

“(B) increased by \$0.40 an hour (or such lesser amount as may be necessary to equal the minimum wage under section 6(a)(1) of such Act), beginning on September 30, 2015, and on September 30 of every third year thereafter, until the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa under this paragraph is equal to the minimum wage set forth in such section.”.

(b) GAO REPORTS.—Section 8104 of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 (29 U.S.C. 206 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “September 1, 2011” and inserting “April 1, 2017”; and

(B) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “The Government Accountability Office shall submit a subsequent report not later than April 1, 2020.”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “the study under subsection (a)” and inserting “any report under subsection (a)”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of ‘An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa’, the Government Accountability Office shall transmit to Congress a report on alternative ways of increasing the minimum wage in American Samoa to keep pace with the cost of living in American Samoa and to eventually equal the minimum wage set forth in section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect as of September 29, 2015.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “An Act to amend the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 to reduce a scheduled increase in the minimum wage applicable to American Samoa.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for the second vote in the series of votes that we just took on rollcall vote No. 532. If I had been present, I would have voted “nay.”

PERMISSION TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 702

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill H.R. 702.

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

There was no objection.

STEM EDUCATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 1020) to define STEM education to include computer science, and to support existing STEM education programs at the National Science Foundation, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 5, strike lines 3 through 4 and insert the following:

(3) in subsections (e) and (f), by striking “subsection (g)” each place it appears, and inserting “subsection (h)”;

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCARTHY), the majority leader, for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for the week to come.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, no votes are expected in the House.

On Tuesday, the House will meet at noon for morning-hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. Votes will be postponed until 6:30.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning-hour and noon for legislative business.

On Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes of the week are expected no later than 3 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, the House will consider a number of suspensions next week, a complete list of which will be announced by close of business tomorrow.

In addition, the House will consider H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, sponsored by Representative FRENCH HILL of Arkansas. This bipartisan bill will provide relief to everyone who is doing their best to comply with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s mortgage loan disclosure rule.

Mr. Speaker, the House will also consider H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act, sponsored by Representative DON YOUNG of Alaska, which is necessary to expedite energy production on tribal lands.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 702, sponsored by Representative JOE BARTON of Texas. Oil exports are key to creating American jobs and furthering America’s energy renaissance.

Given the increased security threats facing the United States and its allies, the presence of more American oil in the global marketplace will offer more secure supply options. This will provide America with greater foreign policy influence as well as strengthening our economic and national security.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that information.

Mr. Speaker, the last 2 weeks have been filled with a lot of things going on in this House. But I know the majority leader would be profoundly disappointed if I didn’t ask him about one thing that doesn’t seem to be going on, but which I think is critically important.

I know the majority leader, Mr. Speaker, joins with me in not wanting to see American jobs lost overseas or American jobs not created here in America for American workers because we are able to make products and sell them overseas.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the distinguished majority leader, knowing full well, as he does, that Jeff Immelt, the CEO of GE, was here; and he spoke to both Democrats and Republicans. I know he talked about 500 U.S. jobs going overseas because we have not yet reauthorized the Export-Import Bank.

The Senate voted 64-29 to reopen the Bank. They voted in July. Almost two-thirds of the United States Senate.

As the majority leader is tired of hearing, I know, but I still believe there is a significant majority of Members in this House that would vote for it.

Now, I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, I was extraordinarily pleased to read—I didn’t hear, but read—the majority leader’s comments when he was talking about the failure of the Senate to proceed on a vote of disapproval or approval on the agreement with Iran on nuclear arms control.

He said he was deeply distressed that “so consequential that they demand revisions to the Senate’s procedures.” And he went on to say those revisions would be “to let the people”—in this case, the Senate—“have a voice” That was quoted in The Wall Street Journal just a few days ago.

I know the gentleman doesn’t want us to lose jobs. I know he is quoted as saying that the people’s voice ought to be heard. I know that he shares with me that this is the people’s House.

And I ask the gentleman: It is not on the schedule next week, but does the gentleman expect the Export-Import Bank to be voted on in this House before the end of this month?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman.

In honor of the late Yogi Berra, “It’s like deja vu all over again.” There is no action scheduled in the House on Ex-Im.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, that is the answer I expected. That is the answer I have been getting. And, very frankly,

that is the answer this House has been getting.

I know some of my Republican friends are very frustrated by that answer, and I know all of our side is frustrated by that answer.

I will say respectfully to my friend I would certainly hope we could bring that bill to the floor.

Win or lose, whether you win or I win or Export-Import Bank is reauthorized or not, you are correct: the voice of the people should be heard on such a critical issue for jobs in this country.

Also, I know that we had marked up in committees reconciliation bills. Those reconciliation bills repeal provisions of the Affordable Care Act and defund Planned Parenthood.

The gentleman I think knows full well that the United States Senate voted on the Planned Parenthood issue and only got 47 votes for it. So in the one instance, we have an issue that got three less than one-half of the United States Senate being proposed to come to this floor, and an issue that got 64 votes in the United States Senate, as the gentleman so correctly observed, is not yet scheduled.

Can the gentleman tell me whether or not these reconciliation provisions are going to be brought to this floor, knowing full well that they won't pass the Senate and, even if they did, the President wouldn't sign them and we would sustain that veto?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Knowing the rules of reconciliation, I do believe it will pass the Senate.

The three committees that received reconciliation instructions from the Budget Committee have marked up their portions, as the gentleman has said.

I do expect the Budget Committee to meet in the near future to complete their work, and we will notify Members as soon as that is scheduled for the floor.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, we may have a difference of opinion, but perhaps we will see who is right on whether it passes the United States Senate or not. I understand reconciliation only needs a majority, but we will see.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also ask the majority leader: One of the issues that I know the majority leader has been working on—and I know that all of us on this floor feel it to be very, very important to pass before October 30, when the highway bill authorization expires, and I know the gentleman from California is a strong supporter of it. Clearly we need to invest in infrastructure, again, to expand the economy.

Can the gentleman tell me what prospects we have on passing or at least considering the highway bill?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman knows, the hardest thing to do in this town is to find pay-

fors. But Chairman RYAN continues to have bipartisan discussions on ways to pay for the long-term highway bill.

I have had follow-up meetings with him today, and they are progressing over in the Senate. I have met with Chairman SHUSTER even today as well, and I expect an announcement very shortly on committee movement.

We will advise Members as soon as action is taken to schedule it for the floor.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader.

I hope that optimism is realized and that we do have the opportunity to consider a highway bill. I would urge the majority leader to urge those who are working on a resolution that the pay-fors, which are difficult, as he observes, are pay-fors which can be supported in a bipartisan fashion.

I think that is important not only to pass the Senate, but to be signed by the President. And we all, I think, share the view that this is a very, very important bill for us to get done.

With that, unless the majority leader may want to reconsider and tell me the Export-Import Bank is coming to the floor, which apparently he doesn't, I yield back the balance of my time.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW; AND ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015, TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 1 p.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1400

CONGRATULATING JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, HOCKEYVILLE, USA

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for hosting the first-ever Kraft Hockeyville USA game this week and the Pittsburgh Penguins for their 4-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in the game.

The Kraft competition to choose America's Hockeyville was conducted in partnership with the National Hockey League Players' Association and the National Hockey League. Towns across the country submitted stories showing their passion for hockey, and more than 20 million votes were cast. But as the contest results revealed, few places in America love hockey like Johnstown

does, and Johnstown rightly deserves the title, "Hockeyville, USA."

Johnstown was the home of the fictional hockey team the Charleston Chiefs in the 1977 movie, "Slap Shot." Scenes from the movie were filmed at Cambria County War Memorial Arena. We also can't forget the Johnstown Jets, who played here from 1950 to 1977 and won five Eastern Hockey League championships from 1951 to 1962.

As Penguins coach Mike Johnston said after the Penguins' victory: "It's a great arena. The excitement in the building, the excitement in town, I just think it's special."

RECOGNIZING THE GROWING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SYRIA

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the growing humanitarian crisis in Syria. As a result of the Syrian civil war and continuing military operations against ISIL, over 4 million people have been forced to seek refuge outside of Syria.

The Syrian crisis has quickly become an international crisis, and it requires the attention and the assistance of every nation. Many may see this crisis as a distant problem, but the reality is this is a global world now and everyone is interconnected.

As each nation continues to resettle refugees, we must ensure that they are provided the best resources, and this requires international cooperation. It is not just about providing financial assistance, but understanding that these refugees are people. They are people who have been forced out of their country, might have left their families, and are struggling to survive on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, as the U.S. is committed to accepting more refugees, I urge our country to have compassion and to commit to providing the necessary resources to address this ongoing crisis.

THE GENOCIDE OF CHRISTIANS ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from Orange County, California, and her deep concern for what is going on in the Middle East.

Today I rise to speak out about the genocide that is taking place in the Middle East, that is being committed against Christians across the Middle East. They are being victimized and targeted for genocide. Violent radical Islamists have targeted Middle Eastern Christians for extinction, killing them, forcing them from their homes, and burning their churches.