the gentlewoman is dilatory. In order to allow the House to continue its scheduled business for the day, I urge Members to vote "yes" on the question of consideration of the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do appreciate the woman walking us through the protocols for the unfunded mandates. And I would submit to her that the National Network to End Domestic Violence, who does a point-in-time counting of domestic violence services nationwide, would indicate that it costs not only personal anguish, but there are costs in society, actual fiscal costs, to not protecting women who are suffering in violent situations.

Right in my own State of Wisconsin, 714,000 women have been assaulted, raped, or stalked by an intimate partner. This number actually exceeds the population of the entire city of Milwaukee. Imagine the cost to employers when people don't show up at work. Imagine the cost in emergency rooms when people show up battered and bruised and broken and have no health insurance.

Approximately half a million of these women were fearful or concerned for their safety. Two hundred and eighty thousand Wisconsin women, 12.7 percent of our population, have been stalked in their lifetime. Imagine the cost of additional police work when these women call the police and nothing has been done in terms of making arrests and asking for accountability.

A study of childhood exposure to violence in Milwaukee has found that 16

percent of Wisconsin adults report having experienced recurring violence between adults in their childhood. Imagine the loss of productivity at schools. There's often a lot of talk about kids being inattentive in school and not being able to pass and succeed in school. Next to hunger, imagine the cost of witnessing and experiencing violence in the home as a cost to society.

I would now like to yield to the gentlelady for a question.

There were several amendments that were introduced in the Rules Committee last evening, and I was wondering if you were aware of any amendments that were adopted after we left the Rules Committee last evening. I know there had been a hearing. I was wondering if any of the amendments that Democrats had introduced were adopted.

Ms. FOXX. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

None of the amendments were made in order except the manager's amendment, which brings the bill closer to the Senate version of the bill.

Ms. MOORE. The manager's amendment, thankfully, was adopted, because the manager's amendment did have one little piece in there that helps out immigrant women. But there are 325 groups and organizations, everything from national women organizations to evangelical women and the bishops, that oppose even the manager's amendment because they say that not only are there just simply rollbacks to the Violence Against Women Act, but it actually puts immigrant women in danger, as the balance is tipped from current law in favor of these batterers, sexual assaulters, abusers, and killers.

I would like to yield to the gentlelady for one more question.

Will this body ever have an opportunity to vote on the bipartisan bill from the Senate that passed 68-31? Will this body ever have the opportunity? Will that bill ever be before us?

□ 1250

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I cannot assume what this body will do in the future. I am one member of the Rules Committee and the Education Committee. I do not have control over that, and I don't believe anybody can predict the future.

Ms. MOORE. Representative FOXX, just a follow-up, you are a member, a very senior member, of the Rules Committee, and so I was wondering if the rule is structured in a way that will ever allow to have before us, after we vote on this version, the Adams version of the VAWA bill? Will there be a pathway toward voting on the Senate bill as you understand it?

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I believe the gentlewoman's question is a question for the rule and is not relevant to the point of order which she has raised.

Ms. MOORE. I thank the Speaker and I thank the gentlelady.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin has expired.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it really pains me to see my colleagues across the aisle make the kind of accusations that they make about Republicans being unconcerned about the issue of violence against women. How could they possibly accuse us of not being concerned about that issue? All Republicans are concerned about violence against anyone. Violence, we are very concerned about that. I personally won't even watch any kind of movie that has any kind of violence in it because I can't stand to see violence perpetrated on another human being. So Republican men and women both abhor violence against women.

But what we have done in the legislation that we are proposing is we are asking for increased accountability and to see that more services are directly offered to women who have violence perpetrated against them. In fact, I would say that we are more concerned about violence for women because we want to see those women served better and we want to see the money spent better.

Mr. Speaker, helping victims of abuse and domestic violence is not a Republican or Democrat issue. I have been pleased to work with Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ on H.R. 196, Simplifying the Ambiguous Law Keeping Everyone Reliably Safe, or STALKERS, Act which she has championed for the last two Congresses. The Democrats wouldn't bring this bill up when they were in control of the House.

The STALKERS Act updates the Federal stalking statute to include electronic surveillance and other means of cyber-stalking to ensure that potential stalking victims are protected as technology changes. In addition, the STALKERS Act increases criminal penalties by 5 years for offenders who have violated a protective order or whose victims are under the age of 18 or elderly.

Congresswoman SANCHEZ and I worked together regardless of which party was in charge of the House, and I'm pleased that legislation with the original cosponsor, who's a Democrat, has been included in the VAWA reauthorization bill that the House will vote on today. The VAWA reauthorization bill also adds stalking as an allowable grant purpose to continue the work of protecting these victims.

As we all know, law enforcement and prosecutors must have the resources they need to pursue violent criminals, and I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in voting for H.R. 4970 after voting for this rule providing for its consideration, or the rule we will consider in just a few minutes.

I'm not going to impugn the character of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We all want to stop violence against women. That's why Republicans have brought forth this bill. Again, the STALKERS Act could have

been brought forward under Democrat control of the House. It was not, and I'm very disappointed. But I'm proud of Republicans, that we're doing it and we're strengthening the Violence Against Women Act, not weakening the act.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The question is, Will the House now consider the resolution?

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 183, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 253]

YEAS—239

Adams	Fortenberry	Marchant
Aderholt	Foxx	Marino
Akin	Franks (AZ)	McCarthy (CA)
Alexander	Frelinghuysen	McCaul
Amash	Gallely	McClintock
Amodoi	Gardner	McCotter
Austria	Garrett	McHenry
Bachmann	Gerlach	McKeon
Bachus	Gibbs	McKinley
Barletta	Gibson	McMorris
Bartlett	Gingrey (GA)	Rodgers
Barton (TX)	Gohmert	Meehan
Bass (NH)	Goodlatte	Mica
Benishek	Gosar	Miller (FL)
Berg	Gowdy	Miller (MI)
Biggart	Granger	Miller, Gary
Bilbray	Graves (GA)	Mulvaney
Bilirakis	Graves (MO)	Murphy (PA)
Bishop (UT)	Griffin (AR)	Myrick
Black	Griffith (VA)	Neugebauer
Blackburn	Grimm	Noem
Bonner	Guinta	Nugent
Bono Mack	Guthrie	Nunes
Boustany	Hall	Nunnelee
Brady (TX)	Hanna	Olson
Brooks	Harper	Palazzo
Broun (GA)	Harris	Paul
Buchanan	Hartzler	Paulsen
Bucshon	Hastings (WA)	Pearce
Buerkle	Hayworth	Pence
Burgess	Heck	Peterson
Calvert	Hensarling	Petri
Camp	Herger	Platts
Campbell	Herrera Beutler	Poe (TX)
Canseco	Huelskamp	Pompeo
Cantor	Huizenga (MI)	Posey
Capito	Hultgren	Price (GA)
Carter	Hunter	Quayle
Chabot	Hurt	Reed
Chaffetz	Issa	Rehberg
Coble	Jenkins	Reichert
Coffman (CO)	Johnson (IL)	Renacci
Cole	Johnson (OH)	Ribble
Conaway	Johnson, Sam	Rigell
Cravaack	Jones	Rivera
Crawford	Jordan	Roby
Crenshaw	Kelly	Roe (TN)
Culberson	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
Davis (KY)	Kingston	Rogers (KY)
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (MI)
Dent	Klione	Rohrabacher
DesJarlais	Lamborn	Rokita
Diaz-Balart	Lance	Rooney
Dold	Landry	Ros-Lehtinen
Dreier	Lankford	Roskam
Duffy	Latham	Ross (FL)
Duncan (SC)	LaTourette	Royce
Duncan (TN)	Latta	Runyan
Ellmers	Lewis (CA)	Ryan (WI)
Emerson	LoBiondo	Scalise
Farenthold	Long	Schilling
Fincher	Lucas	Schmidt
Fitzpatrick	Luetkemeyer	Schock
Flake	Lummis	Schweikert
Fleischmann	Lungren, Daniel	Scott (SC)
Fleming	E.	Scott, Austin
Flores	Mack	Scott, David
Forbes	Manzullo	Sensenbrenner

Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuler  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Southernland  
Stearns  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Sullivan

Terry  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Turner (NY)  
Turner (OH)  
Upton  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walsh (IL)  
Webster  
West

Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Wolf  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)  
Young (IN)

NAYS—183

Ackerman  
Altmire  
Baca  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bass (CA)  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berman  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boren  
Boswell  
Brady (PA)  
Braley (IA)  
Brown (FL)  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Castor (FL)  
Chu  
Cicilline  
Clarke (MI)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly (VA)  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello  
Courtney  
Critz  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (IL)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
Deutch  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donnelly (IN)  
Doyle  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Farr  
Fattah  
Frank (MA)

Fudge  
Garamendi  
Gonzalez  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutierrez  
Hahn  
Hanabusa  
Hastings (FL)  
Heinrich  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinchev  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hochul  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Israel  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson Lee  
(TX)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kildee  
Kind  
Kissell  
Kucinich  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee (CA)  
Levin  
Lewis (GA)  
Lipinski  
Loebsack  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowe  
Lujan  
Lynch  
Maloney  
Markey  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McIntyre  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Michaud  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, George  
Moore  
Moran  
Murphy (CT)

Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Olver  
Owens  
Pallone  
Pascarell  
Pastor (AZ)  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Pingree (ME)  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Reyes  
Richardson  
Richmond  
Ross (AR)  
Rothman (NJ)  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Schwartz  
Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sires  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stark  
Sutton  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tierney  
Tonko  
Townes  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz (MN)  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watt  
Waxman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Woolsey  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Andrews  
Burton (IN)  
Cassidy

Chandler  
Filner  
King (IA)

Labrador  
Pitts  
Slaughter

□ 1318

Messrs. COHEN, CLEAVER, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. RICHMOND changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. MCCAUL, WEBSTER, and YOUNG of Alaska changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the question of consideration was decided in the affirmative.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 253, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

□ 1320

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HARTZLER). The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 656 provides for a closed rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, and general debate for H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

As an original cosponsor of the underlying bill, I am proud to stand with my Republican colleagues in support of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, otherwise known as VAWA.

The House Judiciary Committee-passed version of VAWA before us today is a commonsense proposal to ensure that limited taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and efficiently while also improving access to services for victims. With this bill, we have also worked to add accountability requirements to conduct the necessary oversight of VAWA grant recipients and programs. Our goal is to ensure that more money is spent on direct services and less on administrative bureaucracy.

I commend Representative ADAMS on authoring this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the rule and the underlying bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentlelady for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying bills: H.R. 4970, the Cantor-Adams bill, and H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act.

Before we discuss the unprecedented rule for the Cantor-Adams bill, which has really turned what has traditionally been a bipartisan issue into a political football—to the detriment of women across our country—I would like to say a few words about the National Defense Authorization Act, which is also included in this rule.

I am really dismayed that the Defense authorization bill that House Republicans have brought before us undermines the bipartisan agreement which was reached just last summer. The bill funds defense spending at \$8 billion over the levels set in the Budget Control Act and \$3 billion over the President's budget request—again, more deficit spending in this Republican bill before us under this rule.

As our deficit spirals out of control, we need to tighten our belt and balance our budget. Instead, this bill doubles down on 10 years of ballooning defense budgets, which have played a major role in our deficit. This bill continues to kick the can down the road toward balancing our budget and leaves an only bigger hole that the Republican tax-and-spend policies continue to dig, putting our Nation deeper and deeper into debt.

Additionally, this bill ties the hands of our military and law enforcement by requiring in statute to keep military detainees in Guantanamo, handcuffing any President, Democrat or Republican, and preventing him from coming up with a plan for what to do with these individuals. This bill panders to our fears by insisting that the detainees remain in Guantanamo interminably. It tries to tell generals how to do their jobs and sets a timetable for troop levels in Afghanistan rather than does our normal civilian process.

Finally, I am disappointed by the political posturing included in the bill. The NDAA used to focus solely on setting defense policy and protecting our Nation. Unfortunately, the Republicans have decided to use this bill to also push political wedge issues. There is language in this bill prohibiting the use of military facilities to conduct same-sex marriages even in States that allow same-sex marriages. It even prevents gay and lesbian chaplains from marrying members of the military to other members of the military.

Further, I am deeply disturbed that, in a bill that governs our national security, language was included that would increase our dependence on foreign oil and that would undermine our long-term energy security interest. This bill's exemption of the Department of Defense from complying with section 526 of the 2007 energy bill hurts water and recreational interests in my State and harms research and development and investment in renewable energy.

Now, sadly, as disappointing as it is to see political posturing in the Defense authorization bill under this rule, it is truly horrifying to see the political posturing in the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act, which under this House version would likely lead to more violence against women. The Violence Against Women Act has a long bipartisan history. Both sides have traditionally sought to protect all victims of domestic violence, not just some. Sadly, this bill before us undoes much of the work that previous Con-

gresses have done and accomplished on this issue for no reason when we have a bipartisan Senate version of the bill that protects all women from the abuse of partners.

Why would we exclude certain women in this country? If a woman is in a lesbian relationship, should she not be protected if she is a victim of domestic abuse? If a woman doesn't have the documentation to be in this country and is here illegally, should she not be protected under this law?

VAWA protects women who are actually convicted of other crimes. If a woman stole a car and served time, was convicted of that crime, she is still protected from domestic abuse under VAWA. Yet nonviolent offenders of our civil code, like undocumented immigrants, would no longer be protected because they would effectively face deportation after 4 years for testifying against the perpetrators of their abuse, making it much less likely that they would bring the perpetrators to justice and end the vicious cycle of domestic abuse in their families.

The majority in the House has offered no explanation for their refusal to allow us to take up the Senate bipartisan bill. My colleague VIRGINIA FOXX was noncommittal in her response about whether we would be taking up the Senate bipartisan bill. If she doesn't know the answer—and I certainly take her on her word—I would hope that somebody on the other side would come to the floor and say, Can we take up this Senate bipartisan bill? And if not, why not? And if so, when?

It passed the Senate with 68 votes, Republicans and Democrats. This is the time to stand up and see if our colleagues on both sides of the aisle are serious about responding to the insidious domestic violence crimes that occur every day throughout this country. Frankly, that could start by the defeat of this bill, allowing for an open process in considering this bill on the floor of the House.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

The Violence Against Women Act is an important tool for preventing domestic violence and sexual assault and for supporting the victims of these crimes. There is broad bipartisan agreement that this essential legislation must be renewed.

While the House bill protects the victims of domestic violence and improves services and education to prevent and address these crimes on college campuses, our legislation also goes beyond the Senate bill by ensuring that taxpayer resources help victims—not Washington bureaucrats—by limiting administrative expenses, requiring annual audits and combating fraud.

While the House legislation takes enormous strides in protecting the victims of these truly horrific crimes, the

legislation also takes great care to ensure the funds allocated by this bill are treated with the responsibility and care the victims and taxpayers deserve:

H.R. 4970 requires VAWA audits be performed by the Department of Justice and that the Attorney General improves the coordination between the grant-making offices to reduce duplication and overlap in funding. H.R. 4970 prohibits the award of grant funds to nonprofit organizations that hold money in offshore accounts in order to avoid paying their Federal taxes, and it limits the use of funds for salaries and administrative expenses to 5 percent of funds authorized under the act.

□ 1330

The Violence Against Women Act has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, and any attempt to exploit this important law as a partisan political issue is contemptible.

I encourage my colleagues in the House to vote in support of this legislation today to protect the victims of violent crime and support the responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, for nearly two decades, Congress has repeatedly reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act on a near unanimous and bipartisan basis.

Since the act became law, incidents of domestic violence have dropped by more than 60 percent and the reporting rate of domestic violence has risen by 51 percent.

The 2012 reauthorization is a chance for Congress to reaffirm its commitment to the protection of women across this Nation. That is why it's particularly disheartening to see such a vital piece of legislation fall victim to putting politics ahead of people.

What are the facts? Tonight, an American woman will join the one in four women who have been the victims of severe physical domestic violence. To her, this reauthorization is more than just a bill; it's security. The bill is security for the one in six women who have been raped in their lifetime. It's security for the mothers, daughters, and sisters across this Nation, and its security for the selfless individuals who tirelessly work to bring aid.

Now is not the time to take a step back, to abandon these victims. This Congress must expand its efforts and ensure that all victims are assisted, no matter what their race, religion, or sexual orientation. Too many in this body have chosen to fight against these protections. They want to fight efforts to extend LGBT individuals equal protection, even though they're less likely to receive protective orders, more likely to be turned away, and because of this are less likely to report their attack to the police. They deserve equal protection, and there's a bipartisan bill that does just that, but it's falling victim to election-year politics.

In America, we have to combat the abuse of women in our own society—no matter their country of origin—if we're going to continue to have the moral authority to advocate for the rights of people abroad. There is also a bipartisan bill that would continue to protect immigrant survivors by granting them special visas and by preventing retribution from their attackers, yet there are some in this body who would also deny these women protection.

These days, bipartisan compromise is hard to come by, no matter how hard some of us try. We are rarely handed an opportunity where there is such universal agreement. VAWA has a proud history of bipartisan support. Let's continue that tradition, put politics aside, and pass a bipartisan VAWA reauthorization bill that protects all victims.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from North Carolina, Congresswoman ELLMERS.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Thank you to my colleague from North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and the underlying bill and call for the passage of H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012. Since its enactment in 1994, VAWA has helped many women escape abuse and enabled them to seek help through its victim services program.

We're here today debating something that is a good policy and common sense and should be supported in the same bipartisan manner that we have seen throughout the two decades since its inception. Violence against women does not occur along party lines, and neither should reauthorization of these programs. We must work together in a bipartisan manner to protect women from domestic violence, rape, and stalking. Partisan posturing should not be placed above the urgent needs of these victims.

The House's reauthorization makes several key improvements to the Senate bill and nearly doubles the resources for eliminating the backlog of unprocessed rape evidence kits, while cracking down on the fraud identified in the immigration program. This bill also brings great accountability to the grant administration by ensuring that funding is spent on the victims, not Washington bureaucrats. The House's reauthorization of VAWA is and always will be about the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

I am proud to support this bill and will continue to fight and protect women and victims of abuse through commonsense legislation.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and urge a "no" vote on the flawed Violence Against Women Act that my Republican colleagues will bring to the floor.

They had an opportunity to bring the bipartisan Senate bill to the floor, but

chose not to do so. That's a shame, because the Violence Against Women Act has been a bipartisan and non-controversial effort for almost 20 years now. The update passed the Senate on a bipartisan basis just last month.

Why does everything have to be a partisan fight here on the floor of the House? Over the past year, my Republican colleagues here in the House have blocked an important jobs package; they have stalled the adoption of the national transportation and infrastructure bill; they've dragged their feet on help for students and the impending increase to the student loan rate; and now they have turned what has been a bipartisan effort to protect the victims of domestic violence into a senseless political fight. Republicans would not even allow debate on amendments so that we could improve their flawed bill. And this is serious, because in my home State of Florida, there were over 113,000 crimes of domestic violence reported in 2010. If the Republican bill were to pass, more domestic violence crimes would go unreported, more abusers would be free, and more victims would be harmed.

This bill works in opposition to the very purpose of the legislation to protect all victims of domestic violence. Not just some victims, but all victims. Advocates across the country who are on the front lines in aiding women and victims every day have announced their opposition.

Please defeat this rule so we can call up the bipartisan and improved version from the Senate.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her leadership on the rule.

I also want to thank Congresswoman SANDY ADAMS from Florida for her leadership on the issue. I think it is so instructive to all of us as women of the House that we have had a female law enforcement officer who has been a leader in domestic violence policy in addressing this issue to help walk us through what works, what doesn't, and where we need to tweak this.

Many Members of this House, and many women are like me. They've worked on establishing domestic violence and child advocacy centers. And to hear from Congresswoman ADAMS the specifics—to bring more accountability to bear and to make certain that funding gets to the victims has been her priority, and a job well-done on that.

Some of the stats indeed tell us why we need to do this. In Tennessee, where I'm from, 52.1 percent of all crimes against persons are domestic violence.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for the rule.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. I thank my colleague.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and to the underlying bill

that will actually roll back protections for women across this Nation.

The Violence Against Women Act is a vital piece of legislation to be sure. It established a comprehensive response to prevent relationship violence, sexual assault, and stalking; to support survivors; and to hold perpetrators accountable. It is also a symbol that relationship violence and sexual assault is real and that it is unacceptable.

For the past 20 years, this law has been a shining symbol that Congress can put aside its petty differences and we can come together to do what is right for violence victims and survivors.

□ 1340

Now the bill before us tarnishes that symbol.

H.R. 4970 marks a backsliding in violence protections, leaving more women out in the cold without legal resources or social supports, just when they need it most.

And the issues are not just for immigrants or the LGBT community—although the way the bill before us ignores their pain is shameful—but also for women on college campuses, those in need of safe housing, tribal women. And that is why hundreds of groups across the country—service providers, law enforcement, health care workers—have come out against this bill.

Now we could address the problems in this bill if we were allowed an opportunity to vote on the Moore-Conyers amendment, which I cosponsored. The Moore-Conyers amendment mirrors the recently passed bipartisan Senate bill. But the House leadership unilaterally decided to block it from even coming to a vote. The majority has, once again, put rigid ideology over commonsense compromise, and this time at the expense of violence survivors and their families.

Reauthorization is critical for the Violence Against Women Act, but it needs to be done right. I urge the majority to drop the partisan politics, join a bipartisan coalition, and support these survivors.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I now would like to yield 5 minutes to Mr. NUGENT from Florida, my distinguished colleague on the Rules Committee.

Mr. NUGENT. I thank my fellow Rules Committee member, Dr. FOXX, for allowing me to speak on this issue not only for women but for all Americans. I also want to thank my Florida colleague SANDY ADAMS for her leadership shown on this issue.

I spent my entire career as a law enforcement officer, 36 years, and the last 10 years as a sheriff. When you are a cop, you usually don't get to see people in the best light. Getting called to somebody's house or somebody coming to your office isn't typically something that is a highlight of their day. It's because they are in need of help.

Throughout my entire career, I saw some of the worst that man has to



offer, and no small part of that was domestic violence. During my four decades as a cop and sheriff, I saw the results of domestic violence: battered partners, both men and women; children either physically or emotionally hurt in the crossfire between their fighting parents; victims who were suffering, scared, intimidated, and didn't know where to go for justice.

If you will look at the State of Florida and what it did with regards to domestic violence, it's clear that it was not just about a husband and wife. It's about those folks that live within a home. It's about their relationship within that home as it affects their children, as it affects each other. It doesn't specifically say that it has to be a man or a woman. It doesn't identify that. It talks about a relationship—not a casual relationship, but a relationship where they're intimate with each other, they spend time with each other, they're sexually active with each other. It doesn't say that it has to be a man and a woman. It says, these individuals have certain rights under domestic violence law and also the ability to get an injunction for protection.

I have seen abusers on both sides. I have seen those who were married, those who were boyfriend and girlfriend, and those who were boyfriend and girlfriend or girlfriend and girlfriend commit atrocious crimes on each other. It had nothing to do with marriage. It had everything to do with the relationships that they had within their homes.

So as we move forward, those on the other side of the aisle want to add something to this piece of legislation that's already covered. It already covers those relationships. If you start defining a particular relationship, what if you leave one out? In here, it is very broad and allows us, in law enforcement, to be very protective of those that need protection. Whether it's stalking, intimidation, voyeurism, it doesn't matter. And oftentimes, women are the victims of domestic violence, but a man can just as easily be a victim of domestic violence, and I have seen that, too.

The Violence Against Women Act protects and prevents all types of intimate partner crime regardless of the gender of either the criminal or the victim. This legislation funds the programs that not only help men and women who have been hurt, but it also helps law enforcement prevent these crimes from ever happening.

I have heard a number of my colleagues talk about what isn't in the bill. They say, for example, it doesn't include "sexual orientation" as one of the protected classes. The Violence Against Women Act is and always has been gender-neutral. That's the beauty of this piece of legislation. It's gender-neutral.

Under the "real" VAWA, as some people call it, domestic violence is interpreted as intimate partner violence.

It legally includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by spouses or ex-spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends, and ex-boyfriends or ex-girlfriends.

Now I'm not going to say this House legislation is perfect, but it makes significant improvements to streamline our Nation's domestic violence programs. In fact, the exact same funding authorization levels in the Senate bill is included in this bill, \$680 million in funding per year for the next 5 years. Moreover, the manager's amendment brings the House even more in line with the Senate's authorization.

Madam Speaker, as you probably know, this week is National Police Week, and we certainly know about domestic violence. The men and women that worked for me, as a sheriff, knew about it. SANDY ADAMS, a former cop, introduced this legislation. And we've seen firsthand what domestic violence does to our families.

By passing this legislation, we get a step closer to making sure these victims receive the services they need. That's why I am encouraging my colleagues to support the rule, support this legislation, and let it get to conference with the Senate so we can bring these services to the men and women who need it the most.

Mr. POLLIS. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. When one out of four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes, it is unconscionable that the majority would try to roll back the protections in the Violence Against Women Act.

Since the act first passed in 1994, it has changed the landscape for American women. Domestic violence has dropped by over 50 percent. And in a historical bipartisan fashion, the Senate passed a bill that modernizes the act for our times. It consolidates programs, takes additional steps to reach victims of domestic violence.

Madam Speaker, 200 national organizations, 500 State and local organizations, including the National District Attorneys Association, the National Sheriffs' Association—my colleague who just spoke is a former sheriff, but his association is supporting the Senate bill and not this House bill—and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association all support the Senate bill. And our colleague from Wisconsin, Congresswoman MOORE, has put forward legislation that mirrors that bipartisan approach. But instead of moving that bipartisan bill forward, the majority has put forward an alternative bill that, in fact, risks the lives and the health of women.

The Department of Justice estimates that one out of every three Native American women will be raped and two out of five will be victims of domestic violence. The majority's bill removes the provisions that are essential to ensuring that Indian women have access

to the act. The Senate bill and Congresswoman MOORE's bill strengthen protections in the act for immigrant women; yet the majority's bill would endanger the safety of immigrants.

In 2010, nearly half of lesbian and gay survivors were turned away from domestic violence shelters or denied services because of their sexual orientation. The majority's bill would continue to deny those individuals the community protections afforded by the act.

We are talking about women's lives. This is no place for partisan games. The rule before us would roll back the central protections that have made a difference for so many women in this Nation.

I urge the majority to bring Congresswoman MOORE's bill to the floor. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this rule.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I now would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

□ 1350

Domestic violence is an all-too-common reality, occurring most everywhere here in the United States, and one that deeply impacts all involved. In Ohio alone, there were reportedly 70,717 calls in 2010 for domestic violence incidents. While not all of these resulted in criminal charges, it is vitally important that law enforcement have the knowledge and resources necessary to appropriately respond and investigate domestic violence calls. It is also crucial that all victims of domestic violence have access to the help they need to get out of a harmful situation and overcome not only physical abuse but the emotional scars that deeply impact the lives of victims.

I am confident that H.R. 4970 would play an integral role in alleviating domestic violence in our communities by providing more than \$680 million for funding per year to help prevent domestic violence and protect victims of abuse. This legislation would also increase resources for sexual assault investigations, prosecutions, and victim services, in addition to strengthening penalties for abusers. Importantly, this legislation also seeks to promote awareness for the prevention of violence by funding State prevention education programs and enhancements for campus programs.

As a son, a husband, a brother to two sisters, a father of two grown women, and a grandfather of four little girls, I understand the importance of preventing domestic violence against women and also ensuring that all women have the necessary resources and protection should they ever be in need.

The number of occurrences of domestic violence, physical violence, and stalking within the United States is

staggering and simply unacceptable. It is my hope that this reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act will have an immediate impact on reducing domestic violence and improving services for its victims.

Mr. POLIS. It is my honor to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. I urge a “no” vote. This bill is but one more assault on what has become, sadly but surely, known as the war against women.

A government has no greater responsibility than to keep its citizens safe, but in its current form, this bill says there are some we will not help. We will not protect Native Americans, LGBT people, and immigrant people.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would not extend the protections of this bill to tribal residents. Why? Do they not suffer when they are assaulted? This bill, in its current form, would not protect people from discrimination in the LGBT community. Why? Do they not bleed when they are struck? And this bill, in its current form, eliminates the path to citizenship for some visa holders who have been victims of sex trafficking, torture, and rape. Why? Do they not bruise and bleed when they are beaten and battered?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 20 seconds.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you.

There is an indifference to the suffering of some—just some—in this bill that is as chilling and callous as anything I have ever seen in this Chamber in modern times.

I urge a strong “no” vote on the rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. FOXX. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. BUERKLE).

Ms. BUERKLE. I rise this afternoon in support of the rule and the underlying bill in H.R. 4970. I am so pleased to stand here with my colleagues in support of this rule.

This is a particularly meaningful bill for me because, in 1994, when I graduated from law school, I became aware of a program that the Women’s Bar Association had. That was 1994, and that’s when the original VAWA was enacted. The program was that we could do pro bono work and work in our domestic violence shelter. For all of these many years, I have been involved in domestic violence. So it’s particularly meaningful to me that the time when I first got involved in this—and it was thanks to a very courageous law school professor I had—that we now are reauthorizing VAWA that was originally from 1994.

Madam Speaker, I just become so distressed when I hear the allegations that there is a war on women. When we sat down and we began discussing VAWA, we sat down with the understanding that Americans deserve equal protection under the law. We are not going to single out. We are not going to

distinguish one victim from another. Any person who is a victim of domestic violence is a victim of domestic violence. Beyond that, it should be of no concern.

However, I will say this—and my colleague SANDY ADAMS has done such a magnificent job with this—when we began to have concerns after we dropped this bill last week, we went back to the table. We heard from Members who have large Native American populations in their districts and Members who are Native Americans with regard to the issue. We heard with regard to the illegal alien issue. We went back to the table and came forth with a manager’s amendment to begin to address those issues. That’s the right thing to do. That’s what domestic violence victims should expect from this House—sit down, figure this out, and make sure we go forward with what is in the best interest of the victims. And that’s what the House of Representatives did.

I strongly support this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. POLIS. It is my honor to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Let me give one example of how important this legislation is and how this bill before us would eliminate important provisions to protect women from abuse.

Several years ago, a teenage girl from Trenton came to my office for help. She’d been abused by her parents and abandoned by them. When she came to my office, she was living in a shelter participating in a transitional living program that required part-time employment. She had come to the United States legally, but she needed help. Because of VAWA, I was able to show her how she could secure her permanent resident status and work authorization. After I helped her get work authorization and permanent resident status, she got her life back on track. VAWA made that possible.

This bill would remove essential provisions of VAWA that allow victims of abuse to petition for permanent residency by themselves; and by removing those provisions, this bill would leave this girl and countless other victims of domestic abuse with no help, no support, and potentially at the mercy of their abusers.

Vote “no” on this rule. Vote “no” on the bill.

Ms. FOXX. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the rule and in strong support of the underlying bill, the Violence Against Women Act.

Madam Speaker, for several years, I had the great honor to serve on the

board of my local domestic violence safe house. And I call it a safe house. We didn’t call it a shelter. We called it a safe house. So I have personally seen women and children who so desperately needed that safe haven to escape from a cycle of violence. Throughout my service here in Congress, I consistently fought to make certain that support is there for all of the safe houses across my district.

Those women and all those victims of domestic violence, who far too often suffer in silence, need to know that they are not alone and that there are people who care. Today, this House is doing what we need to do, by taking a stand in defense of those who face the danger of domestic violence, by passing this reauthorization.

I certainly applaud the author of the bill, SANDY ADAMS from Florida. She’s kept politics away from crafting this bill. Instead, she’s really focused squarely on protecting the victims of domestic violence.

The bill that we are debating here today produces funding at the same level as what was passed by the Senate, but I think it allocates that funding in a way that better supports the victims of domestic violence. For instance, this bill doesn’t make any special carve-outs for any particular victim group, because it protects everybody equally. It also includes outstanding revisions developed by listening to those involved in protecting victims from across the Nation.

It strengthens penalties for sexual assault and abuse. It improves Federal stalking laws. It helps young women in college by working to prevent violence on our campuses through improved education programs. And it dramatically improves emergency and transitional housing services.

As well, the Senate bill mirrors current law, which only mandates 40 percent of the funding in the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to address a backlog of rape testing kits which are required, quite frankly, to successfully prosecute rape cases. Our bill mandates that 75 percent of the funding be used for that purpose so that we can eliminate the backlog that exists and put rapists where they belong, and that’s in prison.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me today in standing up for women in need and all victims of violence by supporting this outstanding legislation.

□ 1400

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, we need to work together to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act; but, unfortunately, H.R. 4970 is seriously flawed and should not pass.

Among its many flaws, it harms immigrant women and fails to protect the LGBT community. It also creates new

mandatory minimum sentences. Mandatory minimums have been studied extensively, and they've been found to be ineffective in addressing crime, while at the same time they distort the rational sentencing systems, they discriminate against minorities, and they often violate common sense.

Mandatory minimums can be particularly harmful in domestic relations cases, domestic violence cases where the victim and the abuser have a prior relationship, and where the victim of abuse may be less likely to report the abuse knowing that, if convicted, the abuser is certain to go to prison for 5 or 10 years without parole. That's why many organizations dedicated to ending domestic violence and working hard for the reauthorization of VAWA are opposed to the mandatory minimum provisions in the rule.

On top of these problems in the reported bill, the Rules Committee adopted a manager's amendment that, among other problems, deletes protections against discrimination in hiring by religious organizations using VAWA funds.

Since the 1960s, we have had, as a Federal policy, a prohibition against discrimination based on religion when using Federal funds. The 1964 Civil Rights Act had an exemption for churches and other religious organizations using their own funds to be able to consider religion in hiring. However, the manager's amendment specifically allows those groups to discriminate based on religion with Federal funds. We should not pass a bill that allows a person applying for a job paid for with Federal funds to be discriminated against based on religion.

Madam Speaker, we must work hard to reauthorize VAWA; but, unfortunately, H.R. 4970 in its current form is not the version of VAWA we should pass, and the rule does not allow amendments to improve the bill. So I urge defeat of this rule.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I now would like to yield 2 minutes to our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I rise also to support the rule and to support the Violence Against Women Act. This bill will support programs and organizations that help assist the victims of domestic abuse, stalking, and sexual assault. And it does so in a way that includes much-needed accountability measures so we can be sure that more of the funds go to the victims who need it rather than to Washington bureaucrats.

When I was practicing law, I represented some victims of domestic violence, including men, women, and children, when I was doing guardian ad litem work. And I, further, had a law office bookkeeper who was murdered by her husband while she was working for us. It was traumatic for the entire office.

On Indian reservations in my State and in communities where there is a

hidden element of domestic abuse that you see every Friday morning in the courtroom when they have stacked settings for these types of cases, you see things you wouldn't even believe are going on in your own communities. That's why it's so important we have a bill that is efficient and gets the money to those victims, not to bureaucrats in Washington. That's why I support this rule. That's why I support the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill that rolls back protections for domestic violence victims and survivors, and I include three letters representing hundreds of organizations—law enforcement organizations, advocacy organizations around the country—in opposition to the rule.

Before coming to Congress, I founded and was the first executive director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence. I've trained thousands of police officers and judges, held victims' hands in courts. I've done intake in shelters and held their children in emergency rooms and answered calls on hotlines.

This bill, the underlying bill and the rule, do great damage to the work that we've done across the aisle as advocates and leaders of good will to protect the interests of battered women of domestic violence, victims and survivors.

Since the passage in 1994, the Violence Against Women Act has been a bipartisan piece of legislation. It has revolutionized the way violent crimes against women are prosecuted and prevented. Never would I have imagined that, when working on this 18 years ago, that we'd be in this Congress rolling back the protections that have been expanded to protect women, victims, survivors across this country and their children. It really is a sad day in this Congress. We should be ashamed of what we're doing.

We should make sure that we expand protections for women, for immigrant women, for lesbian and gay men and women, and to make sure that we pass a rule that truly is bipartisan in this Congress that reflects the values and the needs and the spirit of the 1994 law.

MAY 15, 2012.

Re: Update—Manager's amendments to VAWA (H.R. 4970) do not fix critical problems. H.R. 4970 eliminates protections for battered immigrants; harms victims.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As a diverse coalition of immigration, faith, labor, civil rights, human rights and community organizations serving and advocating on behalf of immigrant victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, we urge you to oppose H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012 (VAWA) (Adams, R-FL) when it comes to the House floor.

The amendments offered by Representative Adams ("manager's package") that will be considered by the Rules Committee today are inadequate and do not correct the major problems with H.R. 4970. With the manager's package, H.R. 4970 will still roll back existing protections for battered immigrants that were created with bi-partisan congressional support.

Enacted in 1994 and reauthorized twice in 2000 and 2005, VAWA has a long history of uniting lawmakers with the common purpose of protecting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. When VAWA was conceived, Congress recognized that the noncitizen status of battered immigrants can make them particularly vulnerable. Abusers often exploit their victims' undocumented status, leaving the victim afraid to report the abuse to law enforcement and making them fearful of assisting with the prosecution of these crimes.

As modified, H.R. 4970 effectively eradicates protections created by VAWA that have been available for almost twenty years to immigrant victims of violence. The bill establishes an extremely onerous adjudication process for victims to receive protection that is not required in other areas of the law. Finally, it wastes government resources when allegations of fraud have not been substantiated.

H.R. 4970 eliminates protections for crime victims offered by the U visa.

Deters immigrant victims from reporting crimes by denying nearly all U visa recipients the protections offered by lawful permanent resident status. By offering only temporary relief, H.R. 4970 will eliminate an important incentive for victims to report crimes and silence victims who fear deportation. A victim could be deported and be forced to leave her children behind with an abuser if he has legal status but she does not.

Endangers crime victims by making it extremely difficult for them to obtain U visa protection. H.R. 4970 needlessly requires that an investigation or prosecution is being actively pursued. Current law already requires that law enforcement certify that the victim has been or is likely to be helpful to an investigation or prosecution.

H.R. 4970 requires that the victim help identify the perpetrator. Many sexual assault victims never get a good look at the perpetrator.

H.R. 4970 denies battered immigrants the protections of "self-petitioning."

Gives perpetrators tools to interfere with a victim's immigration case.

Forces every VAWA self-petitioner to participate in two face-to-face interviews with DHS officials, subjecting them to unnecessary additional screening that can be dangerous for victims who may have to account for their every movement to the abuser.

Requires untrained local field office staff conduct in-person interviews with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Long delays to secure initial interviews at local offices will put victims trying to leave abusive relationship at greater risk.

Endangers the safety of battered immigrants by suspending adjudication of their case if there is an open criminal investigation or prosecution of the perpetrator.

H.R. 4970 requires DHS officials to conduct expensive and time consuming reviews of the victims' cases that are not required in other areas of law. These wasteful reviews are motivated by unsubstantiated claims of fraud and abuse within VAWA programs.

H.R. 4970 endangers victims, and undoes years of bipartisan progress made in previous VAWA bills by taking us to a time before 1994 when abusers were allowed to use immigration status as a tool for further abuse. When H.R. 4970 is brought to the floor of the

House of Representatives, we urge you to vote NO. This bill goes against the core of VAWA by eliminating protections for victims and placing victims in danger.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mony Ruiz-Velasco, National Immigrant Justice Center, or Grace Huang, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Sincerely,

America's Voice Education Fund; American Civil Liberties Union; American Immigration Lawyers Association; American Jewish Committee; Americans for Immigrant Justice; Asian American Justice Center, Member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice; Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence; ASISTA; Benjamin N. Cardozo Human Rights and Genocide Law Clinic; Break the Cycle; California Partnership to End Domestic Violence; Casa de Esperanza; National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities; Centro Legal de la Raza; Church World Service, Immigration and Refugee Program; Disciples Home Missions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; Human Rights Defense Center; Hutto Visitation Program.

Immigrant Rights Clinic at Rutgers School of Law; Immigration Equality; Immigration Law Center of Minnesota; Institute on Domestic Violence in the African-American Community; International Institute of Buffalo; International Organization for Adolescents; Jesuit Social Research Institute/Loyola University New Orleans; Jewish Council for Public Affairs; Jewish Labor Committee; Jewish Women International; Kids in Need of Defense; Legal Aid Justice Center; Legal Services of New Jersey; Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service; Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.

National Center for Victims of Crime; National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP); National Council of Jewish Women; National Immigrant Justice Center; National Immigration Forum; National Immigration Law Center; National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild; National Organization for Women; National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault; National Network to End Domestic Violence; National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; Northwest Immigrant Rights Project; Physicians for Human Rights; Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project; Rabbis for Human Rights-North America; Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network; South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT).

Texans United for Families; Tahirih Justice Center; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; The Reformed Church of Highland Park, NJ; The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights at the University of Chicago; Vermont Immigration and Asylum Advocates; VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.; Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance; Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Women of Color Network; Women's Refugee Commission; Who Is My Neighbor? Inc.

MAY 14, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. ERIC CANTOR,  
*Majority Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. STENY HOYER,  
*Minority Whip, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER, MINORITY LEADER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER CANTOR, AND MINORITY WHIP HOYER: We, the undersigned organizations, represent millions of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and the professionals who serve them, throughout the United States and territories. We would like to express our strong opposition to H.R. 4970, the bill introduced by Rep. Sandy Adams (R-FL) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

As you know, Congress has recognized the severity of violence against women and our need for a national strategy since the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994. Over the last 18 years, this landmark federal law's comprehensive approach to violence against women has had dramatic results. VAWA funds are used to:

Train over 500,000 law enforcement personnel every year.

Support sexual assault services in every state; when victims receive advocate-assisted services following assaults, rape survivors are 59 percent more likely to have police reports taken than survivors without advocates whose reports are only taken 41 percent of the time, and

Support programs that reduce domestic violence homicides; as an example, between 1993 and 2007, the rate of intimate partner homicides of females decreased by 35 percent and the rate of intimate partner homicides of males decreased 46 percent.

We all support a strong, bipartisan VAWA reauthorization bill similar to what the Senate passed last month, which would continue the life-saving protections and services needed by victims and their families. Again, H.R. 4970, which recently passed out of the House Judiciary Committee by a near party-line vote, would be a rollback of years of progress and likely increase the number of women and children who could be hurt. While we respect Congresswoman Adams' personal commitment to the issue of violence against women and girls, we must oppose her harmful bill. H.R. 4970 is genuinely dangerous for immigrant women and their families. It includes damaging provisions that create obstacles for immigrant victims to report crimes, increases danger for immigrant victims by eliminating important confidentiality protections, and undermines effective anti-fraud protections that exist in current law.

While embracing many elements of the bipartisan reauthorization that recently passed the Senate, the bill excludes key improvements that were included in the Senate reauthorization. It expressly rejects protections for men and women who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender and eliminates strong protections and justice for women and children who are beaten or abused on Tribal lands by perpetrators who are not members of a particular tribe. And it removes a key requirement that would more easily allow victims to move from one subsidized housing program to another in order to avoid an abuser and drops an important provision that would tackle the violence that occurs on our nation's college campuses.

We respectfully request that you reconsider advancing this legislation and instead

focus on developing a bipartisan bill modeled after H.R. 4271, the companion bill to the Senate-passed version of VAWA.

Thank you for your past efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and children. We look forward to working with you to craft a bill that works to protect all victims and directs resources to this urgent task in the most effective way possible.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women; A New Hope Center, Inc.; Advocates for Youth; African Services Committee; Akiak Native Community; Alianza—National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence; AAUW; American Federation of Teachers; American Red Cross Rape Crisis Services; Americans for Immigrant Justice; Amnesty International USA; Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence; ASISTA Immigration Assistance; Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies; Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP); Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project; Black Women's Health Imperative; Break the Cycle; Business and Professional Women's Foundation.

Casa de Esperanza; National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities; Center for Legal and Social Justice; Charging Buffalo Society; Children's Civil Rights Union; Coalition of Labor Union Women; Coalition on Human Needs; Compass Rape Crisis & Counseling Center; Covenant House International; Cumbee Center to Assist Abused Persons; Domestic Violence Alternatives/Sexual Assault Center; Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project; End Violence Against Women International; Enlace Comunitario; Farmworker Justice; Feminist Majority Foundation; Forensic Healthcare Consulting; Friends Committee on National Legislation; Futures Without Violence, formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund; Global Workers Justice Alliance.

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.; Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS); Holistic Living Project; Human Rights Campaign; Immigrant Ability; INCourage, Advocacy Beyond Purpose; Indian Law Resource Center; Indigenous Women's Justice Institute; International Institute of Buffalo; Jewish Council for Public Affairs; Jewish Federations of North America; Jewish Labor Committee; Jewish Women International; Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs (JACPAC); Justice & Mercy Legal Aid Clinic.

L.U.N.A.; La Casa de las Madres; La Esperanza; La Mariposa Enterprises; Latin American Association; Latinas Unidas Por Un Nuevo Amanecer; Legal Momentum; Manavi; Media Equity Collaborative; Menonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office; Mental Health America of Licking County; MESA; Mosaic Family Services; National Alliance to End Sexual Violence; National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF); National Association of Human Rights Workers; National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators; National Center for Transgender Equality; National Center for Victims of Crime; National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life; National Coalition Against Domestic Violence; National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.; National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs; National Congress of American Indians; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Women's Organizations; National Domestic Violence Hotline; National Education Association; National Employment Law Project; National Health Care for the Homeless Council; National Immigration Project of the National

Lawyers Guild; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health; National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty; National Legal Aid & Defender Association; National Low Income Housing Coalition; National Network to End Domestic Violence; National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS); National Organization for Women.

National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault; National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; National Women's Conference Committee; National Women's Health Network; National Women's Law Center; Native Women's Coalition; NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby; Paso Del Norte Civil Rights Project; Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Rape Victim Advocates; Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association; Redwood Justice Fund; Refugio del Rio Grande, Inc.; Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; Rural Women's Health Project; Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; Share Time Wisely Consulting Services; Sisters of Mercy Institute Justice Team; Stop Abuse Campaign.

Tahirih Justice Center; The Domestic Violence Action Center; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; The Legal Project; The NAACP; Time To Tell; Tiyospaye Winyan Maka; Turning Anger into Change; UNANIMA International; UnidosNow; Union for Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations; United Church of Christ; United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries; United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society; United South and Eastern Tribes; Uniting Three Fires Against Violence; UNO Immigration Ministry; Urban Justice Center.

Vera House, Inc.; Victim Rights Law Center; Victims Services of Behavioral Connections; VOICE MALE Magazine; Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii; Wider Opportunities for Women; Women Against Abuse; Women for Genuine Security; Women in Federal Law Enforcement, Inc.; Women of Color Network; Women of Reform Judaism; Women's Law Project; YWCA USA.

ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS OPPOSED TO H.R. 4970 OR TO KEY PROVISIONS IN THE BILL

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.; Advocates for Human Rights; African Services Committee; Alachua County Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center; Alaska Federation of Natives; American Bar Association; American Civil Liberties Union; American Federation of Labor; American Immigration Lawyers Association; Americans for Immigrant Justice; America's Voice Education Fund; Anindita Dasgupta, MA, Doctoral Candidate at the University of California, San Diego; Anita Raj, Ph.D. Professor of Medicine and Global Public Health at the University of California, San Diego; Artemis Justice Center; ASHA for Women; Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Asian & Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence.

Boston University Civil Litigation Program; Break the Cycle; Campaign for Community Change; Canal Alliance; Captain Maria Alvarenga Watkins, (Retired) Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C.; Casa de Esperanza; National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities Casa Esperanza; Central American Resource Center; Chief Brian Kyes, Chelsea Police Department, Massachusetts; Chief Pete Helein, Appleton Wisconsin Police Department; Christian Community Development Association; Church World Service; Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice; Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Community Action and Human Services Department; Community Immigration Law

Center; Connecticut Legal Services Inc.; Cris M. Sullivan, Ph.D., Professor, Ecological/Community Psychology, Associate Chair, Psychology Department.

Detective Sergeant Robert Mahoney, Peabody Police Department, Massachusetts; Detective Shelli Sonnenberg, Boise Police Department, Idaho; Detective Stacey Ivie, Alexandria Police Department, Virginia; Domestic Violence in the African American Community; DREAM Activist Virginia; Education Not Deportation Project of the United We Dream Network; El Rescate Legal Services, Inc.; Empire Justice Center; Enlace Comunitario; Esperanza; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Evan Stark, Ph.D., MA, MSW, Professor and Director of Public Health, School of Public Affairs and Administration, Rutgers University-Newark & Chair, Department of Urban Health Administration, UMDNJ—School of Public Health; FaithAction International House; Families for Freedom; Families Against Mandatory Minimums; Feminist Majority; Florida Coastal Immigrant Rights Clinic; Franciscan Action Network; Fuerza Latina; Futures Without Violence.

Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights; Giselle Hass, PsyD, Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, Center for Applied Legal Studies; Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; Helene Berman, RN, Ph.D., President of the Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International; Human Rights Campaign; Human Rights Initiative of North Texas; Human Rights Watch; Immigrant Defense Project; Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota; Immigration Equality; inMotion, Inc.; InterCultural Advocacy Institute; Inter Tribal Council of Arizona; International Institute of the Bay Area; Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic University of Florida, Levin College of Law.

Jacquelyn Campbell, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, Anna D. Wolf Chair, The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and National Director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars; Jay G. Silverman, Ph.D. Professor of Medicine and Global Health; Division of Global Public Health Senior Fellow, Center on Global Justice University of California at San Diego, School of Medicine Adjunct Associate; Professor of Society, Human Development and Health Harvard School of Public Health; Jewish Women International; Just Neighbors; Justice For Our Neighbors-Southeastern Michigan; Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; La Fe Multi-Ethnic Ministries, Interservice Christian Fellowship/USA; La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians; Latin American Coalition; LatinoJustice PRLDEF; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc.; Legal Momentum; Leslye E. Orloff, J.D. Director, National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, American University Washington College of Law; Lieutenant Carole Germano, Danvers Police Department, Massachusetts; Lutheran immigration and Refugee Service.

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition; Mary Ann Dutton, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Georgetown University; Medical Center Menonite Central Committee U.S.; Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women; Mountain Crisis Services; Muslim Public Affairs Council; Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence; NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.; National Alliance to End Sexual Violence; National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum; National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; National Association of Evangelicals; National Association of Federal Defenders; National Center for Transgender Equality; National

Coalition Against Domestic Violence; National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs; National Coalition on Black Civic Participation; National Congress of American Indians; National Congress of American Indians Task Force on Violence Against Women; National Council of Jewish Women; National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

National Council of La Raza; National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; National Employment Law Project; National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference; National Immigrant Justice Center; National Immigration Forum; National Immigration Law Center; National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health; National Latino Evangelical Coalition; National Legal Aid & Defender Association; National Network to End Domestic Violence; National Organization for Women Foundation; National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault; National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and the Women of Color Network; National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women; Nawal Ammar, PhD, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology; NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby; New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC; NewBridges Immigrant Resource Center; Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.

Officer Michael LaRiviere, Salem Police Department, Massachusetts; Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project; Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center; Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project; Public Justice Center; Rachael Rodriguez, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the School of Nursing at Edgewood College; Rainbow Services, Ltd.; Refugio del Rio Grande; Rhonda Giger, Prosecutor—City of Bothell, WA; Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network; Ross Silverman LLP; Rural Women's Health Project; Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; Sergeant Inspector Antonio Flores, San Francisco Police Department, California; Service Employees International Union; Sisters of Mercy of the Americas; Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia; Sojourners; South Asian Americans Leading Together; Stephanie J. Nawyn, Ph.D., Department of Sociology, Michigan State University; Supervising Deputy Sheriff Marcus Bruning, St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, Missouri.

Tahirih Justice Center; Tapestri, Inc; The Bridge to Hope; The Episcopal Church; The Immigrant Legal Resource Center; The Kansas/Missouri Dream Alliance; The Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights; The Sentencing Project; The Violence Intervention Program; The William Kellibrew Foundation; TN Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence; UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic; Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations; United Methodist Church; United Migrant Opportunity Services; UnitedWomen.org; U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.; Virginia Organizing; Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance; Voces Unidas for Justice; Voices of Men; Washington Immigration Defense Group; Washington State Coalition Against; Willow Creek Community Church; Women of Color Network; Women's Refugee Commission; Worker Justice Center of New York; World Evangelical Alliance; World Relief; YWCA USA.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to our distinguished colleague from Illinois, Congresswoman BIGGERT.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am disappointed in this closed rule for VAWA. I am concerned that the bill, even with the changes made in the manager's amendment, doesn't reflect everything that we've learned over the past 5 years in terms of what works best for victims or prosecutors.

Over the past several months, I sat down with advocates in my district to go section by section through the Senate reauthorization and discussed what works and what doesn't work. They strongly support provisions that would clarify equal treatment for LGBT individuals, bolster enforcement on Native American reservations, and ensure that victims aren't deported simply for reporting domestic abuse. I see no reason to exclude these provisions from a House bill. Our victim service providers on the front lines really just want to know who they can help and that they can help everyone who comes through the front door.

Last night, I offered an amendment that would have modernized the bill's definitions to reflect the input of victim service providers, including special protections for immigrant victims, and clarified that LGBT individuals can be served by VAWA.

I previously worked on the authorization of VAWA, which incorporated good ideas. That authorization was never a partisan issue, and it shouldn't be now.

Madam Speaker, I am disappointed in this closed rule for H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Act of 2012 (VAWA).

I am concerned that the bill, even with changes made in the manager's amendment, doesn't reflect everything we've learned over the last 5 years in terms of what works best for victims or prosecutors.

Over the past several months, I've sat down with advocates in my district to go section-by-section through the Senate reauthorization and discuss what works and what doesn't. They strongly support provisions that would clarify equal treatment for LGBT individuals, bolster enforcement on Native American reservations, and ensure that victims aren't deported simply for reporting domestic abuse. I see no reason to exclude those provisions from a House bill.

Last night, I offered an amendment that would have modernized the bill's definitions to reflect the input of victim service providers, including specific protections for immigrant victims, and clarified that LGBT individuals can be served by VAWA programs in all States. This amendment was rejected.

Let me be clear—no one is suggesting any special class of treatment. This reauthorization should simply clarify the law to reflect what everyone knows about modern society—that anyone can be a victim of domestic violence. It can happen in a same-sex household, on a college campus, or a Native American reservation, and our victim service providers on the front lines just want to know that they can help anyone who comes through the door.

Madam Speaker, we don't need a perfect bill. We need a bill that can provide a solid foundation on which to begin conference negotiations with the Senate. H.R. 4970 fails on this count.

I worked on the previous reauthorizations of VAWA, in 2000 and 2005, which incorporated good ideas from both sides of the aisle. That reauthorization was never a partisan issue then, and it shouldn't be now.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. For so many, this Violence Against Women Act vote is literally a matter of life and death.

One immigrant was abused by her husband, who was a special agent for the Homeland Security Department. He threatened her that she would be deported and separated from her daughter. She sought help anyway at the excellent San Antonio Family Violence Prevention Services, through which she was provided a special visa allowing her to remain here safely.

Another woman in Austin found death. So fearful of being deported, she was eventually killed in broad daylight in front of her two little children.

We have a 2-year backlog for this visa. It is a visa that could help many. It is a visa that was approved almost unanimously in a previous Congress.

Instead of focusing on a victim's visa status, we should be focused on the fight against domestic violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. Instead of focusing on discriminating against some in our community, we should be focused on ensuring that all victims of violence everywhere receive the care and services they need. Let's move forward in that struggle, not take another giant Republican step backward.

Ms. FOXX. I would like to now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri, Congresswoman HARTZLER.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, H.R. 4970 reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act for another 5 years, providing important funding for fighting domestic violence and abuse.

When Congress reauthorizes any bill, we must make sure that the bill directs resources towards those it is intended to help and makes the best possible use of taxpayer money. That's what we've done in H.R. 4970 by strengthening accountability and transparency in grant administration to ensure that these dollars go to help the victims, not entrenched government bureaucrats.

I've been a long supporter of the domestic violence shelter in my own hometown. Hope Haven plays an essential role in aiding victims and providing tools for recovery. I've seen the vital work that they do and know that dozens of other organizations like it will benefit from the bill's passage.

This is a bipartisan bill. It's a reauthorization of long-standing provisions that aid women, and I'm hopeful that my colleagues will join me in supporting its worthwhile efforts.

□ 1410

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Madam Speaker, as a point of parliamentary inquiry, I want to make sure that the time is not begun until the gentlelady begins.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. POLIS. Thank you.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Colorado, and I sadly rise in opposition to the rule.

I really cry out to ask the question: Who should refuse to help a victim of domestic violence? Who has the right to deny a victim—Native American, immigrant, LGBT community; who has that right?

It is obvious that this legislation is not bipartisan, and it is obvious that there is still a divide. It is obvious that the groups who obviously work with these victims—many whom I have the opportunity of seeing through the eyes of the Houston Area Women's Center—realize that no provider wants to pick and choose.

It is clear that the underlying bill does not work. The Senate bill is what answers the question of these victims who now have been harmed, because what you're saying to an immigrant who is here on a visa, you are saying to them that they have no relief.

I believe this bill will not work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentlelady.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. It really is a question as to whether or not the new included funding for rape kits will actually be able to go to providers and solve the problems of rape kits in places around the Nation.

We need to do this in a bipartisan way. Who will say "no" to a victim because they are Native American, they are immigrant, or they are LGBT. Who will say "no"?

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, this bill takes steps backwards from offering full protections for women and children who suffer unspeakable abuse.

I'm not questioning the intentions, Madam Speaker, of those on the other side; that's not my purpose here. But who are we excluding today? You're either a unifier on the floor or you are a divider. Instead of passing the bipartisan Senate bill that provides protections for women who are victims of abuse, the majority has decided instead to turn women's safety and security into a political fight. It shouldn't be.

According to the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, an average of 24 people per minute

are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner.

The Violence Against Women Act makes great strides. It shouldn't matter if a woman is an immigrant or a member of the LGBT community. I'm against this rule. I'm against the bill. I hope we can come together on a final resolution of this.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. This bill also authorizes a total of \$642 billion for defense programs, including \$88.5 billion to continue the Afghanistan war, on top of the more than \$1.3 trillion we've spent thus far.

It contains dangerous language that would pave the path for a war with Iran. H.R. 4310 says the U.S. should take all necessary measures, including military action, to prevent Iran from having nuclear technology—this, despite the fact that Secretary of Defense Panetta and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have spoken out against a strike in Iran. What's Congress spoiling for another war for?

Now, we've spent trillions of dollars for war to wage violence thousands of miles away, and we've become anesthetized to the violence of war against millions of innocent women, children, and men abroad. It's no wonder that we're grappling with how best to deal with domestic violence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. KUCINICH. Imagine if we took a fraction of the trillions of dollars we've spent for war and used it to deal directly with the root causes of domestic violence—spousal abuse, child abuse, violence in the schools, gang violence, gun violence, racial violence, violence against immigrants, violence against gays. If we did that and looked at the root causes, we wouldn't even be arguing about spending money for war. We need to look at the issue of violence in America and do it in a consistent, comprehensive way.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Speaker, as the gentleman from Ohio says, the second bill that's made in order under this rule is H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act, otherwise known as the NDAA.

As we debate this very important bill, let's keep in mind the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, and in particular those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in defense of American freedom, which includes this deliberative process of freely debating our laws and ideas about the role of government. We could not be here today without the sacrifices of those who've served in the military and helped protect us as a free people.

As James Madison wrote in the Federalist Papers:

The operations of the Federal Government will be most extensive and important in terms of war and danger.

Our Founding Fathers had a clear view that the primary and central job of the Federal Government was "to provide for the common defense," which is a constitutional mandate. It is not an issue that should divide us or devolve into partisan rancor but unite us as a country that supports our military and provides them with the resources necessary to complete their critically important mission.

Madam Speaker, in a few days, we will be in our districts participating in Memorial Day events. I approach Memorial Day with mixed emotions, as a part of me celebrates the joy and pride of living in this great country where we're all free to participate in a robust public policy debate. I am proud that I live in a meritocracy, where anyone can choose which path to follow and succeed. But Memorial Day also elicits somber thoughts of those who have given their lives in defense of the greatest country in the history of humankind.

While many of our fellow Americans will be celebrating with cookouts and family, I ask that we all pause and think about those families who will have an empty place at their dinner table, those families who still mourn the loss of a loved one and, rather than cooking out, will be visiting our fallen heroes in hallowed grounds across these United States. That's the true purpose of Memorial Day—to pause, remember, and honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to preserve all that is great in our country.

So as we return home to our districts, I ask all of my colleagues to keep in mind the spouses, children, and families of the fallen. As President Lincoln stated in his second inaugural address:

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I'd like to inquire as to how much time remains on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado has 7 minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from North Carolina has 6½ minutes remaining.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, as I rise today to speak against this flawed Violence Against Women Act that the House is presenting, let me point out this picture. This picture is a picture of Marissa Alexander, a 31-year-old mother of three with a master's degree and

no prior convictions, who received a 20-year sentence for firing a warning shot in the air to warn off an attack by her husband. At the time that it occurred, there was a restraining act. Let me point out that this shot did not injure anyone, yet she will be in jail until 2032.

The imbalance in the system is obvious. Just minutes before she fired the shot Marissa's husband told her, "If I can't have you, no one is going to." Sadly, millions of abused women have heard these exact words and not lived to tell about it.

□ 1420

Battered women like Marissa need support and counseling.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Battered women like Marissa need support and counseling so that they don't find themselves in these situations. Jailing them for 30 years is unacceptable.

This is the beginning, not the end. Along with the NAACP and other groups, we will fight to make sure we turn over this horrible ruling and stand up to the legal system that persecutes women who defend themselves. Those women need help, not prison.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama, Congresswoman ROBY.

Mrs. ROBY. Thank you so much to the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in favor of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and just want to say, even after VAWA's enactment roughly 8 years ago, one in four women still experience domestic violence during their lifetime. Moreover, more than 2 million adults and 15 million children are exposed to such violence annually.

According to the Alabama Coalition against Domestic Violence and the Alabama National Census Summary, in Alabama there are 834 victims served in one day, 187 hotline calls answered in one day, and 76 unmet requests for services. These numbers are astounding, and something must change.

Organizations have reported that they have been unable to provide services for a variety of reasons: the top three being, there's not enough staff, there's not enough specialized services, and there's not enough available beds or hotel vouchers to provide safe havens for victims and their children.

As an original cosponsor of the Violence Against Women Act, today I stand here supporting the Republican reauthorization. This bill brings greater accountability to the grant administration by ensuring that funding will support and assist victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and will not be kept in the pockets of Washington bureaucrats.

Individuals, whether women, men or children, should be able to feel safe in

their homes; and when they are not, should be able to have access to services that allow them to be removed from their abuser.

Congress must put Washington politics aside and take action. I fully support this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to join me.

Mr. POLIS. I would inquire if the gentlewoman has any remaining speakers.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, we do have other speakers.

Mr. POLIS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I now would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the State of Washington, a member of our leadership, Congresswoman McMORRIS RODGERS.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I want to thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on this important issue.

I rise today on behalf of my mother, my daughter, and every woman in America in strong support of H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization of 2012.

Each year there are over 200,000 victims of sexual assaults; and while these numbers are devastating, since the enactment of the first Violence Against Women Act almost 20 years ago, the annual number of incidents has dramatically fallen, while the reporting rate has risen by 50 percent.

The programs in the legislation are critical to continue the fight for equality and women's rights. The bill we will vote on today makes commonsense reforms to ensure that more money actually benefits victims and is dedicated to eliminating the astounding backlog in rape kit tests.

Additionally, today we have the chance to support vital funding for rape prevention educational programs, youth victim services, and improvements to emergency and transitional housing services for victims.

Since its enactment, the Violence Against Women Act has enjoyed broad bipartisan support. This is not a Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal issue. Together we are uniformly standing against violence against anyone, particularly women; and I urge all of my colleagues to support their mothers, wives, daughters, neighbors and friends by supporting H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012, a victim-centered bill that will extend vital programs that protect against and prevent both physical and mental violence.

Mr. POLIS. I'd like to inquire if the gentlewoman has any remaining speakers.

Ms. FOXX. Yes, Madam Speaker, we have one more.

Mr. POLIS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I'd like to yield now 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from North Caro-

lina for yielding to me, and I rise to support the Violence Against Women Act. I did so when it was reauthorized in 2005, I believe it was, and we're here today in this debate on the rule, not so much the bill.

I come to the floor to raise a point that constantly in the debate in the Judiciary Committee there was an effort to divert the subject matter over to other things, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration, a lot of focus on immigration. And one of the things that's happened to the bill since it left the committee was to change the language, through this manager's amendment, that's essentially deemed passed by the Rules Committee that changes the value of evidence of abuse of, say, a female immigrant who can get a U visa if she has determined as having been victimized, especially sexually victimized. That was a clear and convincing evidence standard.

This rule that's written in by the Rules Committee changes it to the preponderance of the evidence. I support the decision of the Judiciary Committee. It also changes the investigative component of this from USCIS, which are trained investigators. They'll only see the evidence that's offered to them by Federal prosecutors. So I am going to oppose the rule and support the bill.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentleman from Iowa. Though we disagree on the bill, we can both agree that this is a terrible rule. And I encourage my colleagues to follow the leadership of the gentleman from Iowa in opposing this rule.

I'd like to inquire of the gentlelady if she has any remaining speakers.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, we are prepared to close.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to this closed rule to make in order the bipartisan Violence Against Women bill that passed the United States Senate with 68 votes as an amendment offered by Representative CONYERS, Representative MOORE, and Representative LOFGREN. If the House passes that, it will proceed to President Obama's desk.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous materials, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question and allow the Senate bill that has passed with a bipartisan majority, that actually expands protections for all women, to be considered by this body.

Here, Madam Speaker, is the face of somebody affected by the Violence

Against Women Act from Colorado. Her name is Sara. Sara came to our country illegally. She was brought illegally, unbeknownst to her, by her American husband. Once in the United States, she was abused. She was isolated. She was effectively kept a prisoner in her own house by her husband.

The first time she was violently beaten by her husband was when she went on a walk because her husband claimed that she had disobeyed him. She was trapped in a relationship where she was abused, sexually as well as verbally, for 14 years.

She finally escaped with her son to safe transitional housing called Alternatives to Violence in Loveland, Colorado. Once there, she learned English and obtained temporary legal status through a U visa provided under the Violence Against Women Act.

Today, I'm proud to say, Madam Speaker, she's a United States citizen and works as an advocate for other immigrant victims of domestic abuse.

Stories like Sara are inspiring and reinforce the reason that so many of us feel passionately to join across party lines to ensure that no domestic victim is left unserved.

This Cantor-Adams bill offers us a false choice between weakening and undermining protections in the Violence Against Women Act or maintaining the status quo. The American people understand that a vote for the Cantor-Adams bill is a vote to roll back protections for all domestic and sexual violence victims and puts the safety of our most vulnerable domestic violence victims at risk.

Immigrants, Native Americans, lesbian, gay, and bisexual victims all have historically faced many barriers to reporting sexual violence. But instead of removing those barriers, this bill, under this closed rule, creates new ones.

□ 1430

Lesbian and gay survivors face particular obstacles in accessing the criminal justice system. Lesbian and gay survivors are often reluctant to report abuse, and when they do finally seek assistance, they frequently don't receive the support they need across lifesaving services and resources. Studies tell us that gay and lesbian couples experience domestic violence at roughly the same rates as the general population. It is no surprise that less than one in five gay and lesbian victims of intimate partner violence receives help through a service provider.

This bill fails to provide the same vital protections for gay and lesbian families that have been overwhelmingly approved in the Senate bill. During the Judiciary markup, I offered an amendment to restore these protections, but unfortunately, it was voted down. This closed process prevents the ability of Members of the House to even consider or vote on adding these protections back in. Had the House Republicans allowed amendments on the



floor today, I would have offered two amendments that I offered—along with my colleagues Representative JACKSON LEE, Representative LOFGREN, Representatives DEUTCH and CHU, all who were leaders in the Judiciary markup—which would have eliminated these atrocious provisions from the bill.

Some of the most egregious anti-immigrant provisions would destroy incentives to cooperate with law enforcement. People like Sara, who bravely came forward to report domestic violence, would face deportation after 4 years. Why would somebody come forward and report something if it would ultimately lead to her own deportation?

All women deserve to be protected from domestic violence—even women who have committed crimes, even women who have had civil violations, like violating our immigration laws, even women who are lesbians. All women deserve to be protected by the Violence Against Women Act, and that is what this bill is about. The Senate bill, which passed on a bipartisan basis and included a report from well over a dozen Republican Senators, included these provisions.

Abuse is abuse, whether it occurs against immigrants, whether it occurs against gay and lesbian Americans, or whether it occurs against Native Americans. Yet, under this bill before us, a Native American woman who is living on a reservation and who is raped and abused by a nontribal member lacks protection and remains at risk of serious sexual and physical violence by her abuser. Under this underlying bill, gay and lesbian survivors and victims will struggle to get protective orders or will be turned away from service providers just because of their sexual orientation or gender identities.

Just as alarming, this bill removes protections that currently exist for some of our Nation's most vulnerable populations: battered immigrant spouses, restricting the ability of U visa holders to apply for permanent resident status and forcing them to face deportation.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the bills and to defeat the previous question, and I urge a “no” vote on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I agree with my colleague from Colorado. Abuse is abuse, no matter against which person it is, and nothing in this Violence Against Women reauthorization bill prohibits grant recipients from serving all victims of domestic violence, and I am glad to hear my colleague say that.

Madam Speaker, House Republicans want to help women, particularly those who have been victims of violence and abuse, while also being good stewards of limited taxpayer resources. The 2012 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act accomplishes these goals. In addition, the FY13 National Defense

Authorization Act ensures that the men and women in our military have the resources they need while protecting taxpayer investments.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of improved congressional oversight and against special interests by voting in favor of this rule and the underlying bills.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 656 OFFERED BY  
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

Strike the first section and insert the following:

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4970) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of S. 1925 as passed by the Senate if offered by Representative Conyers of Michigan, Representative Moore of Wisconsin, or Representative Lofgren of California. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.”

(The information contained herein was provided by the Republican Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 110th and 111th Congresses.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT  
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as “a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.” To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's

ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that “the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition” in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: “The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.”

Because the vote today may look bad for the Republican majority they will say “the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.” But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: “Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.”

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled “Amending Special Rules” states: “a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.” (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: “Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.”

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. FOXX. I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adopting the resolution, if ordered, and suspending the rules and passing H.R. 4119.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 187, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 254]

YEAS—235

Adams Goodlatte Olson  
 Aderholt Gosar Palazzo  
 Alexander Gowdy Paul  
 Amash Granger Paulsen  
 Amodei Graves (GA) Pearce  
 Austria Graves (MO) Pence  
 Bachmann Griffin (AR) Petri  
 Bachus Griffith (VA) Pitts  
 Barletta Grimm Platts  
 Bartlett Guinta Poe (TX)  
 Barton (TX) Guthrie Pompeo  
 Bass (NH) Hall Posey  
 Benishek Hanna Price (GA)  
 Berg Harper Quayle  
 Biggert Harris Reed  
 Bilbray Hartzler Rehberg  
 Bilirakis Hastings (WA) Reichert  
 Bishop (UT) Hayworth Renacci  
 Black Heck Ribble  
 Blackburn Hensarling Rigell  
 Bonner Herrera Beutler Rivera  
 Bono Mack Huelskamp Roby  
 Boustany Huizenga (MI) Roe (TN)  
 Brady (TX) Hultgren Rogers (AL)  
 Brooks Hunter Rogers (KY)  
 Broun (GA) Hurt Rogers (MI)  
 Buchanan Issa Rohrabacher  
 Bucshon Jenkins Rokita  
 Buerkle Johnson (IL) Rooney  
 Burgess Johnson (OH) Ros-Lehtinen  
 Calvert Johnson, Sam Roskam  
 Camp Jones Ross (FL)  
 Campbell Jordan Royce  
 Canseco Kelly Runyan  
 Cantor King (IA) Ryan (WI)  
 Capito King (NY) Scalise  
 Carter Kingston Schilling  
 Chabot Kinzinger (IL) Schmidt  
 Chaffetz Kline Schock  
 Coble Lamborn Schweikert  
 Coffman (CO) Lance Scott (SC)  
 Cole Landry Scott, Austin  
 Conaway Lankford Sensenbrenner  
 Cravaack Latham Sessions  
 Crawford LaTourette Shimkus  
 Crenshaw Latta Shuler  
 Culberson Lewis (CA) Shuster  
 Davis (KY) LoBiondo Simpson  
 Denham Long Smith (NE)  
 Dent Lucas Smith (NJ)  
 DesJarlais Lummis Smith (TX)  
 Diaz-Balart Lungren, Daniel  
 Dold E. Southerland  
 Dreier Mack Stearns  
 Duffy Manzullo Stivers  
 Duncan (SC) Marchant Stutzman  
 Duncan (TN) Marino Sullivan  
 Ellmers McCarthy (CA) Terry  
 Emerson McCaul Thompson (PA)  
 Farenthold McClintock Thornberry  
 Fincher McCotter Tiberi  
 Fitzpatrick McCotter Tipton  
 Flake McHenry Turner (NY)  
 Fleischmann McKeon Turner (OH)  
 Fleming McKinley Upton  
 Flores McMorris Walberg  
 Forbes Rodgers Walden  
 Fortenberry Meehan Walsh (IL)  
 Foxx Mica Webster  
 Franks (AZ) Miller (FL) West  
 Frelinghuysen Miller (MI) Westmoreland  
 Gallegly Miller, Gary Whitfield  
 Gardner Mulvaney Wilson (SC)  
 Garrett Murphy (PA) Wittman  
 Gerlach Myrick Wolf  
 Gibbs Neugebauer Womack  
 Gibson Noem Woodall  
 Gingrey (GA) Nunes Yoder  
 Gohmert Nunnelee Young (AK)  
 Young (IN)

NAYS—187

Ackerman Boswell Clarke (MI)  
 Altmire Brady (PA) Clarke (NY)  
 Andrews Braley (IA) Clay  
 Baca Brown (FL) Cleaver  
 Baldwin Butterfield Clyburn  
 Barrow Capps Cohen  
 Bass (CA) Capuano Connolly (VA)  
 Becerra Cardoza Conyers  
 Berkley Carnahan Cooper  
 Berman Carney Costa  
 Bishop (GA) Carson (IN) Costello  
 Bishop (NY) Castor (FL) Courtney  
 Blumenauer Chandler Critz  
 Bonamici Chu Crowley  
 Boren Cicilline Cuellar

Cummings Davis (CA)  
 Davis (IL) Kissell  
 DeFazio Kucinich  
 DeGette Langevin  
 DeLauro Larsen (WA)  
 Deutch Larson (CT)  
 Dicks Lee (CA)  
 Dingell Levin  
 Doggett Lewis (GA)  
 Donnelly (IN) Lipinski  
 Doyle Loebsack  
 Edwards Lofgren, Zoe  
 Ellison Lowey  
 Engel Luján  
 Eshoo Lynch  
 Farr Maloney  
 Fattah Markey  
 Frank (MA) Matheson  
 Fudge Matsui  
 Garamendi McCarthy (NY)  
 Gonzalez McCollum  
 Green, Al McDermott  
 Green, Gene McGovern  
 Grijalva McIntyre  
 Gutierrez McNerney  
 Hahn Meeks  
 Hanabusa Michaud  
 Hastings (FL) Miller (NC)  
 Heinrich Miller, George  
 Herger Moore  
 Higgins Moran  
 Himes Murphy (CT)  
 Hinchey Nadler  
 Hinojosa Napolitano  
 Hirono Neal  
 Hochul Olver  
 Holden Owens  
 Holt Pallone  
 Honda Pascrell  
 Hoyer Pastor (AZ)  
 Israel Pelosi  
 Jackson (IL) Peters  
 Jackson Lee Peterson  
 (TX) Pingree (ME)  
 Johnson (GA) Polis  
 Johnson, E. B. Price (NC)  
 Kaptur Quigley  
 Keating Rahall

NOT VOTING—9

Akin Filner  
 Burton (IN) Labrador  
 Cassidy Luetkemeyer

□ 1459

Ms. WILSON of Florida, Messrs. TONKO, MURPHY of Connecticut, MCINTYRE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. RICHMOND changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:  
 Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 254, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

(By unanimous consent, Mr. REICHERT was allowed to speak out of order.)

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, yesterday was National Law Enforcement Memorial Day. This entire week is National Law Enforcement Week.

Last year, we lost 163 police officers killed in the line of duty. So far this year, there have been 40 killed in the line of duty protecting each one of the communities that we represent in this great body, people like Tony Radulescu, a trooper in Washington State, a person who left his home that day with a hug and a kiss from his family expecting him back home again that evening for dinner, men and women in uniform leaving every day to

go to work to protect our communities, expecting to return home. Some never do.

It is right; it is proper; it is our duty, Madam Speaker, to, today, pause in this great body and pay tribute to those men and women who have sacrificed their lives for us so that we can all live safely.

I ask for a moment of silence.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise, and the House will observe a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 186, answered “present” 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 255]

YEAS—235

Adams	Dreier	Jenkins
Aderholt	Duffy	Johnson (IL)
Akin	Duncan (SC)	Johnson (OH)
Alexander	Duncan (TN)	Johnson, Sam
Amash	Ellmers	Jones
Amodei	Emerson	Jordan
Austria	Farenthold	Kelly
Bachmann	Fincher	King (NY)
Bachus	Fitzpatrick	Kingston
Barletta	Flake	Kinzinger (IL)
Bartlett	Fleischmann	Kline
Barton (TX)	Fleming	Lamborn
Bass (NH)	Flores	Lance
Benishek	Forbes	Landry
Berg	Fortenberry	Lankford
Biggert	Foxx	Latham
Bilbray	Franks (AZ)	LaTourette
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	Latta
Bishop (UT)	Gallegly	Lewis (CA)
Blackburn	Gardner	LoBiondo
Bonner	Garrett	Long
Bono Mack	Gibbs	Lucas
Boustany	Gibson	Luetkemeyer
Brady (TX)	Gingrey (GA)	Lummis
Brooks	Gohmert	Lungren, Daniel
Broun (GA)	Goodlatte	E.
Buchanan	Gosar	Mack
Bucshon	Gowdy	Manzullo
Buerkle	Granger	Marchant
Burgess	Graves (GA)	Marino
Calvert	Graves (MO)	McCarthy (CA)
Camp	Griffin (AR)	McCaul
Campbell	Griffith (VA)	McClintock
Canseco	Grimm	McCotter
Cantor	Guinta	McHenry
Capito	Guthrie	McKeon
Carter	Hall	McKinley
Chabot	Hanna	McMorris
Chaffetz	Harper	Rodgers
Coble	Harris	Meehan
Coffman (CO)	Hartzler	Mica
Cole	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Conaway	Hayworth	Miller (MI)
Cravaack	Heck	Miller, Gary
Crawford	Hensarling	Mulvaney
Crenshaw	Herger	Murphy (PA)
Culberson	Herrera Beutler	Myrick
Davis (KY)	Huelskamp	Neugebauer
Denham	Huizenga (MI)	Noem
Dent	Hultgren	Nugent
DesJarlais	Hunter	Nunes
Diaz-Balart	Hurt	Nunnelee
Dold	Issa	Olson

Palazzo  
Paul  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Pence  
Petri  
Pitts  
Runyan  
Platts  
Poe (TX)  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (GA)  
Quayle  
Reed  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rigell  
Rivera  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Rohrabacher

Rokita  
Rooney  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross (FL)  
Royce  
Runyan  
Ryan (WI)  
Scalise  
Schilling  
Schmidt  
Schock  
Schweikert  
Scott (SC)  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuler  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Southerland  
Stearns

Stivers  
Stutzman  
Sullivan  
Terry  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Turner (NY)  
Turner (OH)  
Upton  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walsh (IL)  
Webster  
West  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Wolf  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Young (FL)  
Young (IN)

□ 1510

So the resolution was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.  
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.  
Stated against:  
Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 255, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

BORDER TUNNEL PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4119) to reduce the trafficking of drugs and to prevent human smuggling across the Southwest Border by deterring the construction and use of border tunnels, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill.  
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.  
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 4, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 256]  
YEAS—416

Ackerman  
Andrews  
Baca  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bass (CA)  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berman  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Black  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boren  
Boswell  
Brady (PA)  
Braley (IA)  
Brown (FL)  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Castor (FL)  
Chandler  
Chu  
Cicilline  
Clarke (MI)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly (VA)  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello  
Courtney  
Critz  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummins  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (IL)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
Deutch  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donnelly (IN)  
Doyle  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Farr  
Fattah

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—9

Altmire  
Burton (IN)  
Cassidy

Filner  
Gerlach  
Labrador

Frank (MA)  
Fudge  
Garamendi  
Neal  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutierrez  
Hahn  
Hanabusa  
Hastings (FL)  
Heinrich  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinchev  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hochul  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Israel  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson Lee  
(TX)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kildee  
Kildeer  
King (IA)  
Kissell  
Kucinich  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee (CA)  
Levin  
Sherman  
Sires  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stark  
Sutton  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tierney  
Tonko  
Townes  
Walsh (IL)  
Walsh (MN)  
Walz (MN)  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watt  
Waxman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Woolsey

Murphy (CT)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Oliver  
Owens  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pastor (AZ)  
Pelosi  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree (ME)  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Reyes  
Richardson  
Richmond  
Ross (AR)  
Rothman (NJ)  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Schwartz  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sires  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stark  
Sutton  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Tierney  
Tonko  
Townes  
Walsh (IL)  
Walsh (MN)  
Walz (MN)  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watt  
Waxman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Woolsey

Ackerman  
Adams  
Aderholt  
Akin  
Alexander  
Amodei  
Andrews  
Austria  
Baca  
Bachmann  
Bachus  
Baldwin  
Barletta  
Barrow  
Bartlett  
Barton (TX)  
Bass (CA)  
Bass (NH)  
Becerra  
Benishak  
Berg  
Berkley  
Berman  
Biggert  
Billbray  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Cravaack  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Critz  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummins  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (KY)  
DeFazio  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Denham  
Dent  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Camp  
Campbell  
Canseco  
Cantor

Capito  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Carter  
Castor (FL)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Chandler  
Chu  
Cicilline  
Clarke (MI)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Coffman (CO)  
Cohen  
Cole  
Conaway  
Connolly (VA)  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello  
Courtney  
Cravaack  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Critz  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummins  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (KY)  
DeFazio  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Denham  
Dent  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Camp  
Campbell  
Canseco  
Cantor

Gutierrez  
Hahn  
Hall  
Hanabusa  
Hanna  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayworth  
Heck  
Heinrich  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinchev  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hochul  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurt  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson Lee  
(TX)  
Jenkins  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (IL)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jordan  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly  
Kildee  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kissell  
Kline  
Kucinich  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Landry  
Langevin  
Lankford  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Latta  
Lee (CA)  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Long  
Lowey  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan  
Lummis  
Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Lynch  
Mack  
Maloney  
Manzullo  
Marchant  
Marino  
Markey

Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCauley  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCotter  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
Meehan  
Meeks  
Mica  
Michaud  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Moore  
Moran  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (CT)  
Murphy (PA)  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neugebauer  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Nunnelee  
Olson  
Oliver  
Owens  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pastor (AZ)  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Pence  
Peters  
Peterson  
Petri  
Pingree (ME)  
Pitts  
Platts  
Poe (TX)  
Polis  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price (GA)  
Price (NC)  
Quayle  
Quigley  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Reed  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Reyes  
Ribble  
Richardson  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Rivera  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (MI)  
Ross (AR)  
Ross (FL)

NAYS—4

Paul  
Scott (VA)

NOT VOTING—11

Altmire  
Boren  
Burton (IN)  
Cassidy

Filner  
Gerlach  
Labrador  
Perlmutter

Rothman (NJ)  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Runyan  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schilling  
Schmidt  
Schock  
Schradler  
Schwartz  
Schweikert  
Scott (SC)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuler  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sires  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Southerland  
Speier  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Sullivan  
Sutton  
Terry  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tierney  
Tipton  
Tonko  
Townes  
Tsongas  
Turner (NY)  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Vislosky  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walsh (IL)  
Walz (MN)  
Walz (MN)  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watt  
Waxman  
Webster  
Welch  
West  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Wolf  
Womack  
Woodall  
Woolsey  
Yoder  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)  
Young (IN)