

HELP FOR ALL VETERANS

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

Mr. COFFMAN. Madam Speaker, in 1969 I did volunteer work at an Army hospital located in Aurora, Colorado, with a Junior Red Cross. This was at the height of the war in Vietnam and wounded soldiers were arriving at the hospital daily. Most were amputees who had lost their legs to mines and booby traps.

Sadly, as America became increasingly divided over the war in Vietnam they also became divided over their support for those who fought in that war. As a result, these wounded soldiers were unappreciated, isolated, and largely forgotten. To make matters worse, after they were stabilized, they were sent for their rehabilitation to VA facilities that were often substandard.

I look forward to using my new leadership position as the chairman for the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to help all veterans who have served our country and have earned our support.

I want to do everything in my power to make sure that our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are never treated like those who returned from Vietnam.

\$1 TRILLION HIKE FOR AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, 2013, brand-new year, brand-new Congress. But what's this year also bringing? How about some brand-new taxes under the Affordable Care Act.

There is a medical device tax that started on January 1 of 2.3 percent on gross sales. This means some of our smallest companies, medical start-up companies, are going to pay a tax not on profits but their gross receipts.

The flexible spending account that many families rely upon to pay for recurring expenses with pre-tax dollars, especially those families with special needs children, those are now capped at \$2,500.

Investment income, a surtax of 3.8 percent for people who earn above a certain level.

Taxes on medical deductions, it rises from a 7.5 percent reduction to 10 percent on adjusted gross income. That means our sickest constituents are going to be paying more taxes.

And then, finally, the Medicare payroll tax hike. For the first time, individuals who earn investment income are going to be paying a payroll tax of .9 percent. There will be an additional .9 percent on other income as well.

Let's be honest, the Affordable Care Act benefits are still over a year away,

but boy, you got a big tax bill January 1.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mrs. BLACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACK. As a nurse for over 40 years, I have spent my career protecting life. As a Congresswoman, I am proud to continue this critical fight for life.

With former Congressman Mike Pence's blessing, I have reintroduced his legislation, the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act.

This bill will ensure that no Federal funds are given to Planned Parenthood or any other organization that abuses their privileges as health care providers and fails to protect life.

It is long past time for Congress to respect the will of the American people and to stop taxpayer-funded abortions, a heinous abuse of the law and destruction of innocent life.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for life and to support this important legislation.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 4, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 4, 2013 at 2:35 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 41.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Friday, January 4, 2013:

H.R. 41, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program.

□ 1410

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Appropriations:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I respectfully request a leave of absence from the Appropriations Committee in the 113th Congress, effective today.

Sincerely,

STEVE ISRAEL,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Appropriations:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I will be taking a leave of absence from the House Appropriations Committee for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

As you are aware, I was elected by the full Democratic Caucus to serve as the Ranking Member on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence this Congress. I intend to return to the Appropriations Committee in the future.

Thank you for your help with this matter. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON THE JUDICIARY AND OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committees on the Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby take a leave of absence from my seat on the Committee on the Judiciary, effective today.

Sincerely,

MIKE QUIGLEY,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby take a leave of absence from my seat on the Committee on the Judiciary, effective today.

Sincerely,

MIKE QUIGLEY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEES ON ARMED SERVICES AND AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committees on Armed Services and Agriculture:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Appropriations, I hereby resign my seat on both the Armed Services Committee and the Committee on Agriculture, effective today.

Sincerely,

BILL OWENS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Financial Services:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 11, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to rejoin the Judiciary Committee, I hereby take a leave of absence with seniority retained from the Financial Services Committee, effective today. Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

LUIS V. GUTIERREZ,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I hereby resign my seat on the Homeland Security Committee, effective today.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Budget:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In order to join the Committee on Financial Services, I hereby resign my seat on the Budget Committee, effective today.

Sincerely,

DENNY HECK,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 5 p.m.

SANDY RECOVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 219) to improve and streamline disaster assistance for Hurricane Sandy, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 219

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Public assistance program alternative procedures.
- Sec. 3. Federal assistance to individuals and households.
- Sec. 4. Hazard mitigation.
- Sec. 5. Dispute resolution pilot program.
- Sec. 6. Unified Federal review.
- Sec. 7. Simplified procedures.
- Sec. 8. Essential assistance.
- Sec. 9. Individual assistance factors.
- Sec. 10. Tribal requests for a major disaster or emergency declaration under the Stafford Act.
- Sec. 11. Recommendations for reducing costs of future disasters.

SEC. 2. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.

Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second section 425 (relating to essential service providers) as section 427; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 428. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES.

“(a) APPROVAL OF PROJECTS.—The President, acting through the Administrator of

the Federal Emergency Management Agency, may approve projects under the alternative procedures adopted under this section for any major disaster or emergency declared on or after the date of enactment of this section. The Administrator may also apply the alternate procedures adopted under this section to a major disaster or emergency declared before enactment of this Act for which construction has not begun as of the date of enactment of this Act.

“(b) ADOPTION.—The Administrator, in coordination with States, tribal and local governments, and owners or operators of private nonprofit facilities, may adopt alternative procedures to administer assistance provided under sections 403(a)(3)(A), 406, 407, and 502(a)(5).

“(c) GOALS OF PROCEDURES.—The alternative procedures adopted under subsection (a) shall further the goals of—

“(1) reducing the costs to the Federal Government of providing such assistance;

“(2) increasing flexibility in the administration of such assistance;

“(3) expediting the provision of such assistance to a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility; and

“(4) providing financial incentives and disincentives for a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility for the timely and cost-effective completion of projects with such assistance.

“(d) PARTICIPATION.—Participation in the alternative procedures adopted under this section shall be at the election of a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility consistent with procedures determined by the Administrator.

“(e) MINIMUM PROCEDURES.—The alternative procedures adopted under this section shall include the following:

“(1) For repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged facilities under section 406—

“(A) making grants on the basis of fixed estimates, if the State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of the private nonprofit facility agrees to be responsible for any actual costs that exceed the estimate;

“(B) providing an option for a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility to elect to receive an in-lieu contribution, without reduction, on the basis of estimates of—

“(i) the cost of repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of a public facility owned or controlled by the State, tribal or local government or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility; and

“(ii) management expenses;

“(C) consolidating, to the extent determined appropriate by the Administrator, the facilities of a State, tribal or local government, or owner or operator of a private nonprofit facility as a single project based upon the estimates adopted under the procedures;

“(D) if the actual costs of a project completed under the procedures are less than the estimated costs thereof, the Administrator may permit a grantee or subgrantee to use all or part of the excess funds for—

“(i) cost-effective activities that reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, or suffering from a major disaster; and

“(ii) other activities to improve future Public Assistance operations or planning;

“(E) in determining eligible costs under section 406, the Administrator shall make available, at an applicant's request and