

of millions of dollars from defense health accounts to higher priorities. These reprogramming actions totaled \$708 million last year in 2012 and \$500 million in the prior year in 2011.

DOD has explained that the surplus was due to “uncertainty about medical inflation and health care use, and the impact of continual benefit changes and efficiency initiatives.” If there is uncertainty about costs, the assertion cannot be made that added fees are necessary for even our most senior veterans.

DOD’s own documents prove military health care costs are not exploding. The combined personnel and health care costs are less than one-third of DOD’s budget and the same as they’ve been for 30 years. The overestimation of cost growth that has resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars being reprogrammed by DOD the past 2 years is proof that costs are not growing as much as anticipated. In fact, they are not growing at all.

The relatively low cost of health care and strong benefits are the foundational elements and they are necessary not just to recruit, but also to sustain an all-volunteer force. Significant cuts to the critical incentive packages that sustain a top-quality career force will undermine long-term retention and readiness.

I ask my colleagues to vote for this amendment and uphold our commitment to the brave men and women of our armed services, as well as the millions of veterans in need of health care today. Again, I reemphasize this amendment is to prohibit funds to be used to add any enrollment fees to the TRICARE For Life program.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the gentlewoman’s amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I would begin my remarks by suggesting that I deeply appreciate the gentlewoman’s concern and her commitment to make sure everyone who has taken that oath of office and put on the uniform of the United States of America receives the health care benefits they deserve and that they have earned.

But I would point out, as I have on a number of occasions this evening, that we have got to start looking ahead and begin to make some very difficult decisions.

I would quote again from the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments that has noted that over the last decade, rather than getting larger and more expensive, the military has just grown more expensive. This reality makes our future choices even more difficult, and it is imperative that Congress joins with the Department in working through these decisions in an arm’s length relationship, but also as a partner.

The Department has made recommendations, one of which we are de-

bating at this moment, that are very difficult decisions to have to make. On the other hand, we have to begin to not reflectively reject these recommendations out of hand.

I understand what the gentlewoman is trying to do with her amendment, but she does rightfully describe it as saying that no funds shall be used to implement an enrollment fee. Is that enrollment fee 25 cents? Is that enrollment fee \$1? Is that enrollment fee \$2? Is that enrollment fee \$250 for an individual and \$500 for a family? We are going to have to consider the pressure that the budget is under.

The gentlewoman has indicated that the Department has reprogrammed money, and that means that, in fact, costs have not gone up. The fact is I do believe that the Department has, if you would, underexecuted and over-requested moneys in past years.

The subcommittee mark in the bill we are debating tonight cut \$400 million from the request of \$15.8 billion based on the execution history. We would not have done that if we thought we had endangered anyone’s health. And in fact, these costs are going up.

The cost of military medical care has risen almost by triple in the past 12 years, rising from \$19- to \$56 billion. If the increase continues at this rate for another decade, coupled with sequestration, military health care could consume close to 20 percent of all defense spending.

According to a report published by the Congressional Budget Office entitled “Long-Term Implications of the 2013 Future Years Defense Program,” the annual cost to the Department’s health care program could grow from \$51 billion in fiscal year ’13 to \$65 billion in 2017 and \$90 billion by 2030.

If we continue to block enrollment fees for TRICARE For Life, defense funding for this program will place other programs at risk. The Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments estimates that pay and benefits for each Active Duty servicemember grew by 57 percent in real terms between 2001 and 2012, or 4.2 percent annually.

I am not suggesting our servicemembers do not deserve adequate compensation for the risks they take in the defense of this country, but we have to understand what the growth of those costs means for the overall budget and the future implications. Operation and maintenance costs per Active Duty employee grew by 34 percent.

I oppose the amendment respectfully because I am worried that if we don’t address the rising cost of health care now there will be even a smaller pool of resources to make our military ready in the future.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments of the ranking member, however, the facts are as stated: DOD has reprogrammed \$708 million last year alone and \$500 million in the prior year. These have been from the health accounts.

In addition to that, we must look at the fact that the DOD budget as to personnel and health costs are less than one-third of the DOD budget, and that has been a consistent percentage for the past 30 years.

The health care fund has been the one that has been taking the hit every time. It has been the bogeyman to say that is where we are going to have to cut and that is what is rising the costs out of control, it is spiraling out of control. But that is, in fact, not true.

I think that to threaten health care or to not give our men and women in uniform, and the veterans, in particular, the security with which they joined the military for—these are one of the benefits they looked for—by not being able to ensure them that, especially health care, is the worst that we can do. When we don’t have the evidence that this is where we should cut, we should not cut and add any additional enrollment fees.

As I stated, this amendment is to prevent any funds to be used to increase any enrollment fees for the TRICARE For Life.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2397) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

May 1, 2013:

H.R. 1246. An Act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide that the District of Columbia Treasurer or one of the Deputy Chief Financial Officers of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia may perform the functions and duties of the Office in an acting capacity if there is a vacancy in the Office.

H.R. 1765. An Act to provide the Secretary of Transportation with the flexibility to transfer certain funds to prevent reduced operations and staffing of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

May 17, 2013:

H.R. 1071. An Act to specify the size of the precious-metal blanks that will be used in the production of the National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins.

May 24, 2013:

H.R. 360. An Act to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley to commemorate the lives they lost 50 years ago in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where these 4 little Black girls' ultimate sacrifice served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement.

June 3, 2013:

H.R. 258. An Act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military decorations or medals.

June 25, 2013:

H.R. 475. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include vaccines against seasonal influenza within the definition of taxable vaccines.

July 12, 2013:

H.R. 324. An Act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

H.R. 1151. An Act to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2383. An Act to designate the new Interstate Route 70 bridge over the Mississippi River connecting St. Louis, Missouri, and southwestern Illinois as the "Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge".

July 18, 2013:

H.R. 251. An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, arid for other purposes.

H.R. 254. An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project.

H.R. 588. An Act to provide for donor contribution acknowledgments to be displayed at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

June 3, 2013:

S. 982. An Act to prohibit the Corps of Engineers from taking certain actions to establish a restricted area prohibiting public access to waters downstream of a dam, and for other purposes.

June 13, 2013:

S. 622. An Act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. COBLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and July 24 on account of personal matters.

Mr. HORSFORD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for July 22 and today on account of medical mandated recovery.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, July 24, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2303. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting The Fiscal Year 2012 Inventory of Contracts for Services for the Military Departments, Defense Agencies, and Department of Defense Field Activities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2304. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2013 Annual Report; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2305. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Singapore pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2306. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on a transaction involving U.S. exports to Israel pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2307. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Avolon Aerospace Leasing Limited (Avolon) of Dublin, Ireland, pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2308. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Mexico pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2309. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2012 Financial Report to Congress for the Food and Drug Administration required by the Medical Device User Fee Amendments of 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2310. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications; Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment [PS Docket No.: 11-153] [PS Docket No.: 10-255] received July 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2311. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Review of Wireline Competition Bureau Data Practices, Computer III Further Remand Proceedings; Bell Operating Company Provision of Enhanced Services; 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review — Review of Computer III and ONA Safeguards and Requirements [WC Docket No.: 10-132] [CC Docket Nos.: 95-20, 98-10] received July 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2312. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, trans-

mitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Critical Habitat Map for the Fountain Darter [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0064] (RIN: 1018-AZ68) received July 16, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2313. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Species Status for Six West Texas Aquatic Invertebrates [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2012-0029] (RIN: 1018-AX70) received July 16, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2314. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Six West Texas Aquatic Invertebrates [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0004] (RIN: 1018-AZ26) received July 19, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2315. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Foreign Species, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing One Distinct Population Segment of Broad-Snouted Caiman as Endangered and a Second as Threatened with a Special Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R9-ES-2010-0089; 4500030115; 1113F116] (RIN: 1018-AT56) received July 16, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2316. A letter from the Branch Chief, Endangered Species Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Buena Vista Lake Shrew [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2009-0062; 4500030114] (RIN: 1018-AW85) received July 16, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2317. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the semi-annual report of the Attorney General concerning enforcement actions taken by the Department under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, Public Law 104-65, as amended by Public Law 110-81, codified at 2 U.S.C. Sec. 1605(b)(1) for the semi-annual period beginning on January 1, 2011 and July 1, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2318. A letter from the Acting Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inadmissibility of Consumer Products and Industrial Equipment Noncompliant With Applicable Energy Conservation or Labeling Standards [Docket No.: USCBP-2012-0004] (RIN: 1515-AD82) received July 1, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2319. A letter from the Acting Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibitions and Conditions on the Importation and Exportation of Rough Diamonds [USCBP-2012-0022] (RIN: 1515-AD85) received July 2, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2320. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a semi-annual report to Congress on the continued compliance of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the Trade Act's freedom of emigration provisions, as required under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.