

to be spent, and Congress can either continue to do so in incremental doc-fix slices or admit in advance that it was always going to do it."

In fact, the time has come. It is within our power. We should repeal the SGR and pass H.R. 4015.

APPLAUDING THE MORAL MONDAY PROTESTS

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, on February 8, more than 80,000 North Carolinians rallied outside the State capitol building in Raleigh to protest the extreme policies of North California Republican Governor Pat McCrory and the Republican-led legislature.

North Carolina Republicans have cut education funding to the bone, denied a half-million people access to health care by refusing to expand Medicaid, and are trying to silence North Carolina citizens by making it harder to vote.

Mr. Speaker, these policies are making life difficult, and North Carolinians have had enough. North Carolina Republican leaders must not continue to sacrifice the common good of millions to benefit an elite few.

We need to increase funding for education and job training, expand health care access, and guarantee the right to vote.

I applaud the Moral Monday protests and all those who support a better way to govern.

HONORING DR. NEHEMIAH DAVIS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS PASTOR OF MOUNT PISGAH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Nehemiah Davis on his 50th anniversary as pastor of the historic Mount Pisgah Baptist Church. The church is in my hometown of Fort Worth, Texas, located on Evans Avenue, on the historical South Side.

While this year marks Dr. Davis' 50th year as pastor of Mount Pisgah, I would also like to congratulate him on his installation as president of the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America.

Pastor Davis' dedication to the church and to his community is exceeded only by his devotion to his wife, Dorothy Nell Cole Davis, and his two daughters, Carol Michelle Davis Jackson and Nina Caron Davis, who have given Dr. Davis two grandkids.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor Davis has lived his entire life giving service to the community and preaching the faith, and he wanted everyone here to know today that out of all the things that he has accomplished over his lifetime,

that he is also very proud of his domino-playing skills.

I ask my distinguished colleagues of the 113th Congress to join me in honoring Pastor Davis on his 50th anniversary as pastor of Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, as well as an exemplary life of service.

CONDITIONS IN SOUTH SUDAN

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, this picture depicts South Sudanese women in a food distribution line. Another desperate woman at the fore is hunched over barbed wire.

Violence, displacement, and starvation plague the world's newest nation, but that doesn't have to be so.

Months ago, I wrote the Obama administration urging that they invite former President George W. Bush and the Bush Institute to engage in the crisis, given that President Bush had forged lasting relationships with South Sudanese leaders during the negotiation of peace in 2005.

The Obama administration, perhaps constrained by pride, has failed to act, and the very nation the U.S. helped birth is perishing in its infancy.

TROOP REDUCTION THREATENS NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel outlined a proposal yesterday calling for a troop reduction that will shrink our Army to its smallest size since World War II began in 1939.

This decision is sad proof that the President's priorities will threaten the strength of our military at a time of worldwide instability as al Qaeda and its affiliates develop safe havens across North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia with an intent to destroy America.

This past week, I participated in a delegation led by Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE to Asia. In Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines, we met national leaders who are building their militaries to face the rising threats and promoting peace through strength.

Efficiencies must be made to maintain our end strength. The President has misplaced priorities and chosen to place our brave men and women in uniform on the chopping block in order to spend more money promoting Big Government dependency. National defense is the first duty of the national government, as promoted by the Military Officers Association of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

LET'S MAKE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LEANER, MORE EFFICIENT, AND MORE ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, during our most recent constituent listening tour, I had the opportunity to speak with over 1,000 Kansans, many who continue to voice their frustration with a Federal Government that seems to create more problems than it fixes and builds too many barriers to success for those working to realize the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, the House must continue to pass legislation that helps regular, average, working American people. Despite the entrenched Washington interests, we must remove the Big Government barriers that are slowing the drive and ingenuity of our great Nation.

We must pursue a robust, all-of-the-above energy policy that increases domestic energy production, making us less dependent on foreign sources of energy, keeping energy prices down for American families, and putting tens of thousands of Americans back to work.

We must reform the Tax Code that is riddled with exemptions and loopholes and is unfair to the average American worker. We must put forward patient-centered reforms to our health care system that spur competition, quality of care innovation, and cost reduction.

Mr. Speaker, we must make our Federal Government leaner, more efficient, and more accountable to the American people.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CUBA AND OF THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-92)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency declared on March 1, 1996, with respect to the Government

of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, as amended and expanded on February 26, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2014.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 25, 2014.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1502

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee) at 3 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

FOIA OVERSIGHT AND IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1211) to amend section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), to provide for greater public access to information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1211

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FOIA Oversight and Implementation Act of 2014" or the "FOIA Act".

SEC. 2. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) **ELECTRONIC ACCESSIBILITY.**—Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking "for public inspection and copying" and inserting "in an electronic, publicly accessible format" each place it appears;

(ii) by striking "and" and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

"(E) copies of all releasable records, regardless of form or format, that have been requested three or more times under paragraph (3); and

"(F) a general index of the records referred to under subparagraphs (D) and (E);"; and

(iv) in the matter following subparagraph (F) (as added by clause (ii) of this subparagraph)—

(I) by striking "subparagraph (D)" and inserting "subparagraphs (D) and (E)"; and

(II) by striking "subparagraph (E)" and inserting "subparagraph (F)"; and

(B) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking "that will take longer than ten days to process"; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting "automated" after "provides";

(2) in subsection (g), by striking "make publicly available upon request" and inserting "make available in an electronic, publicly accessible format"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) **FOIA WEB SITE REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Office of Management and Budget shall ensure the existence and operation of a single website, accessible by the public at no cost to access, that allows the public to—

"(1) submit requests for records under subsection (a)(3);

"(2) receive automated information about the status of a request under subsection (a)(7); and

"(3) file appeals.".

(b) **PRESUMPTION OF OPENNESS.**—Section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the matter following paragraph (9), by inserting before "Any reasonably segregable portion" the following: "An agency may not withhold information under this subsection unless such agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would cause specific identifiable harm to an interest protected by an exemption, or if disclosure is prohibited by law.".

(c) **THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.**—Section 552 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4)(A)(i), by striking "the Director of the Office of Management and Budget" and inserting "the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Information Services,"; and

(2) by amending subsection (h) to read as follows:

"(h) **THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES.**—

"(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established the Office of Government Information Services within the National Archives and Records Administration. The head of the Office is the Director of the Office of Government Information Services.

"(2) **REVIEW OF FOIA POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND COMPLIANCE.**—The Office of Government Information Services shall—

"(A) review policies and procedures of agencies under this section;

"(B) review compliance with this section by agencies;

"(C) identify methods that improve compliance under this section that may include—

"(i) the timely processing of requests submitted to agencies under this section;

"(ii) the system for assessing fees and fee waivers under this section; and

"(iii) the use of any exemption under subsection (b); and

"(D) review and provide guidance to agencies on the use of fees and fee waivers.

"(3) **MEDIATION SERVICES.**—The Office of Government Information Services shall offer mediation services to resolve disputes between persons making requests under this section and agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation and, at the discretion

of the Office, may issue advisory opinions if mediation has not resolved the dispute.

"(4) **SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Office of Government Information Services shall not less than annually submit to the committees described in subparagraph (C) and the President a report on the findings from the information reviewed and identified under paragraph (2), a summary of the Office's activities under paragraph (3) (including any advisory opinions issued), and legislative and regulatory recommendations to improve the administration of this section.

"(B) **ELECTRONIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.**—The Office shall make available any report submitted under paragraph (A) in a publicly accessible format.

"(C) **CONGRESSIONAL SUBMISSION OF REPORT.**—The committees described in this subparagraph are the following:

"(i) The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

"(ii) The Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Judiciary of the Senate.

"(D) **DIRECT SUBMISSION OF REPORTS AND TESTIMONY.**—Any report submitted under paragraph (A), any testimony, or any other communication to Congress shall be submitted directly to the committees and the President, without any requirement that any officer or employee outside of the Office of Government Information Services, including the Archivist of the United States and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, review such report, testimony, or other communication.

"(5) **SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—The Director of the Office of Government Information Services may submit additional information to Congress and the President that the Director determines to be appropriate.

"(6) **ANNUAL MEETING REQUIRED.**—Not less than once a year, the Office of Government Information Services shall hold a meeting that is open to the public on the review and reports by the Office and permit interested persons to appear and present oral or written statements at such meeting.".

(d) **PUBLIC RESOURCES.**—Section 552(a)(6)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking "of such determination and the reasons therefor, and of the right of such person to appeal to the head of the agency any adverse determination; and" and inserting the following: "of—

"(I) such determination and the reasons therefor;

"(II) the right of such person to seek assistance from the agency FOIA Public Liaison; and

"(III) the right of such person to appeal to the head of the agency any adverse determination, within a period determined by the agency that is not less than 90 days after the receipt of such adverse determination; and"; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period and inserting the following: "and the right of such person to seek dispute resolution services from the agency FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services."

(e) **ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.**—Section 552(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(8) **DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION FOR INCREASED PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOVERNMENT.**—Each agency shall—

"(A) review the records of such agency to determine whether the release of the records would be in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public