

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, the majority leader and I have worked together, and we have sat down for lunch. We agree on the bill that I mentioned, Mr. SWALWELL's bill, to try to make America more competitive by producing more rare earth here in this country—so essential in the electronics industry and in other places.

I can't control the Senate, Mr. Speaker. The majority leader cannot control the Senate. What the majority leader and I can do is control what we do here in this House to which we were elected. We can control either urging or, in the majority leader's case—and as the former majority leader of this House, I can tell you I could put a bill on the floor if I thought it was important for the American people and in the best interests of our country. I think the Export-Import Bank falls in that category. I think minimum wage falls in that category. I think comprehensive immigration falls in that category. I think jobs bills fall in that category. I think make it in America—the Swalwell bill—fell in that category.

We cannot control what the Senate does, but we can control what we do. We can move in a responsible fashion, which the American people, Mr. Speaker, expect us to do and not blame some outside group, whether it is the administration or the United States Senate, for our lack of addressing important issues.

TRIA is an important bill, Mr. Speaker. It is not on the schedule. I presume, if I asked the majority leader about TRIA, he would tell me it is not on the schedule next week. That would not come as a news flash to me, Mr. Speaker, because he has told me that now seven times.

I believe, if the House is going to act in a collegial manner and in a constructive manner and in a manner that the American people want us to act, that we will exchange information not just on what is on next week—there is not much on next week, Mr. Speaker. I know that. There is, in my opinion, a political bill to sue the President of the United States. The American people don't think that is a very good idea. That is on the calendar. So we are using the few short minutes that we have available to do the people's business on four bills, to send a message, that we could pass in, frankly, a very short period of time on Monday night on endangered species. We are filling time. We are treading water, Mr. Speaker.

I will conclude with this. You have put the possibility that we are going to have a bill on the floor next week dealing with the crisis—your word—at the border. When will we see text of that legislation that might possibly be on the floor?

I yield to the majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and

I appreciate the gentleman's concern on the crisis. It is not just my word. It is the American word.

If it were not a crisis, we would not have three Presidents from Central American countries here today to talk about the crisis. We would not have three Presidents who are asking to reunite their children with their families in their countries. If it were not a crisis, you would not have a task force that was introduced by this Speaker on this side to address it. If it were not a crisis, you wouldn't even have Members on your side of the aisle partnering with their Senators from another party, sitting in the Senate, to address the crisis.

Now, many Members of this House have gone there to see the crisis. Some in the administration have not. This House is committed to addressing it as soon as it is available.

We take great pride in changing this House. As the majority leader knows, he cares about the institution; but when the majority changed over here, one of the number one things we said we would do is a 3-day process, as you would know in importance, so people can read the bill, because too many times I have been to this floor when thousands of pages have come out at 2 a.m. and have been voted on that day. We made a commitment to the American people, and we have kept our commitment just as we will keep our commitment that we will end this crisis no matter what it takes. This House will act.

Mr. HOYER. When it is available. That was the answer to my question. We don't know when it is going to be available. We don't know what it will be. We don't know, really, whether it will be considered, because the majority leader tells me, Mr. Speaker, that it may be on the floor. We know that it hasn't gone to committee. We know that there is no subcommittee hearing that has been held. We know that there is no committee hearing that has been held.

The gentleman talks about thousands of pages. We can get into that debate at some other time. I know which he refers to, a bill that had literally more consideration than any other bill I have seen considered by the Congress of the United States—the Affordable Care Act, which is having, in my view, a very positive effect. We don't need to debate that today.

I would tell the majority leader, if the crisis were going to be addressed, the first step is having the resources necessary to carry out the law, then, if the law needs to be changed, deciding how it should be changed, having debate on that, bringing it to this floor out of committee, and considering that legislation. There are differences of opinion on that. I recognize that. The gentleman has pointed that out. That would be the way to do it. That is the regular order of which you spoke and you promised.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that that could be followed. There are many of us who

believe it is not being followed, and that is to the denigration of not only this body but to the American people's ability to see what we are doing, how we are doing it, when we are doing it.

Unless the gentleman has something further to say, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 28, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, July 28, 2014, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAMER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 3230, PAY OUR GUARD AND RESERVE ACT

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Rahall moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3230 (an Act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes) be instructed to—

(1) recede from disagreement with section 203 of the Senate amendment (relating to the use of unobligated amounts to hire additional health care providers for the Veterans Health Administration); and

(2) recede from the House amendment and concur in the Senate amendment in all other instances.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7(b) of rule XXII, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FLORES) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The House has just finished its roll-call votes for this week. With the conference committee at an impasse on H.R. 3230, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act, hope is fading that any legislation will be enacted this summer to address the urgent needs at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This is truly shameful, and as an American, I think this is shameful. It is beyond me to understand why our legislative branch of government cannot get this done.

It is true that this body has taken some modest steps toward improvements, like allowing veterans to seek care at non-VA providers when they cannot get medical appointments. I

have supported that effort. That is fine where private sector health providers are available, but for elderly veterans in rural areas, where travel is difficult and costly, where physician shortages and medically underserved areas are abundant, like in southern West Virginia, that doesn't help much.

My State's VA facilities need funding to hire doctors—lots of them. We need primary and specialty care providers and mental health specialists. We need the resources to train and recruit health professionals and to pay them competitive salaries.

Our VA health providers, many of them veterans themselves, have a unique understanding of our veterans' needs. That expertise cannot be duplicated in the private sector.

The VA health system is designed to take care of elderly veterans with special needs. It is designed to treat combat wounds, physical and psychological—something not commonly seen in the private sector.

The VA health system is designed so that doctors can build long-term relationships with their patients and can build expertise in illnesses unique to veterans. Clearly, a Vietnam veteran who is suffering from exposure to a toxic substance like Agent Orange could expect to find a greater depth of knowledge and experience with the particular infirmities from the VA than from a private sector facility.

□ 1345

My State needs VA doctors. We need VA specialty care providers. We need VA facilities.

The veterans bill in conference can provide relief to our veterans in need of care, but it remains stuck in partisan politics.

When it comes to the shortage of health providers in general, that is not a local problem affecting only my State. The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates a nationwide doctor shortage of more than 91,500 physicians by the year 2020. The shortage will grow to more than 130,000 by 2025.

The impact is most severe in rural States, so any notion of private sector medical care serving as a backstop to the VA is completely wrongheaded.

This is not a new problem either. We all know it has been projected going back years, before this administration, before the Affordable Care Act, to the Bush administration and beyond.

Baby boomers are getting older. Doctors are retiring. More patients require specialized and extended care.

We, this Congress, must address this crisis, and it is a crisis. But the House stands immobilized, "frozen in the ice of its own indifference," as a great American President, Franklin Roosevelt once said.

So today, I am calling upon this House, I am imploring this House to put politics aside, advance the work of the ongoing conference, and get this bill done.

This motion calls for the House to recede from disagreement with section 203 of the Senate amendment relating to the use of unobligated amounts to hire additional health care providers for the Veterans Health Administration; and recede from the House amendment and concur in the Senate amendment in all instances.

I urge the House to support this motion to instruct conferees.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the motion to instruct would instruct the House conferees to recede from disagreement with the Senate with respect to section 203 of the Senate amendment to H.R. 3230, which would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to use unobligated balances to hire additional health providers.

It would also instruct the House conferees to recede to the Senate position on all other matters.

This is the fifth such motion that has been introduced in the last 10 days. None of them have brought us any closer to reaching the compromise our veterans deserve in the fiscally responsible manner that respects the rights of our taxpayers.

In addition, none of them have brought us any closer to correcting the systemic bureaucratic deficiencies that have led to thousands of veterans waiting for weeks, months, or even years to get the care that they need.

Today, our attention is best spent devoted on working in tandem with our Senate counterparts to find a true compromise. Instead, here we are, yet again, debating an unnecessary, unhelpful, and unbinding motion to instruct.

Mr. Speaker, just yesterday afternoon, Chairman MILLER offered a formal proposal to the conference committee that would do the following:

First, it would accept title I through title VII of the original Senate bill, along with additional amended language to include the Oklahoma lease authorization that was included in the House-passed bill, H.R. 3521, but that was left out of the Senate language.

Second, it would provide the VA with \$102 million for fiscal year 2014 to address the Department's internal funding shortfalls.

Third, it would provide \$10 billion of no-year, mandatory emergency funding to cover the cost of the Senate's choice provision, with the remaining Senate provisions subject to appropriations on an annual basis.

I am supportive of Chairman MILLER's proposal, and I, like him, continue to remain optimistic that the House and Senate conferees will be able to successfully accomplish our mission and come to an agreement in advance of the August district work period which is scheduled to begin next week.

There are many important aspects of the bill where the House and the Senate do agree. Recently, however, Senator SANDERS, who is the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and the cochair of the conference committee, has indicated his desire to expand the scope of the conference to include the VA's recent request for as much as an additional \$17.6 billion.

The VA health care system has not yet proven itself able to make effective use of the resources that it has been provided. Increasing those resources significantly at this time would be irresponsible, particularly in light of the insufficient details that the VA has provided about how it arrived at this request and how, specifically, this money would be used to increase access for our Nation's veterans and increase accountability for VA bureaucrats.

This summer, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee has received hours of testimony from VA leaders and key, outside stakeholders in an effort to thoroughly understand and evaluate the access and accountability failures of the VA and, by extension, our Nation's veterans, the problems that they have been experiencing.

Those hearings have confirmed that the problems the VA is facing today require long-term and large-scale reform that more money, more people, and more buildings will not bring, by themselves.

Mr. Speaker, we are continually trying to work out a deal with the Senate, and I would argue that these motions to instruct have become not just tiresome but, in fact, they have become very counterproductive.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the motion to instruct, and to allow the conference committee the time and the latitude to work and reach the best possible compromise for the benefit of America's veterans. Our veterans deserve nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK), a true leader on veterans issues and a member of the VA conference committee.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Congressman RAHALL, thank you for your strong support of one of the most important provisions in the Senate amendments to H.R. 3230.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this motion to instruct the conferees. Both the Senate and the House amendments will expand access to non-VA care for veterans, but this program will only last for 2 years.

It will only address the current emergency by ensuring those veterans who are waiting too long for appointments receive timely care. If we do not address the VA's doctor, nurse, and medical support staff shortage now, we will face the same crisis again in 2 years.

Just yesterday, I learned that the one physician serving the community-

based outpatient clinic in Flagstaff, Arizona, where I live, is leaving, and there is no physician identified as his replacement.

In another VA clinic in my district, the one doctor there is planning to retire, without a replacement doctor identified.

Our rural veterans struggle to access care, and VA hospitals and clinics must be able to recruit and retain doctors and nurses to serve veterans in rural and underserved communities.

Currently, 10 percent of all health care provider positions in the VA remain unfilled. By ensuring that the VA has the ability to quickly hire doctors and nurses and fill these positions, we help the VA ensure it has the capacity to provide timely, world-class care to our veterans before this 2-year program ends.

As a member of the conference committee, I strongly believe that the negotiations between the House and the Senate must continue. We need to put political differences aside and maintain our focus on the veterans we are here to serve.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GALLEGO).

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity.

I am constantly frustrated in this Chamber by our inability to come to an agreement. And today, we stand here arguing about whether a Senate position is better or whether a House position is better.

The truth is that the American people want action. One of the basic things that we can all agree on is that we do not have enough medical providers in our system. We see a lot of veterans, and we try to force a lot of veterans through a very small funnel with very few providers.

In fact, if you look at the data recently, as men and women come back from different places across the world, like Iraq and Afghanistan, we have a much higher pronounced need than ever before for physicians to treat PTSD. And yet, we have fewer physicians able to do that because, in that area of specialization, we do not have enough medical care providers in the VA.

It seems pretty basic that one of the things that we ought to be able to agree on is the fact that we need more health care providers in our system. You can leave aside the issue of construction or leave aside the issue of technology or any of those kinds of things.

The fact is that when a person, a patient, comes into the VA system, he needs a health care provider to be able to see him or her, and we do not have enough health care providers. That fact is inescapable.

Today's motion, essentially, seeks to take care of that one issue, and that

one issue is that we need more health care providers.

It makes no difference to me, to the American people, to anyone that I know, whether we adopt the Senate position or the House position. The idea that we are arguing about that, about whether the Senate does this or the House does that is, frankly, ludicrous.

We should all come together on that one point. We should all understand that we need more health care providers. Our veterans deserve it. Our veterans need it. They are asking for that. The American people are demanding it. And Congress needs to be able to respond.

How should they respond?

They should respond through this motion to instruct the conferees so that we can agree on a very limited provision of the bill, a limited provision that says, regardless of all of the disagreements, regardless of all these side fights, we will agree on this one area, and that one area would be, we need more health care providers.

PTSD isn't the only thing where we are short of physicians. We are short of cardiologists, we are short of a lot of things. And if the VA has the opportunity and the permission to go forward and look for additional health care providers now, then we will be up and running much earlier than if we wait and wait and wait.

The challenge with Congress: manana seems to be the busiest day of the week here. We wait until tomorrow and tomorrow, and maybe next week there will be an agreement or maybe the week after that there will be an agreement. We need an agreement today, and this is our opportunity to do that.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to know that politics have not been part of this discussion in the conference committee, and any assertions to that standpoint are not true.

In terms of the manana comment, I will say this. We have worked diligently on the conference committee, on both sides of the aisle, to try to get to a solution with the Senate. We will continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), a doctor.

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman RAHALL for yielding, and for your leadership on this issue to make sure our veterans get the health care that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the Rahall motion to instruct our conferees. I look at this issue, not as a Member of Congress, but as a doctor who has worked in the VA system.

Now, these are men and women who stepped up to answer the call to duty, to protect our freedoms, American freedoms, and we need to give them

that same duty when they return. That is why we need to have enough doctors, nurses, and health care professionals in the VA system.

It has been reported, many of these men and women, needing necessary care, often have to wait 30 days, 60 days. That is unconscionable.

This isn't a Democratic or Republican issue. This is an issue of getting our men and women, our veterans, the necessary health care that they need.

And as a doctor, you have to have a work force. You have to have necessary health care professionals that can address these needs in a timely manner.

This is a very simple section of the Senate bill that Congressman RAHALL is suggesting we move forward, section 203. It would directly address the workforce shortage and the doctor shortage in the VA by targeting funding to hire additional health care providers and prioritizing these additional providers for the facilities that need them most.

It is common sense. It is the right thing to do to serve our men and women, to serve our veterans. Accepting these provisions is just one of many steps that we must do to ensure that they get the care that is necessary.

There are other things that we can do, but this is something we can do immediately, and we shouldn't delay it another week, another year. Let's take care of our veterans.

□ 1400

There is other legislation out there. We have a bipartisan bill, the Doctors Helping Heroes Act. It is Democrat and Republican. It is common sense.

Once we get section 203 passed, let's do more to train those necessary doctors. We can do it, and we have got the will, and I really commend my colleague from West Virginia, Congressman RAHALL, for taking the lead here. Let's do what is necessary to serve our men and women, our veterans, and let's move section 203 forward.

Mr. FLORES. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I am honored to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), a distinguished member of the Military Construction-VA Appropriations Committee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank my colleague for yielding and for his leadership in offering this motion to instruct conferees.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has a sacred obligation to provide for those who served and sacrificed for this country. Just as the military leaves no soldier behind on the battlefield, we must leave no veteran behind when they return home, and yet, Mr. Speaker, as too many veterans and their families can attest, our collective efforts often fall short.

The recent revelations of deceptive and dishonest scheduling practices at the Phoenix VA and elsewhere throughout the country have underscored a much more ominous reality:

serious structural systemic problems at the VA that must be addressed immediately. We clearly have work to do.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee responsible for funding military construction projects and the Department of Veterans Affairs, my colleagues and I have fought for years to ensure that the Department has the resources it needs to provide for our Nation's veterans.

While money alone is not a guarantor of timely access to quality care, a Department tasked with as monumental an undertaking as providing for millions of veterans, generations of veterans—from World War II to the current conflict in Afghanistan—must be ably prepared and equipped from the inside out, from top to bottom, with the resources it needs to get the job done.

Financial resources must translate into human resources. As the head of any large organization can tell you, it is the people who comprise the organization that ultimately make the difference.

That is why I rise in strong support of this motion to instruct, Mr. Speaker. My district in North Carolina is home to tens of thousands of veterans who rely on the VA medical centers in Durham and Fayetteville or one of the many smaller facilities throughout the region for care.

I know firsthand the importance of an organization like the Department of Veterans Affairs, tasked with providing comprehensive medical care for so many veterans and for having sufficient staff on hand to do that, and too many VA facilities around the country don't have sufficient staff. They face glaring shortfalls of key medical personnel, particularly primary care and mental health professionals.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what about the bad actors within VA management? They have received much attention since the current scandal broke. For certain, there is no question that bad actors within the Department must face the consequences of their actions. Those who bent or broke the rules have to be reprimanded or, in egregious cases, terminated.

This body has passed a bill that would provide the Secretary more authority to do just that, but too often overlooked are the tens of thousands of men and women—many, themselves, veterans—at the Department of Veterans Affairs who work tirelessly every day, often long hours, to ensure that our veterans receive the care they have earned and that they deserve.

I urge my colleagues in both Chambers and on both sides of the aisle: lay off the shots at “VA bureaucrats,” set aside partisan differences, work together to solve this crisis. We must address these shortcomings by enacting comprehensive VA reform legislation that is worthy of the men and women who have sacrificed so much.

That is why it is critically important, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs has the authority and the resources required to hire and employ sufficient numbers of medical professionals. This motion would do just that, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman made a profound comment, and that is that money alone is not a guarantee of quality care for veterans, and that is one of the issues at stake here in the negotiations.

The Senate has decided to use this crisis to grab more money for the VA, when we are not sure the VA can handle the money it has appropriated today, which is substantial.

We want to make sure that we fix the VA right and do it right the first time. That is the crux of the issue. That is the objective that really gives our veterans the quality care that they deserve, and that is what the conference committee is committed to do.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, Mrs. LOIS CAPPS, and commend her for her leadership on this issue as well.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from West Virginia for yielding me the time and for offering this motion to encourage conferees to swiftly settle their differences on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman RAHALL's motion to instruct conferees, so that our veterans are assured the care that they have earned.

For far too long, we have heard stories of men and women facing unacceptable wait times at the VA, and we have heard even more disturbing accounts of misconduct in the very organization our veterans should be most able to trust. In response to this scandal, both Chambers of Congress have passed bipartisan bills to hold the VA and its leadership accountable.

I was encouraged to see this body act quickly to address a very real problem and was pleased to support bipartisan legislation to help solve this crisis, but we cannot allow this momentum to fade or allow disagreement to stand in the way of our veterans getting the care they have earned and so clearly deserve.

This motion to instruct simply urges the conferees to move past disagreements that are stalling this critical bill. It would ensure that the VA can use resources it already has to hire additional health professionals to meet the needs of our veterans. Doing this will enable the VA to cut down on excessive and unacceptable wait times.

As a nurse, I know the importance of having adequate staffing levels filled with our Nation's best health care providers. We need to encourage the VA to bring these experts into the VA to treat our vets in need, and most importantly, the motion supports actions to give VA the resources it needs to improve care and responsiveness at every

level while finding appropriate areas to cut back.

We owe it to our veterans to work tirelessly to finish this bill before we leave Washington. Veterans have already waited long enough. Let's not allow this critical bill to stall any longer. It is time to finish the job.

Mr. FLORES. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. May I have a time check, please, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from West Virginia has 13½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 25 minutes remaining.

Mr. RAHALL. Reserving my right to close, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge all Members to oppose the motion to instruct. The conference committee is working diligently on both sides of the aisle to try to reach agreement with the Senate, and we want to do it in a responsible manner that puts the interests of our Nation's veterans at the forefront of the negotiations, but also is respectful of the resources required from our taxpayers to meet that objective.

So, again, I urge Members to oppose the motion to instruct. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, America's veterans deserve the very best care our Nation can muster. The gentleman from North Carolina said it well. Many Americans have said it well. Every one of our soldiers knows it is their motto to leave no soldier behind. Therefore, we, as Americans, should have as our creed and our basic principle guiding us that we leave no veteran behind.

That prescription begins with the very best corps of physicians that we can assemble. Time alone will not heal the wounds of war that our veterans have suffered. They are our true American heroes.

We have, time and time again, mustered the budgetary resources to deploy and support our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and lands beyond, and we salute those of our Armed Forces serving as we speak for defending this great Nation of ours.

America's sons and daughters, those who have volunteered to defend our national causes, did not hesitate for an instant to go. They went. They served. They suffered. They sacrificed their good health. They gave their all.

We are proud in West Virginia, as a strong, patriotic State, to serve up there at the top of the 50 States, on a per capita basis, of our number of young men and women that answer the call of duty for all wars.

Now, the bill for war has come due; but, alas, where has all of this body's patriotic fervor gone? It appears to be buried beneath a mound of budgetary spreadsheets and handwringing about deficits, about the need to trim back, about the need to cut back on deficits.

I say this House ought to take a different course, one in which we can stand united with those who fought with meritorious service on behalf of a grateful Nation. Let us pay the medical bills of America's sons and daughters. Let us do so with dispatch. Let us hire the doctors that America's sons and daughters deserve.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard a great deal about this issue over the last several months. We know it is not a new issue. We have heard that it has been going on through several different administrations, but that should not hinder us from stepping up to the plate and doing what is necessary today, not after we come back from our so-called vacation in August, but we should address it today before we go home.

So I urge that this motion to instruct conferees be accepted by this body, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

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

Mr. RAHALL. 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.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE DONALD NASSHORN

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence has awarded its prestigious Bronze Key Award to an outstanding community servant and leader in my district, the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Judge Donald Nasshorn, for his outstanding contribution in the field and with the affiliated Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc., where he was a member of the council's board of directors for 27 years and president of its board for 16 years.

During this time, Judge Nasshorn led the council through periods of growth and expansion of its services, including chairing the council's building committee, as it purchased three buildings to accommodate council programming, and for many years, he has been recognized as a champion of early intervention and recovery support services to those involved in the criminal justice system.

Currently, Judge Nasshorn chairs a Bucks County overdose prevention task force, and so we join in honoring Judge Nasshorn for his years of outstanding leadership, for his advocacy, for his compassionate service to our

community, and for setting an example for others to follow.

SOLAR ENERGY AT THE TOLEDO ZOO

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Toledo Zoo, recently voted the best zoo in America, on its dedication of a new 2.1-megawatt solar array.

The project is a win for everyone involved. It embraces the future. It will supply 30 percent of the zoo's electricity needs, and it makes use of a vacant brownfield site in the city that would otherwise be a financial and environmental burden.

It serves as a wonderful educational tool for the zoo's more than 800,000 annual visitors.

Unfortunately, this is success story that will be difficult to replicate in Ohio due to the backward energy policy recently enacted by Ohio's Governor and State legislature.

As America strives to regain energy security, we must embrace all energy options, especially innovative, renewable energy sources that will power our future into and beyond the 21st century.

Hats off to the Toledo Zoo for serving as a national leader in advancing this goal.

Madam Speaker, I will include for the RECORD a recent article from the Toledo Blade detailing this really incredible success.

[From the Blade, July 22, 2014]

RUDOLPH/LIBBE PROJECT: SOLAR ARRAY TO
SUPPLY POWER TO TOLEDO ZOO

BROWNFIELD SITE WILL AGAIN BE PRODUCTIVE

(By Tom Henry)

A massive, 2.1-megawatt solar array that has put 22 acres of vacant South Toledo land back into production is to be dedicated today. It's the kind of comeback that supporters believe will become less common across Ohio because of a recent bill Gov. John Kasich signed into law discouraging investments in renewable power.

The ceremony for the Rudolph/Libbe project near the Toledo Zoo is expected to draw a contingent of area business and government leaders interested in seeing how land contaminated by past industrial practices, known as brownfield sites, can go back on the tax rolls and generate clean energy while reducing blight.

In this case, a group of local investors led by Rudolph/Libbe Cos.—a limited liability company called Anthony Wayne Solar Number 1—is doing that for one of the region's largest employers and one of its most popular destinations, the Toledo Zoo.

The solar array and property, adjacent to the north side of the zoo's main parking lot between Anthony Wayne Trail and Spencer Street, are owned by those investors, who have a long-term contract in place to sell electricity generated at the site exclusively to the zoo.

The project, developed by Rudolph/Libbe and a sister company, GEM Energy, will generate about 30 percent of the Toledo Zoo's annual electricity needs, Jason Slattery, director of solar for Rudolph/Libbe Inc., said.

"This project is a great example of the public and private sectors working together to benefit the zoo and the community," Mr. Slattery said. "We took a contaminated brownfield site, a financial burden for the city, and turned it into a win for the city of Toledo and the Toledo Zoo."

He and other supporters believe such projects will be harder to come by now, though, because of the two-year legislative freeze on renewable-energy mandates that Mr. Kasich has signed into law.

That legislation, known as Senate Bill 310, applies only to utilities, not companies such as Rudolph/Libbe. But Ohio became the nation's first state with renewable-energy mandates to enact a two-year timeout.

A 2008 law requires utilities doing business in Ohio to steadily invest more in renewable power through 2025, when at least 12.5 percent of the electricity they provide is supposed to come from clean sources such as wind and solar energy.

Renewable energy advocates fear that two-year hiatus will put out a message to the business community that Ohio is no longer receptive to such investments.

Rudolph/Libbe, one of the region's largest contractors, expects to be doing more work in Michigan and New York, which have strong incentives for solar projects, Mr. Slattery said.

The solar industry has had setbacks from the failure of a high-profile manufacturer, California-based Solyndra, as well as the deep financial troubles of local manufacturers such as Xunlight and Willard & Kelsey.

But Rudolph/Libbe's an installer, not a manufacturer.

Growth in solar nationally has transformed the company's business model.

Since 2008, Rudolph/Libbe went from virtually no involvement in solar to having 10 percent of its revenue come from it.

It believes solar-installation projects will eventually become the backbone of as much as 30 percent of Rudolph/Libbe's revenue.

Although Rudolph/Libbe will likely have to rely on states other than Ohio for that sort of push, it still expects to line up some Ohio contracts during the two-year freeze and hopes state legislators regain their interest in what the company sees as a budding industry, Mr. Slattery said.

"We think the costs of doing solar is an unstoppable train and it's not getting off the tracks," he said.

Rudolph/Libbe's costs for solar projects have come down from \$9 per watt to \$2 per watt since 2008. More affordable prices have resulted in more business, Mr. Slattery has said.

For the project near the zoo, investors worked with the Lucas County Land Bank, an agency that strives to repurpose vacant land, he said.

The site, formerly in receivership, was once home to a Haughton Elevator Co. factory, but it has not been used since the early '90s.

There are 28,500 solar panels on 15 of the site's 22 acres. Additional panels could be put on some the remaining seven acres in the future. Officials first want to assess the viability of adding more, after examining the amount of shade cast off nearby homes along Spencer Street during the four seasons, Mr. Slattery said.

The site is believed to be one of the nation's largest solar installations generating power for a zoo.

"This solar array supports the zoo's mission by using cleaner and greener energy, reducing reliance on nonrenewable energy while providing an inspiring example for zoo visitors," Jeff Sailer, Toledo Zoo executive director, said.

Rudolph/Libbe also developed the zoo's 1,400-panel walkway, called SolarWalk,