

healthcare for nearly four decades. Throughout his career, Dr. Cottingham became known for making those around him laugh. Patients that entered the hospital sick or injured would leave with a sense of comfort and a smile. He held a deep connection with each of his patients. He was not just their doctor; he was their teacher, confidant and friend. I am confident his passion for helping others and making people laugh will come in handy during his retirement. He plans to stay in Rolla and spend more time with his wife, as well as travel to see his five grandchildren. I would like to thank Dr. Cottingham for his service to the Rolla community and wish him a long and happy retirement.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. The bill provides critical authorities to support our men and women in uniform.

In particular, I appreciate the leadership of Readiness Chairman, Mr. ROB WITTMAN of Virginia, and the way we have worked together to address the readiness of our United States military. Our hearings this session have highlighted some serious challenges to readiness in the coming years if we do not solve the broader issue of sequestration, which I believe is achievable if we put everything on the table for discussion.

The Readiness title of the bill recommends additional funds to address particular readiness shortfalls, such as Pacific Command's prepositioned munitions; corrosion control, prevention, and mitigation; Air Force training range improvements; depot-level maintenance; operational tempo; aviation readiness; and National Guard training, among other readiness priorities.

Additionally, the bill addresses policy issues such as prepositioned stocks, crisis response elements, regionally aligned forces, ship homeport designations and overseas maintenance, readiness metrics, and the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, including airlift and tanker capabilities in the Pacific.

But as much as we do to enhance readiness by authorizing increased funding by some \$1.6 billion in the areas mentioned earlier, I believe this bill goes too far in cutting the operation and maintenance accounts in order to find funding for items not requested in the President's Budget in other titles of the bill.

The bill authorizes \$164.3 billion in operations and maintenance funding, which is \$1.4 billion below what the President's Budget requested. I am particularly concerned about the

\$2.5 billion in cuts from four areas: unobligated balances, civilian personnel, and contracts for facilities maintenance and for Other Services. The cuts in these areas far outstrip the \$455 million targeted reductions adjudicated by the committee staff on a bipartisan basis after careful consideration of the services' operations and maintenance budgets.

I am not a fan of using expensive contractors for functions that could, and should, have been performed by civilian personnel, contracting is a fact of life and we are nearing the end of 13 years of two wars where we were heavily dependent on contractor support for execution of those wars.

The budget request had already reduced facility maintenance to 60–70% of the stated requirement in fiscal year 2015. A further reduction of \$419 million in this bill means the military services would forego repairs and upgrades to airfield runways, taxiways, and aprons; and to mission-critical facilities and infrastructure such as electrical systems, heating and air conditioning systems, and roofs. It would mean delays in renovations, consolidations, conversions, and demolitions to more efficiently use space and reduce operations and maintenance costs; deferral of repairs and upgrades to alleviate life, health, and safety deficiencies, including fire protection systems upgrades. And it would mean postponement of repairs, replacements, or reconfigurations of gates and other installation security components.

The \$399 million cut to the Other Services account could impact the quality of life for servicemembers by reducing or eliminating food service, tuition assistance, general training, family support programs, library support, physical fitness services, laundry services, testing, general and employee training, professional credentialing for health professionals, and ROTC scholarships instructor pay and textbooks.

Unlike the \$1.4 billion in cuts to unobligated balances which are taken in an undistributed manner at the military service level, the cuts in facility maintenance and Other Services are levied in every budget sub-activity group. This means we have hit almost every readiness account in operations and maintenance, including maneuver units, force readiness operations, depot maintenance, base operations, combatant commander mission support, strategic mobility, prepositioned stocks, industrial preparedness, ROTC, specialized skill training, professional development education, training support, logistic support, ammunition management, service-wide communications, manpower management, and classified programs.

Further, I would note that contracts for Other Services includes professional services the Pentagon purchases to research, compile, and publish the reports that this committee and others require each year, including the hundreds of new reports required in this bill alone!

Because of hiring freezes, sequestration, furloughs, pay freezes, and legislative mandates, most Department of Defense components and defense agencies have been functioning at 80 percent of their authorized manpower for the past 2 to 3 years and were only starting to recover in this fiscal year. Along with the services contracts cuts, a \$315 million cut to civilian personnel funding in fiscal year 2015 makes a mockery of the Total Force Management concepts this committee adopted

and endorsed just three years ago, as defense components have told me they could not shed people fast enough and would have to undertake arbitrary reductions in force without consideration of mission requirements.

Compounding these cuts is the \$2 billion military personnel-related funding hole the Department will have to fill resulting from other actions this committee is considering today. Those funds, most likely, will come out of the operations and maintenance accounts when the Department of Defense executes the fiscal year 2015 budget.

At a time when only 50% of Air Force pilots have returned to appropriate training levels; when the Navy has been forced to propose Phased Modernization of cruisers and amphibious warships to extend their service life, when the Marine Corps is establishing crisis response task forces without programming the full funding needed to resource them, and when the Army has identified \$1.7 billion in unfunded training needs, I believe it is unwise and extraordinarily risky to fund the readiness accounts at \$1.4 billion below the President's budget request. These cuts essentially impose another level of sequestration on the operation and maintenance accounts.

As noted in a Readiness hearing this year, our top priority should be to ensure that no soldier, sailor, airman, or marine ever enters a fair fight. Our subcommittee has highlighted and documented the operations and maintenance shortfalls for the past three years and it is our duty and responsibility to ensure our men and women who serve have the necessary resources to dominate in any operational environment.

I am concerned that our bill does not address an issue that I and a number of other Members in the House of Representatives have concerns about regarding the transition of the Global Privately Owned Vehicle Contract (GPC) to a new contractor. The prior contractor performed well for the US government on the prior GPC contract. But a decision was made to change contractors to save some money, despite concerns being raised about the new contractor's ability to perform and questions about whether there were any real cost savings. I raised some of those concerns during a recent Military Personnel Subcommittee hearing, and my colleagues have also made inquiries regarding the contractor change.

Guam receives a significant shipment of privately owned vehicles, and our servicemembers rely on efficient and timely privately owned vehicle delivery to help integrate into their new units and to help their families cope with the difficulties associated with Permanent Change in Station assignments. I ask that you work with me, along with others on the Committee who have expressed similar concerns, to closely monitor and provide greater oversight on the transition to the new contractor. The new contractor assumed responsibility on May 1, and I understand some facilities were still not fully operational at that time and the contractor's logistics IT network was not fully deployed. Unfortunately, it appears that many of our concerns regarding the new contractor's ability to perform may be coming into fruition.

Going forward, I hope the Committee will monitor the transition and ensure that the best value decision was made with respect to this important contract and in support of our servicemembers and their families.

Finally, this bill continues a tradition of supporting the Department of Defense's efforts to support the Obama Administration's Asia-Pacific rebalance strategy. The bill fully funds military construction related to the realignment of Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam. The realignment is the most tangible aspect of the rebalance strategy and showing our commitment has a profoundly positive impact on the rebalance. Further, like the last several years, the bill eliminates restrictions on use of Government of Japan funds to support the realignment. Given the current budget constraints at the Department of Defense it is prudent that we free up Government of Japan direct contributions to support this endeavor.

I am concerned that this bill cuts over \$80 million requested in the President's Budget to support critical upgrades to civilian water and wastewater systems on Guam. I believe that these upgrades are needed to support a robust military presence on island and are needed now. However, I appreciate that the bill does include language authorizing a \$13 million civilian infrastructure project that was appropriated in Fiscal Year 2012. Specifically, the project is for the development of a cultural repository which is needed to meet federal standards for the preservation of artifacts that are discovered during military construction activities. This project was agreed to in the Programmatic Agreement signed several years ago by Governor Calvo and various federal entities. Authorizing funds for this project keeps the U.S. Government's commitment to the people of Guam.

The bill also included an amendment adopted during full committee consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 that requires the Department of Defense and Department of State, working in coordination with other relevant federal agencies, to develop a clear strategy for the Asia-Pacific rebalance. I offered this amendment with Mr. FORBES of Virginia and Ms. HANABUSA of Hawaii. The provision outlines what the strategy should contain and is mirrored off Department of Defense East Asia Strategy Reviews from the 1990s. It is important that our allies clearly understand what the Asia-Pacific rebalance strategy is so that there are assurances about the United States' presence in this critical region of the world.

Moreover, this provision would also require the National Security Council, working with the Office of Management and Budget, to use the strategy to develop an implementation plan for budget development. Another concern that has been articulated by a number of think tanks as well as allies in the region is about the commitment of the United States in putting real resources towards this rebalance strategy. It is important that the implementation plan give clear guidance to relevant agencies in what programs and projects they should fund to support the Asia-Pacific rebalance strategy. The rebalance to the Asia-Pacific is an important and wise strategic goal and the implementation plan should help to ensure that this effort lasts past any one Administration.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4435.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House's legislative efforts to combat human trafficking, a form of modern-day slavery. The sickening fact is that human trafficking is a big, booming business—trafficking a child for sex is more lucrative than drug trafficking. That is why I am glad to join my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, in taking additional steps to protect our sons and daughters from this horrible crime. This legislation makes many important changes to current law, and would help us provide additional resources to victims, strengthen law enforcement's ability to punish those who purchase sex from minors, and protect girls who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation from being treated as criminals. This bipartisan legislation will help to protect our most vulnerable children, including those in the foster care system, who are victimized through no fault of their own. These children need our help which is why I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this legislation.

60 YEARS AFTER BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2014

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 17, 2014, we marked the 60th anniversary of the historic Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, which overturned legalized racial segregation. The importance of this decision for our jurisprudence and overall society cannot be understated. It was no less than a full-throated affirmation of the Fourteenth Amendment, granting all Americans full and equal citizenship.

Any account of the history and enduring legacy of Brown v. Board of Education would be incomplete without an acknowledgment of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund under the leadership of their Executive Director, and future Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall. Marshall successfully argued that separate accommodations and treatment based on race necessarily leads to inequality.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I believe the 60th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education is an opportunity for our nation to reaffirm our dedication to full and equal citizenship for all and to reexamine the enduring inequalities in our society. As a nation, we must never stop striving to better realize the ideals in and promise of our Constitution.

IN HONOR OF 52 YEARS OF SERVICE TO INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Patricia Ann Payne, who recently retired after 52 dedicated years of teaching and mentoring in the Indianapolis Public Schools system.

Mrs. Payne, a proud graduate of Indianapolis Public Schools and Indiana University in Bloomington, began her five-decade career in education and public service as an elementary school teacher. In the first 25 years of her career, she brought her inspirational teaching style to young students at three different schools.

Mrs. Payne has long been a devoted advocate for teaching African American history in our schools. In 1987, she was assigned the special responsibility of designing and directing the IPS Office of African Centered/Multicultural Education. In 1998, she became Director of the Crispus Attucks Museum of African/African American History on the campus of Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School. She continued this important work until her retirement, and it will be a key part of her lasting legacy in Indianapolis.

Mrs. Payne's exemplary career is reflected in the many awards and accolades she has received. Chief among her many well deserved honors was being named 1984 IPS Teacher of the Year and a finalist for Indiana Teacher of the Year the following year. In 2010, she received the Living Legend Award from Community Action of Greater Indianapolis. In 2012, she was the recipient of the Congresswoman Julia Carson Community Service Award. Most recently, in 2013, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Payne opened the hearts and minds of our children, encouraging them to have a positive effect in their community and the world. Mrs. Payne embodies all that Hoosiers stand for—a strong work ethic, a commitment to public service and a desire to better the community. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Payne for her years of service to Indianapolis Public Schools, the City of Indianapolis and all Hoosiers.

CONDEMNING THE ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS BY BOKO HARAM

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H. Res. 573, condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I am outraged by the abduction in April of over 270 innocent schoolgirls who were taken from their boarding school in Borno State, Nigeria. My thoughts and prayers remain with