

Americans back to work and make the United States more competitive in the 21st century."

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

### RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 289, noes 125, answered “present” 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 72]

AYES—289

Aderholt	DeGette	Jones	Amash	Griffin (AR)	Pastor (AZ)
Alexander	Delaney	Jordan	Andrews	Grijalva	Paulsen
Amodei	DeLauro	Joyce	Barr	Gutierrez	Pearce
Bachmann	DelBene	Kaptur	Bass	Heck (NV)	Peters (CA)
Bachus	DeSantis	Kelly	Benishek	Herrera Beutler	Peters (MI)
Barber	DesJarlais	Kennedy	Bishop (NY)	Holding	Peterson
Barletta	Deutch	Kildee	Brady (PA)	Honda	Pittenger
Barrow (GA)	Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Brooks (IN)	Hoyer	Poe (TX)
Barton	Doggett	King (NY)	Burgess	Hudson	Price (GA)
Beatty	Doyle	Kingston	Butterfield	Huelskamp	
Becerra	Duckworth	Kline	Capuano	Israel	Radel
Bentivolio	Duncan (SC)	Kuster	Chaffetz	Jackson Lee	Rahall
Bera (CA)	Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Chu	Jeffries	Rangel
Bilirakis	Ellmers	LaMalfa	Cotton	Jenkins	Reed
Bishop (GA)	Engel	Lamborn	Clarke	Clyburn	Renacci
Bishop (UT)	Enyart	Lankford	Coffman	Johnson (OH)	Ribble
Black	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)	Cohen	Johnson, E. B.	Rigell
Blackburn	Farenthold	Larson (CT)	Collins (GA)	Keating	Rush
Blumenauer	Fattah	Latta	Conyers	Kilmer	Ryan (OH)
Bonamici	Fincher	Levin	Cotton	Kinzinger (IL)	Sánchez, Linda
Bonner	Fleischmann	Lipinski	Courtney	Kirkpatrick	T.
Boustany	Fleming	Loebssack	Crowley	Lance	Sarbanes
Brady (TX)	Fortenberry	Lofgren	Davis, Rodney	Langevin	Schakowsky
Braley (IA)	Foster	Long	DeFazio	Latham	Sewell (AL)
Bridenstine	Frankel (FL)	Lowenthal	Denham	Lee (CA)	Slaughter
Brooks (AL)	Franks (AZ)	Lucas	Dent	Lewis	Stivers
Brown (FL)	Frelinghuysen	Luetkemeyer	Dingell	LoBiondo	Terry
Brownley (CA)	Gabbard	Lujan Grisham	Duffy	Lowey	Thompson (CA)
Buchanan	Gallego	(NM)	Edwards	Maloney,	Thompson (MS)
Bucson	Garamendi	Luján, Ben Ray	Ellison	Carolyn	Tiberi
Bustos	Garrett	(NM)	Esty	Marchant	Tipton
Calvert	Gibbs	Lummis	Farr	Matheson	Turner
Camp	Gingrey (GA)	Maffei	Fitzpatrick	McDermott	Valadão
Campbell	Goodlatte	Maloney, Sean	Flores	McGovern	McKinley
Cantor	Gosar	Marino	Forbes	McKinley	Veasey
Capito	Gowdy	Markey	Fox	Meehan	Vela
Capps	Granger	Massie	Fudge	Meng	Velázquez
Cárdenas	Grayson	Matsui	Garcia	Miller, George	Visclosky
Carney	Griffith (VA)	McCarthy (CA)	Gerlach	Himes	Wenstrup
Carson (IN)	Grimm	McCarthy (NY)	Graves (GA)	Negrete McLeod	Wittman
Carter	Guthrie	McCaul	Graves (MO)	Nolan	Woodall
Cartwright	Hahn	McClintock	Green, Al	Nugent	Yoder
Cassidy	Hall	McCullum	Green, Gene	Pallone	Young (AK)
Castro (TX)	Hanabusa	McIntyre			
Chabot	Harper	McKeon			
Cicilline	Harris	McMorris			
Clay	Hartzler	Rodgers			
Cleaver	Hastings (FL)	McNerney			
Coble	Hastings (WA)	Meadows			
Cole	Heck (WA)	Meeks			
Collins (NY)	Hensarling	Messer			
Conaway	Higgins	Mica			
Connolly	Hinojosa	Michaud			
Cook	Holt	Miller (FL)			
Cooper	Horsford	Miller (MI)			
Cramer	Huffman	Miller, Gary			
Crawford	Huizinga (MI)	Moran			
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Mullin			
Cuellar	Hunter	Mulvaney			
Cummings	Hurt	Murphy (FL)			
Daines	Issa	Murphy (PA)			
Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Nadler			
Davis, Danny	Johnson, Sam	Neal			

□ 1724

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 70 on H.R. 803. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 71 on H.R. 803. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote 72 on Approving the Journal. I would have voted “yea.”

### BUDGET GAMES IN WASHINGTON

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of Georgians and folks all over our Nation who are sick and tired of the budget games in Washington.

Ask almost any American what happens if someone spends substantially more money than they take in, and they'll tell you that that individual will be plagued with debt and face limited economic opportunity.

But this commonsense reality seems to evade many of my friends in the other body. As evidenced by the recently proposed budget, this so-called plan increases taxes by \$1 trillion, proposes \$100 billion in new stimulus spending, and will never balance.

This mentality is exactly what got our Nation into this fiscal mess in the first place. However, I must commend my friends for at least finally putting down a budget on paper. It took them 4 years, and their plan certainly doesn't propose any new ideas, but at least they've articulated where they stand.

However, this administration remains delinquent in their duty to send a budget to Congress. The administration's budget is more than a month overdue, and news reports indicate it may come in April, if at all. They have complained that the delay is the result of Congressional debate surrounding the fiscal cliff and sequester.

Someone should tell this administration that using uncertainty created by their own policies to buck their responsibility to craft a budget is unconscionable. Attacking this body's balanced budget approach, when they haven't produced their own plan, unfortunately reveals their willingness to put partisan politics ahead of our Nation's fiscal future.

If this administration is truly concerned about the uncertainty, they should send to Congress a responsible balanced budget. This will put our Nation on the path to true fiscal responsibility.

### MEDICARE AND THE RYAN BUDGET

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, the latest Ryan budget is déjà vu all

over again, only this time it's worse for our parents and grandparents. It will turn Medicare into a voucher system, and leave millions without the health care they need and deserve.

As a doctor, I've sat with these seniors when they're trying to choose between one medication or another, one treatment or another, and they can't afford it. This is just wrong. It's bad medicine.

Our parents and grandparents did not work their whole lives paying into a system only to be handed a voucher that doesn't even cover the cost of needed care.

If we work together, we can do better. We can lower the cost of health care. We must honor the promises that we've made to them, and make sure Medicare is secure and strengthened for the next generation.

Mr. RYAN, don't pull the plug on Medicare.

□ 1730

#### SKILLS ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will vote on the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act, or SKILLS Act. With 12 million Americans out of work and 3.6 million job openings unfilled, the SKILLS Act will modernize and reform our Federal workforce development programs and reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act.

As a former volunteer member of a Workforce Investment Board who had the responsibility for administering these training opportunities, I witnessed firsthand the difficulty and expense these duplicative and overlapping programs create. The SKILLS Act consolidates current programs efficiently so that individuals seeking training will be able to navigate the system with greater success and greater access. The SKILLS Act also refocuses the accountability and control at the local level rather than Washington.

Mr. Speaker, America's competitiveness depends on having a qualified and trained workforce. The SKILLS Act offers just that. President Obama called on Congress in 2012 to work with him to develop a skills training program that is more efficient and effective. The SKILLS Act does just that. Let's take action to put Americans back to work and make America more competitive.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NOW PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ACT

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about a bill I introduced earlier today. It's called the Water Infrastructure Now Public-Private Partnership Act. Senator DURBIN and Senator KIRK from Illinois introduced the Senate version as well today.

My bill would improve the Nation's water infrastructure, including the aging locks and dams along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, through public-private partnerships that would expedite projects and save taxpayer money.

My bill would help clear a \$60 billion backlog of U.S. Army Corps projects that will take decades to complete without the help of private investment. It does this by creating a pilot program to explore agreements between the Army Corps of Engineers and private entities as alternatives to traditional financing, planning, design, and construction methods.

Mr. Speaker, the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers are absolutely critical to the economic well-being of not just my region, but also to the entire Midwest, the Nation, and even to the world. Many of these locks and dams were built during the administration of Franklin Roosevelt and are now more than 80 years old. That is why action must be taken to expand and modernize the locks and dams that help transport our goods and products worldwide.

#### HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Every March we commemorate National Women's History Month, a time in which we highlight the many contributions of women who have shaped our great Nation. While we celebrate the tremendous achievements of pioneers who have paved the way, it is important to remember the young girls who need an encouraging environment so that they can grow up to become strong women of character. Education is key to make this happen.

Education is not simply a means to an end but, rather, a vital tool that can help overcome poverty, ignorance, and so much more. However, one in four girls in America does not finish high school, and the dropout rate is even higher for Hispanic teens. Nearly four in ten Hispanic girls will drop out of high school this year. This is alarming.

Mr. Speaker, let's stop this high school dropout rate for all teen girls, and I ask that we renew our commitment to put literacy on our national agenda. Literacy is paramount in the struggle for self-empowerment and education.

#### HONORING THE McDONNELL FAMILY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the last memory that Lynn McDonnell has of her 7-year-old daughter, Grace, is of a beaming, beautiful girl blowing kisses to her from a bus as she went on her way to Sandy Hook Elementary School. Soon thereafter, tragedy struck. Grace and 19 of her classmates and six teachers were gunned down by a madman with a semiautomatic rifle.

Our country came together. We mourned together. And now, Mr. Speaker, I'm asking this Congress, come together and do something so no other family knows the sadness of the McDonnells.

Too many lives have been lost and too many communities have been torn apart by violence. Too many families have mourned the loss of their brothers and sisters. Too many people have endured unimaginable pain and grief caused by gun violence. When Lynn McDonnell and her husband, Chris, came to Washington for the State of the Union last month, she said Congress must choose "action over inaction." And I agree.

It's been exactly 3 months now since the Newtown massacre. For the McDonnells and the families in Newtown, Aurora, and my hometown of West Palm Beach, I say let's come together and pass responsible gun safety legislation.

#### THE HOMES OF CHRISTIANS ARE BURNED IN PAKISTAN

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Christians are under attack in the Muslim nation of Pakistan. Christians live in fear of being persecuted because of their faith. They also can face life in prison or even death if convicted of insulting Islam.

Some say that the religious laws are used as a tool to deal with personal vendettas. A Christian man living in Pakistan last week was accused of committing blasphemy. Suddenly, a large group of men—a mob from a nearby mosque—stormed his home Friday night. The man was arrested. Fearing for their safety, hundreds of other Christian families fled in the dark of the night. On Saturday morning, the mob, as shown in this photograph, returned and began ransacking more Christian homes and setting them ablaze. According to Human Rights activists, more than 100 Christian homes were burned.

Mr. Speaker, Pakistan takes our money but they do not respect the human rights of religious minorities. Some radical Muslims believe that