

CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1379.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 31 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1002

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 10 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3783. An act to provide for a comprehensive strategy to counter Iran's growing hostile presence and activity in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3677. An act to make a technical correction to the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

The message also announced that the Senate agreed to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2838. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2012 through 2015, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate recedes from its amendment of December 4, 2012, returned to the Senate by the House of Representatives on December 12, 2012 to the bill (H.R. 4310) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes."; and insists upon its amendment of December 12, 2012 to the above entitled bill and requests a conference with the House of Representatives on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON (NE), Mr. WEBB, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. UDALL (CO), Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr.

WICKER, Mr. BROWN (MA), Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VITTER to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4310, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Armed Services, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4310) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference requested by the Senate.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to instruct at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mrs. Davis of California moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4310 be instructed to agree to section 1249 of the Senate amendment (relating to a plan for promoting the security of Afghan women and girls during the security transition process).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Five years ago, I led a congressional delegation of female Members to Afghanistan on Mother's Day to visit our troops and meet with Afghan women, and I've continued to participate in this trip every year since.

On that first trip, we flew to Qalat in the southwestern region of Afghanistan and met the Provincial Reconstruction Team and the women of the village they worked with. Like much of Afghanistan, Qalat is rural and impoverished. The women we met had the same aspirations of women across the globe: they seek to send their children to school and learn a trade in order to support themselves and their family.

During that first visit in 2008, the school headmaster told us stories of how acid was thrown into the faces of

several female students who attended the school. These young girls overcame enormous challenges in coming to school every day, but their desire to learn surmounted the obstacles they faced. And there, just like at home, we heard these young girls talk of being doctors and teachers and anything else that they could dream of.

Each year, we have continued to visit the women of Qalat, and their message remains clear and consistent: they need security for themselves and their families if they are going to succeed.

During these visits, we have seen slow but steady progress being made as security in the area has improved. This year, during our visit, instead of talking about wanting the kids to come to school and being fearful that their parents would keep them at home, the school headmaster spoke about the 4,000 students who are coming to school each day and the need for additional desks and supplies. What a tremendous turnaround in such a short period of time.

But, Mr. Speaker, steep challenges remain for women in Afghanistan. Security, especially for women, has been at the heart of the problem that needs to be addressed as we transition responsibility to Afghan forces. Just this week, we had a reminder of those security concerns.

On Monday, the Director of Women's Affairs was killed in the Laghman province. She replaced the previous director, who was also assassinated just 6 months ago. It is heartbreaking to hear of these female leaders being assassinated in an area that is trying so hard to move their people and their country forward. A country cannot disenfranchise nearly 50 percent of their population while seeking to achieve a strong prosperous economy.

The language included in the Senate bill is a step in the right direction. So many organizations have been active in the transformation of Afghanistan, and I would encourage my colleagues at the Department of Defense and the Department of State to ensure that this is a multi-pronged effort. We must involve all the entities, not only here in the United States and Afghanistan, but also in Pakistan and India, where women there understand the daily challenges that Afghan women face, and create opportunities for these groups to work together. It is the least that we can do to support the women of Afghanistan and leave their country with a sustainable path for stability.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is more than the security of women and their ability to prosper in Afghanistan. It is also about our military servicemembers. Women on Provincial Reconstruction Teams have worked hard to help the women of Afghanistan, and members of the Female Engagement Teams have been tremendous role models for young Afghan children.

Our brave military men and women have sacrificed so much in Afghanistan, and to leave without the ability

for continued security there would be a dishonor to all those who have served. We must ensure that the strides Afghan women and girls have achieved over the last decade do not erode.

Next year, I hope to visit Afghanistan again on Mother's Day. And I want to tell the women we meet with—again, the same group of women we have met with over the last number of years—that their security is important and that this Congress recognizes that importance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this motion to instruct the House conferees and accept this language.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1010

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

I rise to thank the gentlelady for her leadership not only on this issue, but on the leadership she helps provide to our committee. We have several women serving on the House Armed Services Committee, and they do an outstanding job.

Over the years, many of us have visited Iraq and Afghanistan, and I've had that opportunity. But I know that the trips that the women have made bring us back a different perspective. In my trip the time before last to Afghanistan, I went to the south. I went to Camp Leatherneck, where they were just setting up the Marines that had just arrived, and they were just pushing out in the desert. We were not able to visit Marja, which was one of the towns in that area. It was totally under the control of the Taliban. The Taliban flag flew over Marja.

The last time I was there, it was totally changed. The Marines had taken over Marja. And the day we were there, we opened a school. It's not like a school that we have here for our young people. They had a few classrooms in an adobe building, and then they had a few tents. It was kind of raining that day, but as we opened that school, 500 children were now going to be able to go to school, and over a third of them were young girls who could not go to school before. They were so excited, 10 teachers and 500 young people. As I said, about a third of them were young girls.

We have made some great improvements in Afghanistan. There are a lot of things we don't hear about. But when these women go on these trips on Mother's Day, they meet with the same women each year. So they give us a whole different perspective. Many of us on the trips, we go to one place, the next time we go to a different place, and we don't get a real feel as to what is actually happening with the people there. I've talked to some of these women after those trips. They've reported back and told me the things that they have seen and learned. This perspective of being able to actually see the same people and hear their perspective change from year to year is in-

valuable, and I thank you for making those trips.

We have women on both sides of the aisle, both on and off the committee, that have gone on those trips. MARTHA ROBY, one of the freshman Members on our side of the aisle, led the trip this last time, and VICKY HARTZLER and CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, our conference chair for our new Congress, and RENEE ELLMERS, another freshman Member on our side. Again, women from the other side of the aisle made that trip. I thank them for it, and I strongly support this effort on this motion to instruct.

We need to do everything we can do to ensure the safety of women. We've made lots of gains for those women and the girls who will become women in that country. When you withdraw the troops, it's a serious time and dangerous time. As we pass the effort over to the Afghan security forces to provide the protections and keep the gains that we've made, it's very important that they don't fall back into the same way that they've treated women in the past and we lose all those gains that we've made. So this is a very important addition to the bill.

I thank you for bringing this forward. I thank you for the support. It's something I hope that everyone in the Congress will support as we move forward.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

The United States' effort in Afghanistan came to us following the tragic events on September 11, 2001. And it has been critical to ensuring that United States' vital national security interests are maintained and the American people remain safe.

The successes that have been achieved in Afghanistan are the result of the noble service and tremendous sacrifice from our military and their families. Those successes include progress toward improving conditions for Afghan women and girls, respect for the rights of women, and inclusion of women in the political and security realms. However, as our commanders frequently remind us, all of our successes are fragile and can be reversed. This is no more true than in the case of Afghan women.

Therefore, I will support this motion to instruct. I believe the coming years will be critical to ensure the progress Afghan women have made cannot be easily undone. While I do not believe it is a primary mission of the U.S. military to work with the Government of Afghanistan to improve the rights of women, there is a role for the military to play as we train and advise the Afghan National Security Forces. Continuous improvements to the security situation can help set the stage for inter-agency partners and non-governmental organizations to work on women's issues.

In fact, the security of Afghanistan's women can only be damaged by hasty or ill-conceived withdrawal. The military needs to continue to be provided the resources and support that they need to conduct the mission in Afghanistan through 2014 and beyond—primarily to meet U.S. national security objectives, but also not to abandon those whose lives have improved so dramatically.

I appreciate my colleagues' advocacy for our sisters in Afghanistan. I support their ef-

forts and intend to carry a conference report back from negotiations that supports this goal, the United States' national security interests, and provides our military with the resources it needs to accomplish the missions it is given in Afghanistan and around the globe.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank Mr. MCKEON for his leadership and for his remarks this morning because this has been a bipartisan trip, and I can say that we have many hours together on these trips. To experience it with the Afghan women and with our female troops particularly has been an incredible experience. And I particularly enjoy the support and the collegiality of my colleagues that Mr. MCKEON referenced. It really has been very meaningful to all of us, and I look forward to continuing trips.

I now want to yield 3 minutes to Ms. TSONGAS of Massachusetts. Ms. TSONGAS has been with us on those trips, and I know she will share some of her experiences, as well.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this motion to instruct.

As we have heard, this motion supports bipartisan Senate language that would help promote the security of Afghan women and girls.

Since becoming a Member of Congress, I have had the honor of visiting Afghanistan four times, several with the Mother's Day trips that Chairman MCKEON referenced. I have been fortunate on those trips to visit in particular with some of our military moms who are serving in Afghanistan. These are female soldiers who have children back home, leaving them for months on end. Thousands of soldiers, men and women, go without seeing their family and loved ones for months on end, highlighting the extraordinary commitment that accompanies military service. This service and commitment is something that we take home with us as we learn from them and from their stories. These servicemen and -women have made very personal sacrifices for the people of Afghanistan.

The ever increasing participation of women in our military demonstrates the important contributions women are making to our effort in Afghanistan and around the world. It also stands in stark contrast to the involvement that Afghan women are able to have in their country's public life. One of the most important observations and lessons that I have learned during this trip, as well as the others, was that if this country is to become more stable and secure, women must be included in Afghan society and government.

Several years ago, I visited a school where over 1,000 young Afghan girls cycled through each day of all ages, very young, up to high school. When we asked them what they wanted to be when they grew up, the answers we heard were doctor, lawyer, teacher, even journalist. These are exactly what so many of our own young daughters

hope to achieve. These young women felt optimistic about opportunities that were previously unheard of for women in Afghanistan and represent a future of promise for this country. We should take great pride in the work that we have done to elevate their sight lines. Ensuring that these young girls continue to have access to these opportunities and more broadly ensuring that women are able to participate in Afghan society as a whole is not only good for the future of Afghanistan, it is good for the United States, as well, so that we can help ensure a more peaceful and just future there.

On Monday, we were starkly reminded of the tenuous position of women in Afghanistan when the acting head of women's affairs in an eastern province was assassinated as she traveled to work. It also reminds us of their extraordinary courage as they take advantage of the opportunities and seek to be full participants in their country's lives. As we reduce our military presence in Afghanistan, the United States must be cognizant of how we will make sure that women continue to have a seat at the table and the nascent gains for them are not abdicated.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlelady of Massachusetts.

Ms. TSONGAS. The bipartisan language in the motion before us would require that the Department of Defense produce a plan to promote the security of Afghan women and girls as it withdraws from the country. It would encourage the recruitment of women as members of the security forces. In fact, several years ago, we met with young women who were being trained to be helicopter pilots and required the Department of Defense to report back on its progress toward meeting these goals.

I strongly urge a "yes" vote on the motion and am so pleased to see our chairman's support for it.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, as I know that she has been very involved in developing democracies and working with women.

□ 1020

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. I thank all of my colleagues. I particularly thank Congresswoman DAVIS for her persistent leadership, and I join her as a cochair of the Afghan Caucus. I thank the chairman for his support as well.

So many of us have traveled to Afghanistan and have traveled as women to Afghanistan and have begun to look at this country from the eyes of wanting its survival. Malala is a young girl who is not from Afghanistan, but she symbolizes the essence of this motion

to instruct. Malala is from Pakistan, but many of you will remember that she took more than one bullet as a young girl who fought and stood up for girls being able to be educated.

In my travels to Afghanistan and to the many provinces, you would hear stories from women, as have been evidenced, about the inability to serve, the inability to express themselves. In meeting with a group of women Afghan parliamentarians, interestingly enough, they would indicate how they wanted to serve their constituencies but how difficult it was and dangerous it was to travel as women to their particular provinces to serve their constituents.

That is not the basis of the principles for which our soldiers have fought and died. America has wonderful principles, and I am delighted that this motion to instruct focuses on providing the safety net for girls and women in leadership and in education. It is indicated, of course, that this transition will occur but with the requirement of a road map to ensure the safety and security of girls and women.

Over the period of time of our being in Afghanistan—the longest war that this Nation has ever seen—we have seen the ups and the downs but, more particularly, the tragedy of having schools burned that were particularly directed towards serving girls. Girls turn into young women and into women who want to serve. As we all know, the hand that rocks the cradle does establish the basis of civilization.

For the democracy of this great nation, I include my support for the motion to instruct, for our Nation not to leave, as it leaves a pathway of democracy, leaves a pathway of democracy for the women and girls of Afghanistan. We must provide the protection that they need to help lead this nation and to ensure its democracy, freedom, and justice.

Mr. McKEON. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California (Ms. LEE), who has also been an extremely strong leader on this topic.

Ms. LEE of California. Let me first thank Congresswoman SUSAN DAVIS for her tremendous leadership on this issue. I agree with Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, it has been consistent and it has been bold. I also thank my other colleagues who have joined us in this effort.

There is really no military solution in Afghanistan, and a broad bipartisan coalition of many of our colleagues has really called for an accelerated withdrawal from Afghanistan. When we inevitably leave, we must ensure that Afghan women have a place at the table and an opportunity to shape the future of their country. I stand in strong support of this amendment that calls for a plan to promote the security of Afghan women and girls during the process of transferring security responsibility to the Afghan forces.

Last week, we met with Afghan women. Let me tell you that this was their very first priority, and we heard some stories that really speak to why this is so desperately needed. Afghan women and girls carry with them the prospects for long-term growth, security, and prosperity for their country.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield the gentlelady an additional minute.

Ms. LEE of California. I and others also encourage the conferees to include the Casey-Hutchison amendment as well as Senator MERKLEY's amendment, which calls for an expedited withdrawal from Afghanistan; but also we must support this motion to instruct conferees and ensure that we protect Afghan women and provide for their security because they are the future of Afghanistan.

So I encourage our colleagues to support this, and I want to again thank Congresswoman DAVIS for her leadership.

Mr. McKEON. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH). I want to thank him for his outspokenness and for his strong belief in peace and in the role that women play in those initiatives.

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

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank the gentlelady from California for yielding.

Mr. McKEON. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY). I want to thank her, as well, for her bold leadership in preparing women for democracy.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I rise in strong support of this motion to instruct. I join my colleagues first in congratulating Congresswoman DAVIS for the enormous work that she has done to protect the women of Afghanistan, and I thank my Republican colleagues, too, for their support. This truly is a bipartisan effort.

I am committed to a peaceful transition and to a secure future for Afghanistan as U.S. troops withdraw. There is no better way to reach that goal than to involve women in the process—to ensure their voices are heard, to protect their fundamental rights. The security of women has to be a top U.S. priority.

Afghan women have made incredible advancements over the past decade, but they face enormous challenges. Just this week, the acting head of Women's Affairs in an eastern Afghan province was shot to death in broad daylight as she was traveling to work. Her predecessor in that position was killed in July when an IED exploded under her car. Particularly women who are involved in the political process or

civil society are targeted, intimidated, threatened, and even killed.

Since the 2009 trip I took to Kabul, I've kept a sky blue burqa in my office as a reminder of the responsibility that we have to the women of Afghanistan. Women's rights are essential to the long-term stability of Afghanistan. Women must feel safe participating in politics and in civil society, and they have to be free to seek education and to start businesses, and they must have the opportunity to help their country forge a peaceful future.

Mr. Speaker, the Casey-Hutchison amendment requires a three-part plan to promote the security of Afghan women and girls. By including this language in the NDAA, we show that we are serious about human rights in Afghanistan and that we are committed to a peaceful transition away from U.S. military engagement. We have the opportunity to use the NDAA to stand with our Afghan sisters, to promote the security of all Afghan women and girls, and to ensure that women have the opportunity to engage in the rebuilding of their country.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct.

Mr. McKEON. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS). I want to thank him for all of his support as well.

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

Mr. ANDREWS. I thank my friend for yielding.

I am immensely proud of the service and sacrifice of our men and women in Afghanistan. They have done a great job in defending our country, and our hearts go out to all of them who are serving, or who have served, for the greatness of their service.

I am one who believes that the time to bring them home is a lot sooner than later. I'd like to see them all come home as soon as possible. When they do, it's important that, as we leave Afghanistan, we leave an imprint of a value that is not just an American value but, I think, a value of humanity around the world and, that is, that your opportunity to thrive in a community should not be determined by your gender. It is astonishing to most Americans, but it was the reality for most female Afghans that during the rule of the Taliban, for a young girl, a visit to a school put her life at risk. A girl who dared to try to go to school was risking a violent assault or even death.

I am very proud of the fact that our military leaders, our civilian employees, and brave Afghans have worked very hard to change that fact. Today, Afghan girls are in school, and Afghan women are serving in positions of authority and leadership and education and health care and government and commerce in Afghanistan. As we make

the transition to Afghan security in that country, let us make sure that the transition to full human rights for women and girls continues in that country.

That is the purpose of this motion to instruct, and it is gratifying that Members of both political parties have spoken up in favor of this very basic principle. Being a girl or being a woman should not subject one to violence or short-change one's opportunities. I am proud to support this motion. I certainly hope that, as we go forward with this bill, the principles of fairness and equality will be included.

□ 1030

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in support of the motion to instruct offered by my good friend Mrs. DAVIS from California.

This measure would ensure that the Afghan Women and Girls Security Promotion Act, an important and bipartisan piece of legislation, will be included in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. And it will require the Department of Defense to produce a detailed plan to promote the security of Afghan women and girls during the process of transferring security responsibility to Afghan forces.

For more than a decade now, the rights and security of Afghan women have been on the rise, thanks in part to the efforts and sacrifice of our brave men and women in uniform. I had the honor of witnessing this progress firsthand when I traveled to Afghanistan over Mother's Day a few years ago and got to see excited young girls attending school for the first time and accomplished women proudly serving in government office. Here in the United States, we often take liberties like this for granted. For an Afghan woman, however, they represent dramatic strides forward in basic human rights and equality.

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

Mr. McKEON. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlelady.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Like my colleagues here today, I am deeply concerned that as we begin to transition out of Afghanistan we are at risk of losing those hard-fought gains. Tragic news stories like the recent brutal murder of a young girl in northern Afghanistan over a rejected marriage proposal still occur with frightening regularity.

I believe this piece of legislation provides an opportunity for us to do that by providing a credible path forward for promoting the continued safety and well-being of these girls and women. This is absolutely essential for the future peace, stability, and prosperity of Afghanistan. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 12¾ minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 22½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just wanted to acknowledge and thank my colleague, Mrs. BIGGERT, because she co-led with me that first trip we took to Afghanistan, to Zabul province, and we had that opportunity to observe women who had very, very incredibly difficult lives and yet were as aspirational as so many women that we meet every day. I wanted to acknowledge her for that leadership.

I now yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA) and thank her for her leadership as well.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to instruct conferees to agree to the language in section 1249 of the Senate bill, which requires a plan for promoting the security of Afghan women and girls during the transition process.

I have been a supporter of an accelerated withdrawal of our forces from Afghanistan, but believe we must do so responsibly. Part of this responsibility lies in protecting the gains that have been made by Afghan women and ensuring that they have a role in creating the future of their country.

Since 2001, women in Afghanistan have made tremendous progress in being able to educate themselves and diversify the way they can provide for their families. They receive better health care and can move freely about within their communities.

This progress, which has come at great cost to the men and women of our armed services, must be preserved and furthered. To lose these gains would be to minimize the great sacrifices that our men and women in uniform have made.

It is undisputed that the burden of war and keeping a family together after a loss of life falls on the mothers and women of the household. It is also undisputed that war leaves many scarred physically and emotionally. Yet it is so rare that we can say out of these difficult situations that there can be a glimmer of hope for the future.

One example of hope for the future is for these women and girls to know that they will be secure in their pursuits and in the progress that has been made. We must also believe that by doing so, the foundations we have helped build will continue, and these women and girls will have a future in their Afghan nation.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. HANABUSA. As a Nation, this is one of the most positive acts that we can do, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McKEON. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, so I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

I want to thank the gentlelady for bringing this issue. I think it is something that we can totally support on our side, and I would encourage all Members of this body to support this issue. I thank all of the women who have made the trips over there to Afghanistan because they have really added to the cause.

Our men and women in the military that have fought for all these many years—one of the major benefits from this war is the freedoms that these women and girls are able to enjoy right now, and it's my hope that we can leave sufficient force there to complete the mission, to guarantee the safety of these women and children, young girls, going forward. To leave precipitously without having completed that mission and put these women and girls in jeopardy, after they've seen a whole new life emerge, a whole new opportunity presented to them that they never conceived of before, would be a disaster.

So I thank again the gentlelady from California (Mrs. DAVIS) for her efforts here, and all the women who have spoken on this issue and traveled to Afghanistan, and urge that we all support this issue.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as I said, I'm certainly prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to again thank my colleague for his kind words. It has been an honor and a privilege to be part of this and to have worked with our female troops, all of our troops, of course, in Afghanistan, but to see the difference that they're making. There is an approach that they have, and it seems to work. They are able to bring people along and actually make the situation safer for the families and the community in which they are serving.

I want to thank everyone who spoke today, and I also certainly want to thank everyone who has traveled on this particular trip. This is an important motion to instruct. It defines something just as basic as ensuring the mobility of women within their own country.

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA. Today, this House will send the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, to conference. Contrary to its title, the bill does not provide for the protection of the American people. It expands war. It further indebts our nation. It encroaches on basic rights with regards to indefinite detention. It eliminates the basic tenet that due process rights applies to everyone in this country—not just American citizens.

The legislation also includes additional sanctions against Iran despite numerous reports that our sanctions are affecting the ability of ordinary Iranians to obtain medicine and offer basic goods. Sanctions have thus far not served to solve the impasse or bring Iran to the negotiating table. More sanctions are not the answer and do not bring us closer to a diplomatic solution.

This legislation also perpetuates the myth that we are ending the war in Afghanistan. We are not leaving Afghanistan. We are deepening our commitment. This bill provides for another staggering \$88 billion for the war. The Strategic Partnership Agreement between the U.S. and Afghanistan commits us to the country for at least another decade with a \$20 billion price tag.

Finally, this legislation continues financing our bloated Pentagon. The United States maintains 1,000 bases worldwide. Some of these bases are infamous, like Guantanamo Bay. There are small bases to support our drones program. There are fortresses to support our wars.

The cost to maintain these bases is billions of dollars. Included in these costs are the costs to maintain and run 234 golf courses around the world.

The Pentagon is expanding their spy agency. The CIA has become a paramilitary organization. We are preparing to support intervention in Mali. Our government's policy in Syria is incoherent. We are expanding our military presence in Asia and in Africa.

And for what? For millions of Americans to be unemployed? For millions of Americans to go hungry? For millions of Americans not to have adequate access to education or even healthcare? For millions to lose their homes? For millions to lose their retirement security? For roads and bridges to collapse because we have no money for infrastructure?

I say it's time we pay attention to the defense of the American people's pocketbooks—The defense of the dignity of the American people—The defense of the moral authority of the United States. It's time to end this state of permanent war. We should throw out the NDAA, put an end to interventionism and begin to take care of things back home.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Davis Motion to Instruct Conferees that would include the Casey/Hutchison amendment in the final conference report on the NDAA bill.

I want to thank the gentlelady from California, Mrs. DAVIS, for her strong leadership in engaging the women of Afghanistan in their reconstruction. I first traveled to Afghanistan with Mrs. DAVIS for Mother's Day in 2009 and have returned each of the past three years.

As co-chair of the Afghan Women's Task Force, I have met with women parliamentarians and civil society members eager to achieve the common goal of a secure and stable Afghanistan.

These women and their advocates always raise security as the number one challenge to progress. The failure to ensure consideration of women in the security framework is an ongoing challenge to taking advantage of the opportunities in education, politics, and overall public life necessary for the long-term stability and prosperity of Afghanistan.

Yesterday's assassination of the acting head of women's affairs in Laghman Province less than six months after the previous head

was killed exposes not only the threats to the security of women in the country, but the deep concern about the impact the transfer of responsibilities from coalition forces to the Afghan government will have on the gains made by women over the last ten years.

The Casey/Hutchinson amendment promotes the security of Afghan women and underlines the need for the United States to strengthen its commitment to ensuring that plans to improve, monitor, and respond to women's security are imbedded in the Department of Defense's strategies. In addition, the amendment aims to establish achievable goals for the recruitment and retention of women to the Afghan National Army and Afghanistan National Police which have fallen far below expected targets.

The United States has worked hard to dramatically improve the lives of Afghan women. The greatest indicator of this progress is the 2.7 million girls who are now being educated after years of restriction by the Taliban. Afghan women and girls have stated their goals and desires for progress.

The transition process gives the United States and our international partners an opportunity to strengthen women's rights and lay the foundation for women's full participation in all aspects of Afghan society in the future. Losing those gains will have a major negative impact on all Afghans and jeopardize the future security and stability of the country.

I urge inclusion of the Casey/Hutchinson amendment to send a supportive message to the women of Afghanistan and to enhance U.S. and international efforts to create a safer, more prosperous future for the country. Vote for the Davis Motion to Instruct Conferees.

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

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 11 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings