

H.R. 273 would freeze federal employees' salaries for the third consecutive year, forcing federal workers to forego an additional \$15 billion in pay over the next decade even though study after study has shown that federal employees actually earn less than their private sector counterparts when factors such as skill and education level are taken into account.

H.R. 273 is not a serious attempt to address the budget deficit. The \$15 billion it would raise represents barely a fraction of projected deficits over the next decade. True deficit reduction will need to be balanced and sacrifice will need to be shared.

H.R. 273 is also shortsighted policy.

The federal government should not be an employer of last resort. Our citizens depend on our ability to recruit the most qualified individuals to treat our wounded veterans, inspect our food, oversee nuclear power plants, protect us from terrorism, and provide a broad range of other critical services. H.R. 273 is yet another attempt by the Republican Majority to find a scapegoat for the deficit that shields the wealthiest individuals and corporations from making any kind of contribution. While this legislation would do virtually nothing to improve our budget outlook, it would force more economic harm on our dedicated federal workers and have a devastating long-term effect on the quality of government services and operations.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 273, a bill that would prevent the President's pay hike for federal workers and Members of Congress.

H.R. 273 is a good bill that deserves our support. In a time of historic budget difficulty, the bill rightly seeks to limit federal spending on the government workforce. The bill also recognizes what the American People know to be true: too many private sector employees remain without work during this protracted period of high unemployment. I will vote in support of H.R. 273 later today.

While this legislation is a step in the right direction, we should go further to prevent excessive spending by also suspending the automatic step increases that federal employees will continue to receive even if H.R. 273 is enacted into law.

I have been disappointed that over the past two years of the President's so-called "freeze" on federal pay, federal employees have continued to receive step increases. According to the Office of Personnel Management, these increases have resulted in a median pay increase of approximately \$3,164 per federal employee—all during the so-called pay freeze.

These step increases are not based on merit, and there are serious flaws with this system. For example, all employees in the Government Service pay plan who completed their "waiting period" received a three percent raise in pay during this period.

Mr. Speaker, do private sector workers receive a three percent salary increase for simply completing a "waiting period?"

No, of course not.

During this time, salaries in the private sector only increased by \$1,404, less than half of what federal salaries gained on average, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

If the President is going to say he is freezing pay, he must do exactly that—freeze pay. Anything less is a budget gimmick that creates only the illusion of savings.

Last Congress I worked to stop budget loopholes like this in a bill I introduced, the Honest Budget Act. Working with the Senate, I aimed to enact changes that would bring more honesty and transparency to budgeting process. I authored an amendment to H.R. 273 based on the provisions of the Honest Budget Act, but unfortunately this chamber is not able to consider it today under the closed procedural rule for H.R. 273. I intend to continue to pursue the issue later this year.

Since I've been in Congress, we have fought to reduce excessive spending to get our nation's deficits under control. We've enjoyed successes, but we have also seen firsthand the tricks of trade—gimmicks used to distort the truth and hide new spending. Soon I will be re-introducing the Honest Budget Act in the 113th Congress, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this fight for honesty and accountability in the budget.

A budget is a plan for the future and a financial report to the stockholders of the company—in this case, the American people. I am convinced that we can do better in the future.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 273 because it once forces middle class workers to bear the burden of Congress's inability to come together and solve our fiscal woes.

This bill would result in a freeze on federal civilian employee pay for a third consecutive year by repealing the modest 0.5 percent increase scheduled to take effect next month. This miniscule raise would be their first since 2010, despite the fact that inflation has increased by 5.3 percent in that same time period.

These federal employees are hard-working people who deserve to be treated fairly for all they give in service to our constituents. They are the hotshot crews that fight our wildfires every summer. They are seismologists who will warn us about an approaching tsunami. They are the inspectors who ensure the safety of our food supply. They are the air traffic controllers who keep us safe when we fly. They are the VA doctors and nurses who treat our war veterans. And they are the officers who protect our borders, our airports, and our nuclear facilities.

At the same time, this bill asks nothing of the companies whose government contracts may award hundreds of thousands of dollars in salary per employee. And despite the protests of the bill's supporters, it does nothing to freeze pay for Members of Congress—that pay freeze, which I support, is already in effect.

This bill is just another political game that does nothing to meaningfully reduce spending or get our debt under control. I have said it before and I'll say it again: We've been governing by crisis for far too long. It's time to rally around common sense. It's time to take a seat at the bargaining table. This bill will not get us there, and it's time we all stop pretending that it will. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 273.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I had to make the difficult decision of voting for a pay raise for myself or against continuing a pay freeze for federal workers. I voted for H.R. 273 because although I believe it is unfair to balance the budget on the backs of hard working middle-class families, I could not accept a pay raise for myself. I recognize the critical contributions federal employees make every day

to the health and well-being of our country and I thank them for their service. I am honored to serve the people of California's 36th Congressional District and I will continue to work to do the right thing for my district and to ensure that the American dream is attainable for everyone.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 66, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. ISSA. 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.

#### PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 15

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Friday, February 15, 2013, through Thursday, February 21, 2013, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 25, 2013, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Friday, February 15, 2013, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, February 25, 2013, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

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

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. 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, this 15-

minute vote on adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 15 will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of H.R. 273, and the motion to suspend the rules on House Resolution 65.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 190, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 43]  
YEAS—222

Aderholt	Graves (GA)	Petri
Alexander	Graves (MO)	Pittenger
Amash	Griffin (AR)	Pitts
Amodei	Griffith (VA)	Poe (TX)
Bachmann	Grimm	Pompeo
Bachus	Guthrie	Posey
Barletta	Hall	Price (GA)
Barr	Harper	Radel
Barton	Harris	Reed
Benishke	Hartzler	Reichert
Bentivolio	Hastings (WA)	Renacci
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Ribble
Bishop (UT)	Hensarling	Rice (SC)
Black	Herrera Beutler	Rigell
Blackburn	Holding	Roby
Bonner	Hudson	Roe (TN)
Boustany	Huelskamp	Rogers (AL)
Brady (TX)	Huizenga (MI)	Rogers (KY)
Bridenstine	Hultgren	Rogers (MI)
Brooks (AL)	Hunter	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Rokita
Broun (GA)	Jenkins	Rooney
Buchanan	Johnson (OH)	Ros-Lehtinen
Bucshon	Johnson, Sam	Roskam
Burgess	Jones	Ross
Calvert	Jordan	Rothfus
Camp	Joyce	Royce
Campbell	Kelly	Runyan
Cantor	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)
Capito	King (NY)	Salmon
Carter	Kingston	Scalise
Cassidy	Kinzinger (IL)	Schweikert
Chabot	Kline	Scott, Austin
Chaffetz	Labrador	Sensenbrenner
Coble	LaMalfa	Sessions
Coffman	Lamborn	Shimkus
Cole	Lance	Shuster
Collins (GA)	Lankford	Johnson (GA)
Collins (NY)	Latham	Johnson, E. B.
Conaway	Latta	Kaptur
Cook	Long	Keating
Cotton	Lucas	Kennedy
Cramer	Luetkemeyer	
Crawford	Lummis	
Crenshaw	Marchant	
Daines	Marino	
Davis, Rodney	Massie	
Dent	McCarthy (CA)	
DeSantis	McCaul	
DesJarlais	McClintock	
Diaz-Balart	McHenry	
Duffy	McKeon	
Duncan (SC)	McKinley	
Duncan (TN)	McMorris	
Ellmers	Rodgers	
Farenthold	Meadows	
Fincher	Meehan	
Fleischmann	Messer	
Fleming	Mica	
Flores	Miller (FL)	
Forbes	Miller (MI)	
Fortenberry	Miller, Gary	
Fox	Mullin	
Franks (AZ)	Mulvaney	
Frelinghuysen	Murphy (PA)	
Gardner	Neugebauer	
Garrett	Noem	
Gerlach	Nugent	
Gibbs	Nunes	
Gingrey (GA)	Nunnelee	
Gohmert	Olson	
Goodlatte	Palazzo	
Gosar	Paulsen	
Gowdy	Pearce	
Granger	Perry	

NAYS—190

Andrews	Bonamici	Carney
Barber	Brady (PA)	Carson (IN)
Barrow (GA)	Braley (IA)	Cartwright
Bass	Brown (FL)	Castor (FL)
Beatty	Brownley (CA)	Castro (TX)
Becerra	Bustos	Chu
Bera (CA)	Butterfield	Cicilline
Bishop (NY)	Capps	Clarke
Blumenauer	Capuano	Clay

Cleaver	Kildee	Peters (MI)
Clyburn	Kilmer	Peterson
Cohen	Kind	Pingree (ME)
Connolly	Kirkpatrick	Pocan
Conyers	Kuster	Polis
Cooper	Langevin	Price (NC)
Costa	Larsen (WA)	Quigley
Courtney	Larson (CT)	Rahall
Crowley	Lee (CA)	Rangel
Cuellar	Levin	Richmond
Cummings	Lewis	Roybal-Allard
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Ruiz
DeFazio	LoBiondo	Ruppersberger
DeGette	Loeb sack	Ryan (OH)
Delaney	Loftgren	Sanchez, Linda
DelBene	Lowenthal	T.
Deutch	Lowe	Sanchez, Loretta
Dingell	Lujan Grisham	Sarbanes
Doggett	(NM)	Schakowsky
Doyle	Lujan, Ben Ray	Schiff
Duckworth	(NM)	Schneider
Edwards	Lynch	Schrader
Ellison	Maffei	Schwartz
Engel	Maloney,	Scott (VA)
Enyart	Carolyn	Scott, David
Eshoo	Maloney, Sean	Serrano
Fattah	Markey	Sewell (AL)
Fitzpatrick	Matheson	Shea-Porter
Foster	Matsui	Sherman
Fudge	McCarthy (NY)	Sinema
Gabbard	McCollum	Sires
Garamendi	McDermott	Slaughter
Garcia	McGovern	Smith (WA)
Gibson	McIntyre	Speier
Grayson	McNerney	Swalwell (CA)
Green, Al	Meeks	Takano
Green, Gene	Meng	Thompson (CA)
Grijalva	Michaud	Thompson (MS)
Hahn	Miller, George	Tierney
Hanabusa	Moore	Titus
Hanna	Moran	Tonko
Hastings (FL)	Murphy (FL)	Tsongas
Heck (WA)	Nadler	Van Hollen
Higgins	Napolitano	Vargas
Himes	Neal	Veasey
Honda	Negrete McLeod	Vela
Horsford	Nolan	Velázquez
Hoyer	O'Rourke	Visclosky
Huffman	Owens	Walz
Israel	Pallone	Wasserman
Jeffries	Pascrell	Schultz
Johnson (GA)	Pastor (AZ)	Waters
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	Watt
Kaptur	Pelosi	Waxman
Keating	Perlmutter	Welch
Kennedy	Peters (CA)	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—19

Bishop (GA)	Farr	Jackson Lee
Cárdenas	Frankel (FL)	Rush
Culberson	Gallego	Schock
Davis, Danny	Gutierrez	Yarmuth
DeLauro	Hinojosa	Young (AK)
Denham	Holt	
Esty	Hurt	

□ 1107

Messrs. RYAN of Ohio and FITZPATRICK changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. LANCE, WHITFIELD, CHAFFETZ, and Ms. GRANGER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 43, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mr. HURT. I was not present for rollcall vote No. 43. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Stated against:

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 43, I was meeting with constituents from District 23 and arrived in the Chamber just as the vote was closed. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

ELIMINATION OF 2013 PAY  
ADJUSTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 273) to eliminate the 2013 statutory pay adjustment for Federal employees, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 261, nays 154, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 44]  
YEAS—261

Aderholt	Franks (AZ)	McClintock
Alexander	Frelinghuysen	McHenry
Amash	Gallego	McIntyre
Amodei	Garamendi	McKeon
Bachmann	Garcia	McKinley
Bachus	Gardner	McMorris
Barber	Garrett	Rodgers
Barletta	Gerlach	McNerney
Barr	Gibbs	Meadows
Barrow (GA)	Gibson	Meehan
Barton	Gingrey (GA)	Messer
Benishke	Gohmert	Mica
Bentivolio	Goodlatte	Michaud
Bera (CA)	Gosar	Miller (FL)
Bilirakis	Gowdy	Miller (MI)
Black	Granger	Miller, Gary
Blackburn	Graves (GA)	Mullin
Bonner	Graves (MO)	Mulvaney
Boustany	Green, Al	Murphy (FL)
Brady (TX)	Green, Gene	Murphy (PA)
Braley (IA)	Griffin (AR)	Neugebauer
Bridenstine	Griffith (VA)	Noem
Brooks (IN)	Grimm	Nugent
Broun (GA)	Guthrie	Nunes
Brownley (CA)	Hahn	Nunnelee
Buchanan	Hall	Olson
Bucshon	Hanna	Owens
Burgess	Harper	Palazzo
Bustos	Harris	Paulsen
Calvert	Hartzler	Pearce
Camp	Hastings (WA)	Perry
Campbell	Heck (NV)	Peters (CA)
Cantor	Hensarling	Petri
Capito	Herrera Beutler	Pittenger
Carney	Himes	Pitts
Carter	Holding	Poe (TX)
Cassidy	Hudson	Polis
Chabot	Huelskamp	Pompeo
Chaffetz	Huizenga (MI)	Posey
Coble	Hultgren	Price (GA)
Coffman	Hunter	Radel
Cole	Hurt	Rahall
Collins (GA)	Issa	Reed
Collins (NY)	Jenkins	Reichert
Conaway	Johnson (OH)	Renacci
Cook	Johnson, Sam	Ribble
Cooper	Jones	Rice (SC)
Costa	Jordan	Roby
Cotton	Joyce	Roe (TN)
Cramer	Kelly	Rogers (AL)
Crawford	King (IA)	Rogers (KY)
Crenshaw	Kingston	Rogers (MI)
Cuellar	Kinzinger (IL)	Rohrabacher
Daines	Kline	Rokita
Davis, Rodney	Kuster	Rooney
DeFazio	Labrador	Ros-Lehtinen
DelBene	LaMalfa	Roskam
Denham	Lamborn	Ross
Dent	Lance	Rothfus
DeSantis	Lankford	Royce
DesJarlais	Latham	Ruiz
Diaz-Balart	Latta	Runyan
Duffy	Lipinski	Ryan (OH)
Duncan (SC)	Loeb sack	Ryan (WI)
Duncan (TN)	Loftgren	Salmon
Ellmers	Long	Scalise
Enyart	Lucas	Schneider
Farenthold	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Fincher	Lummis	Scott, Austin
Fitzpatrick	Maffei	Sensenbrenner
Fleischmann	Maloney, Sean	Sessions
Fleming	Marchant	Shimkus
Flores	Massie	Shuster
Fortenberry	Matheson	Simpson
Foster	McCarthy (CA)	Sinema
Fox	McCaul	Smith (NE)