

of Washington Amendment, “aye” rollcall No. 238: Polis/Andrews Amendment, “aye”; rollcall No. 239: Polis Amendment, “no”; rollcall No. 240: Van Hollen of Maryland Amendment, “aye”; rollcall No. 241: Blumenauer of Oregon Amendment, “aye”; rollcall No. 242: DeLauro of Connecticut Amendment, “aye”; rollcall No. 243: Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 1960, “aye”; rollcall No. 244: H.R. 1960—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, “aye”.

PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 18, 2013

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

Instead of focusing on much needed job creation legislation . . . or addressing the student loan interest rates set to double in a matter of days . . . the House Republican Leadership has decided to bring up a bill that is unconstitutional and unconscionable.

This legislation would ban abortions after 20 weeks nationwide . . . with no exceptions to protect a woman's health and with the most narrow exceptions for rape or incest.

I have always believed that such a deeply personal issue can only be made by the woman herself . . . in consultation with her doctor . . . and her most trusted loved ones.

This legislation is an attempt to insert the federal government into this decision making process and chip away at a woman's right to choose.

For the young women in Sacramento and nationwide, I oppose this legislation in order to protect their health and their rights . . . and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

COMMEMORATING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World Refugee Day and recognize the more than 43 million forcibly displaced people around the world, a number of whom—in search of a better life in America—have resettled in Michigan's Macomb and Oakland counties, which I proudly represent.

World Refugee Day is observed June 20 of each year and is dedicated to raising awareness of the plight of the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, and strife. This day serves as a special reminder of the courage of these resilient individuals and provides us the opportunity to draw attention to their struggle.

The United States is by far the largest donor to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and this commitment from the American people has helped deliver critical humanitarian aid to the world's most vulnerable populations. U.S.-sup-

ported work of the UNHCR includes providing safe food, clean drinking water, shelter, education, security in dangerous situations, and ultimately durable placement options—voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement.

Today is also a time to recognize the positive contributions of refugees who have created new lives in this country. Due to America's historic commitment to welcoming and resettling victims of persecution from around the world, communities all over the country have benefited from refugees' enthusiasm, entrepreneurial spirit, and sense of civic engagement.

Over the last ten years, thousands of Iraqi refugees have resettled in my district—a development that has had a positive impact on the region. I value their contributions and am proud to support the work of local resettlement organizations to integrate new arrivals into American society. This past April, I had the opportunity to visit with the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity at their food bank and home goods warehouse. There I met a young Iraqi mother and her son, both of whom had recently arrived in the United States and resettled in Metro Detroit. The efforts of the established Chaldean community to assist recent refugees were truly impressive, and I was struck by how grateful the mother was for the opportunity to start a new life for her family in the United States.

Today, as we mark World Refugee Day, I urge my colleagues to renew their commitment to providing humanitarian aid and resettlement assistance to victims of ethnic, religious and political persecution as well as other vulnerable people who have been forced to flee their homes due to natural or man-made disasters.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FY2014

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to H.R. 1960, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014.

The NDAA offers Congress an opportunity to provide the resources we need for our Armed Forces and a chance to address some of the significant challenges that must be confronted—like the mechanisms for confronting cases of sexual abuse in the military. While I appreciate the House Armed Services Committee's continued support of our servicemembers and our national defense, this bill contains a number of serious flaws. These include providing over \$5 billion in OCO funding that the Pentagon did not request, imposing funding restrictions that would prohibit the construction or modification of a detention facility in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees, and establishing an unnecessary missile defense site on the East Coast.

I was particularly disappointed that a bipartisan amendment I introduced—which would have ensured that the FY2014 funding for the war in Afghanistan and other overseas contingencies is at the level the DoD and military leaders say is necessary for the mis-

sion—was not adopted. The funding level in the National Defense Authorization bill for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) for Fiscal Year 2014 is set at \$85.8—\$5 billion more than the \$80.7 billion the Defense Department says is necessary to achieve the mission. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey both testified before the House Budget Committee that the FY2014 OCO level of \$80.7 billion requested in the President's budget was sufficient to meet our military's needs. At a time of fiscal constraint, we simply cannot afford to provide more funding than our military leaders say is needed.

Part of the reason some may have hesitated to support the amendment was due to claims that it would have eliminated funding for National Guard and Reserve Component Equipment modernization. But, that was simply not true.

As we continue to search for a way to turn off the sequester by replacing it with a more rational deficit reduction package, we shouldn't allow the OCO designation to be used as a loophole to get around spending caps that are written in law as the defense authorization bill did. That is not a solution to the sequester. Instead, we should find a balanced deficit reduction plan to replace sequestration so that we can provide adequate funding to maintain a military that is second to none and make the investments in education, scientific research, and infrastructure necessary to keep our economy strong, which is the foundation of our security. Unfortunately, the House Republican budget takes the opposite approach. It cuts even more deeply into vital investments in our kids' education and in the investments in innovation and technology that help grow our economy. It cuts the part of the budget that funds education and vital medical research by 19 percent below the sequester. And despite claims to want to strengthen our embassy security in the aftermath of tragedies like Behnghazi, it slashes State Department operations by over 15 percent.

Despite my opposition to the overall legislation, I was pleased to see that this bill incorporated initiatives that begin to address the problem of sexual assault in the military. Unfortunately, the measures adopted were inadequate to meet the challenge. I was especially disappointed that Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER was denied the opportunity to offer an important amendment to strengthen accountability and improve the process.

I also share many of the other concerns that were outlined in the President's Statement of Administration Policy. This includes a misguided provision in the bill which would continue funding restrictions that prohibit the construction or modification of a detention facility in the United States to house Guantanamo detainees, and would constrain DoD's ability to transfer Guantanamo detainees, including those who have already been designated for transfer to other countries. In addition, I strongly object to a requirement in this bill which would limit the President's ability to implement the New START Treaty and to set the country's nuclear policy.

I am also opposed to sections 232 and 233 in this bill, which authorize the establishment of a missile defense site on the East Coast that the Pentagon says is unnecessary. These provisions disregard the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and seek to tie the President's

hands in determining military requirements in other parts of the world. Finally, this bill contains provisions which ignore DoD recommendations and block the Administration's ability to retire aging and unnecessary military aircraft, including the C-130 AMP, when less expensive options are readily available.

This year's NDAA does authorize much needed funding for vital programs that benefit our men and women in uniform, their civilian colleagues, and our veterans. It is my hope that many of my objections to this legislation will be resolved in Conference with the Senate and that I will be able to support its final passage.

EN BLOC PACKAGE: ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH USE OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AMENDMENT H.R. 1960, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the bill's managers for including in this en bloc amendment a provision Congressman LANGEVIN and I submitted to ensure the Department of Defense complies with the law.

The defense authorization act of fiscal year 2010 included a mandate that the Department make funding available to use civilian employees for requirements that last more than five years, thereby saving taxpayer dollars.

The Department's Comptroller's office was required to issue regulations on implementing this mandate. Yet, three years later they have still failed to do so.

This provision reinforces the law by requiring that within 45 days of enactment the Department finally issue these long-awaited regulations.

I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this en bloc amendment, which includes this important provision.

PORTS AS SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATORS ACT OF 2013

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, our nation's ports are more than gateways of trade—they are economic engines in their own right. Ports support 13.3 million American jobs and generate \$3.15 trillion in economic activity. That is why I founded the PORTS Caucus to educate Members of Congress on the importance of ports to our national economy. As a member of the Small Businesses Committee, I also understand that economic recovery is going to be fueled by the job-creating power of our small businesses.

That is why I am re-introducing the "Ports as Small Business Incubators Act," which will join these two economic forces and further strengthen our economy. In 2005 alone, North American incubation programs assisted more than 27,000 companies that provided employ-

ment for more than 100,000 workers and generated annual revenues of \$17 billion. My bill creates a grant program available to Port Authorities interested in creating their own small business incubators.

The Ports as Small Business Incubators Act will allow port authorities to apply for a grant to create a small business incubator. This program will encourage port authorities to give opportunities to entrepreneurs who need them most. These newly-created small business incubators will be designed to foster small businesses owned by women, veterans, and minorities. Finally, this program will also encourage businesses that „arks develop a crucial part of our economy: green jobs. Port authorities can work with small business that focus on clean energy and improved air and water quality.

By passing this bill, we will ensure that our entrepreneurs are given the chance to succeed. This program will nurture our new businesses and provide a much-needed boost to our recovering economy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT OF THE FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, PARENTS AND ALUMNI OF EALY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the administrators, educators and students of Ealy Elementary School in West Bloomfield, Michigan as they gather to reflect on the 47 years the school has served the community. For nearly five decades, the education professionals of Ealy have been making an impact at some of the most important moments in children's lives.

Opened in 1966 to meet the needs of a rapidly booming population in West Bloomfield, the faculty and staff of Ealy have diligently carried out the school's mission of providing an educational environment that creates a co-operative link between students' home, school, and community. As part of its mission, the educators of Ealy focus on providing each student with a uniquely challenging curriculum to unlock their fullest potential. This focus not only includes, a strong curriculum in the classroom, but also extends into initiatives and programs that reach students beyond the walls of the school.

In the classroom, the teachers at Ealy have been committed to using technology to enhance the educational experience of their students. With classrooms equipped with the latest computers, Ealy has focused on creating an interactive educational environment for its students. Additionally, each classroom at Ealy features an interactive smart board that further improves the learning experience for its students. The school's commitment to employing technology in the learning process also provided its students with some unique educational opportunities, such as a direct connection to NASA which allowed them to communicate with astronauts during their missions.

Furthermore the faculty and staff of Ealy Elementary understand how the development of

good communications skills early in life is an important tool for youth as they develop into adults. As part of the school's commitment to honing this skill in its students, they are required to each complete and publish a non-fiction book annually.

Beyond the walls of their classrooms, Ealy students are exposed to programs which engrain the importance of involvement in their community and world. Students have organized events that support our men and women in uniform, including adoptions of soldiers serving overseas and organizing care packages for entire units of soldiers. The educators of Ealy have also worked with their students to organize fundraising drives that have supported the victims of hurricanes and tsunamis, as well as create donations drives.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the administration and faculty of Ealy Elementary for the dedication to their students—working day in and day out to ensure that each student has the opportunity to discover and unlock their full potential. Thanks to their hard work, and the support of their parents, Ealy alumni have gone on to make significant contributions to communities around the world. While Ealy may be closing its doors at the end of this school year, the spirit it has imbued in the community will live on as its alumni continue to make a difference in the lives of others and as its dedicated educators continue to impact new students in their future endeavors.

SAINT JOSEPH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

MR. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Habitat for Humanity of Saint Joseph, Missouri. This business has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Employer of Excellence Award.

The Saint Joseph Habitat for Humanity is a place where families come first. The organization is committed to helping needy families in the Saint Joseph area realize the dream of home ownership. The families that are served by Habitat are often headed by single mothers who are inspired and encouraged that through hard work and perseverance, things can change in a positive way.

Even as Habitat seeks to empower women and bless children everyday, it also seeks to provide a family friendly environment for their employees. In staff meetings, personal concerns are given time in addition to agenda items. Employees are given opportunities for personal growth and development. This allows for the staff at Habitat to not only feel good about the work that they do, but who they are doing it for. Every day Saint Joseph Habitat for Humanity demonstrates its commitment to strengthening families in every way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Saint Joseph Habitat for Humanity. This business is a tremendous asset to the St. Joseph community, and I am honored to represent this business in the United States Congress.