

transparency with Congress, to hold acquisition programs accountable, and to better communicate with industry when making major acquisition decisions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee Chairman SCOTT PERRY and Ranking Member BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN for their leadership in conducting much of the oversight and research that informed the bill, especially their work to reform DHS' troubled acquisitions process. I am grateful for their tremendous efforts.

In addition, this bill eliminates unnecessary assistant secretary and director positions, abolishes unproductive, idle offices, consolidates offices to streamline functionality, and prohibits the Department of Homeland Security Secretary from creating any new assistant secretary positions without prior congressional approval.

In short, Mr. Speaker, this bill ensures that the Department of Homeland Security is a leaner, less bureaucratic, and more efficient organization focused on the mission and getting the job done.

While H.R. 3572 addresses waste, fraud, abuse, and a lack of transparency at DHS headquarters, it is just one part of a larger suite of legislation that this committee has passed this year dedicated to reforming and improving the Department overall.

To date, we have passed by voice vote more than 40 bills addressing similar shortcomings at CBP, TSA, FEMA, Secret Service, NPPD, and S&T, just to name a few.

I am very proud of our success in passing specific targeted bills dedicated to reining in bureaucracy, saving taxpayer dollars, providing much-needed congressional guidance, and protecting national security.

I am grateful to all the members of this committee and to the staff on both sides of the aisle whose hard work and bipartisan commitment to the priority of keeping America safe helped to make all of this legislation possible.

My committee approved this bill unanimously last month, something you don't hear of every day in this Congress.

In conclusion, I urge all Members of the House to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill that will help DHS to operate more efficiently and effectively in protecting the American people.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 3572, the Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Reform and Improvement Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security was established in 2003, when 22 agencies were folded together in what was the most substantial reorganization of Federal agencies since the National Security Act of 1947.

Since that time, the Department of Homeland Security has faced an ever-evolving range of threats and has taken on more missions and responsibilities, most notably with respect to cybersecurity.

Even as the Department of Homeland Security has risen to the operational demands of the post-9/11 world, departmental integration and coordination of key activities—such as policy development, acquisitions, and human capital management—have been a challenge.

As a result, the comptroller general and the Department of Homeland Security inspector general have repeatedly found instances where decisionmaking at the component level has resulted in performance failures that have wasted limited Department of Homeland Security resources.

H.R. 3572 is designed to drive improvements at all levels of the Department and to codify key departmental management directives that were issued in recent years.

Specifically, H.R. 3572 would strengthen the under secretary for management; authorize and realign central offices within the Management Directorate; bolster the Office of Policy, including its management of DHS overseas personnel; and address the Department's employee morale issues.

Importantly, H.R. 3572 codifies the Department's acquisition policies, promoting management practices designed to deliver needed capabilities while actively managing risk.

This bipartisan measure was introduced by Chairman MCCAUL on September 18, and Ranking Member THOMPSON was his original cosponsor.

The degree to which this bill is a bipartisan product was further underscored by the acceptance of 13 amendments offered by Democratic members at the full committee markup held on September 30.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3572 is in line with Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson's Unity of Effort initiative. For example, it streamlines how the Department conducts outreach with Homeland Security stakeholders, including businesses and local government agencies, and integrates that process with the Department's policymaking.

Additionally, in an effort to address chronic morale issues and build bridges between Department of Homeland Security components, H.R. 3572 directs the Department to establish a rotational program for its workforce.

Finally, the bill elevates the Assistant Secretary for Policy to an under secretary level, a move that successive DHS leaders have sought.

□ 1645

By doing so, the bill seeks to not only improve departmentwide policymaking, but to also advance the goals of the initiative.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3572.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will be brief.

I think it is an excellent bipartisan bill. I want to thank Mr. HIGGINS from New York for his presentation here today and support, and I want to thank the other side of the aisle for working with me and continuing to work with me in a bipartisan way to get things done for the country. I think that is how most committees should work; and certainly for one that involves protecting the American people, I think it is paramount that we work together, both Republicans and Democrats.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3572.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3572, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUIRING BUDGET SUBMISSIONS TO PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE OF THE COST PER TAXPAYER OF THE DEFICIT

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1315) to amend section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, to require that annual budget submissions of the President to Congress provide an estimate of the cost per taxpayer of the deficit, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1315

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

SECTION 1. REQUIREMENT IN BUDGET SUBMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE COST PER TAXPAYER OF THE DEFICIT.

Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) redesignating paragraph (37) (relating to the list of outdated or duplicative plans and reports) as paragraph (39); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(40) in the case of a fiscal year in which the budget is projected to result in a deficit, an estimate of the pro rata cost of such deficit for taxpayers who will file individual income tax returns for taxable years ending during such fiscal year.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first, I apologize for my voice today. My son, Hudson, and I attended the Patriots-Colts game on Sunday night, and, unfortunately, the Colts were not successful by a touchdown, but I lost my voice in the process of rooting them on.

I would like to thank Budget Chairman TOM PRICE and Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN for bringing H.R. 1315 to the floor. I rise today in support of this small but important measure.

H.R. 1315 requires the President's annual budget submission to Congress to include the cost per taxpayer of any budget deficit in a given fiscal year. This bill is based on a simple principle: each hardworking American taxpayer deserves to know how much the deficit costs them each year. This requirement would be a powerful reminder to the President and the Congress that our decisions here in Washington have real-world consequences.

Since 2010, the national debt has increased by over \$5 trillion. That is unsustainable, and it is irresponsible. Rather than make some tough choices, we just spend more money we don't have and borrow some more. Unfortunately, because of out-of-control spending, we will, once again, be hitting our debt ceiling soon. That means in 2 weeks, we will have borrowed the maximum amount of money our country is allowed to borrow by law, which now is \$18.1 trillion.

Now, think about that for a second. We are \$18.1 trillion in debt. That is approximately \$154,000 per taxpayer. And instead of asking ourselves, "How can we stop the borrow-and-spend cycle?" we are asking, "Should we borrow more money?"

Mr. Speaker, it is past time we get our fiscal house in order. I know this bill won't solve our Nation's fiscal problems, and it won't prevent the government from spending more money that it doesn't have; however, making this information the bill requires more easily accessible will help us and our constituents better understand the real-world impact of budgets that never balance.

It is past time we get our fiscal house in order. I know this bill, again, won't solve our Nation's problems.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 1315, legislation which requires the President's budget to include an estimate of the size of the deficit on a per-taxpayer basis. I don't oppose this legislation—indeed, I voted for a previous version of it in the last Congress—but I am having a hard time understanding what, if anything, it will accomplish.

Requiring the President's budget to include a basic calculation will do nothing to produce better policies or outcomes that the American people are demanding. And when I say "a basic calculation," I am talking about a calculation that my 7-year-old nephew, Lucas, could do probably without his smartphone. But I will vote "yes" because I don't think this bill will do any harm.

I do think it says something about the majority's priorities that this bill is even being considered. We are facing a series of enormous and serious budget issues, yet the majority is devoting floor time to legislation that is essentially meaningless.

Our government is now operating with funding under a continuing resolution that will expire on December 11, and we have failed to address the pending, across-the-board cuts known as sequestration that will drastically reduce funding for education, infrastructure, job training, and nutrition programs for children and the elderly. Those programs aren't meaningless. Millions of Americans depend on them.

On top of all that, unless Congress acts, we will default on the full faith and credit of the United States in less than a month. That would cost our economy billions of dollars. We need to be meeting the urgency of the situation with urgent action on the House floor to raise the debt ceiling and avert a disastrous default.

Additionally, we only have a few weeks left before the Federal highway program runs out of money again, yet it isn't even scheduled for floor debate. We have yet to extend tax provisions that benefit millions of taxpayers, both individuals and small businesses. They deserve certainty, not meaningless legislation like this.

These priorities, which are also the priorities of the American people, demand our attention. We should be working on reaching agreements to resolve these issues. Instead, we are not just wasting our time, we are wasting America's time.

Let's face it, this bill has two purposes: first, to create the illusion for the American people that Congress is actually being productive; and, second, to suggest, and possibly to scare, millions of Americans into thinking that they will be responsible for a certain amount of debt—an absurd notion, just as the notion that every American bears an equal share of our tax burden.

So, Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this bill. Again, I think it is a pointless exercise, but that is kind of where Congress is in this unfortunate era.

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

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

I appreciate the gentleman's comments. I certainly appreciate his support for the legislation. I would just suggest I don't think this is meaningless at all. I think it is important that we let the American taxpayer under-

stand the true cost of operating our government with constant deficits.

When you throw around numbers in this town like billion and trillion, it is very hard to put them into a scale that the average American can understand. When you look at a \$400-billion deficit that we now have on the books—and somehow brag to ourselves, as if we are somehow serving the American people well—and you divide that by 152 million taxpayers, it is over \$3,000 we are still adding to the debt. When you look at the entire national debt of \$18 trillion, it is \$150,000 a person. It is unsustainable.

There are, of course, costs to the economy. No one is suggesting that a bill collector is going to come to an individual taxpayer's door, knock, and ask for \$150,000. But it gives us a sense of the scale of debt that we are accumulating—five times, for the individual taxpayer, the average wage in this American society.

It is unsustainable, and it ought to be called out. That is why we have this bill. I think there can be honest disagreements about how we solve our fiscal challenges, but no disagreement about the fact that we ought to be transparent with the American people about what we are doing.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the remarks of my friend from across the Ohio River. I would say that if we want to do things like show what the per-taxpayer impact of our decisions might be, we also might want to look at how much the Federal deficit has been reduced in the last 8 years.

In 2009, when President Obama came into office, the Federal deficit was \$1.4 trillion. It is now right about just over \$400 billion—still a lot of money. But I did the calculation, and that is almost a \$7,000 reduction in the deficit per individual taxpayer over the last 8 years. So it can be a positive thing as well.

But if we want to add a mathematical calculation to a budget, we really ought to be looking at the one the Republican Party approved in March. That budget, the Republican House budget, doesn't add up. When I say that, I mean it literally doesn't add up. Here are a couple of examples:

Their budget fully repeals ObamaCare but still counts all the revenue that is raised from the law.

The House has approved more than \$610 billion worth of tax cuts this year, yet none of that lost revenue is accounted for in the Republican budget.

There are other tax cuts that are scheduled to expire that we all know will be extended, but, again, the Republican budget reflects none of that lost revenue.

So, yes, I will support this bill which requires that the President's budget include this one very basic calculation. I just wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would apply basic addition and subtraction to their own budget and, more importantly, deal with

the truly important issues that confront this country in the weeks to come.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MESSER. Again, Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Kentucky for his remarks.

I believe the most direct path towards a healthier and more secure economy now and in the future is less spending, lower taxes, a balanced budget, and a smaller debt. The first step, though, is more transparency, letting taxpayers know what is happening here. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1315.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1315.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE TO FREELY ELECT THEIR GOVERNMENT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 348) supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely elect their government and determine their future, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 348

Whereas after President Yanukovich had fled Kyiv, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the forcible and illegal occupation of Crimea in March 2014;

Whereas Russian-led separatists have forcibly seized large areas of Ukraine and continue their attacks on Ukraine's forces;

Whereas the Russian Federation has continued to engage in relentless political, economic, and military aggression to subvert the independence and violate the territorial integrity of Ukraine;

Whereas the United States has supported the democratically elected Government of Ukraine, which represents the will of the people of Ukraine, and Congress has passed multiple pieces of legislation to provide support to Ukraine;

Whereas Congress passed the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-95), which authorized loan guarantees for the Government of Ukraine;

Whereas Congress passed the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-272), which authorized the Administration to provide Ukraine's Government with support to facilitate necessary reforms, and stated that it is United States policy to assist the Government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Whereas in September 2014, a cease-fire agreement was brokered between Ukraine, Russia, and Russian-led separatists, but the agreement was never fully implemented;

Whereas in February 2015, an additional cease-fire, known as the Minsk Implementation Agreement or Minsk 2, was agreed upon;

Whereas the United States has assisted in many elections around the world, including Ukraine's Presidential election in May 25, 2014, to ensure that international election standards are upheld;

Whereas early parliamentary elections were held on October 26, 2014, but 29 of the 450 seats in parliament were not filled due to the inability to hold elections in areas controlled by separatists;

Whereas, despite the disenfranchisement of people living in separatist-controlled areas, international election observers declared the parliamentary elections in the rest of the country to have met international standards;

Whereas Ukraine and Russia are participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and party to its commitments, including the 1990 Copenhagen Document which states that States "will respect each other's right freely to choose and develop, in accordance with international human rights standards, their political, social, economic and cultural systems" and that "free elections that will be held at reasonable intervals by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedure, under conditions which ensure in practice the free expression of the opinion of the electors in the choice of their representatives";

Whereas the next local elections are scheduled to take place in Ukraine on October 25, 2015;

Whereas these elections are critical to continued legislative and constitutional reform in Ukraine;

Whereas the Russian-led separatists in eastern Ukraine continue to refuse to implement Ukrainian law and to permit Ukrainian authorities to conduct elections in the areas they control and have therefore made free and fair elections in those areas impossible;

Whereas Ukraine's government has therefore been forced to postpone the local elections in those areas; and

Whereas the United States is supporting efforts to promote citizen engagement in the constitutional reform process, educating voters, and election monitoring: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) strongly supports the right of the people of Ukraine to freely elect their government and determine their future;

(2) urges the Administration to expedite assistance to Ukraine to facilitate the political, economic, and social reforms necessary for free and fair elections that meet international standards; and

(3) condemns attempts on the part of outside forces, specifically the Government of Russia, its agents and supporters, to interfere in Ukraine's elections, including through intimidation, violence, or coercion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, almost 2 years after the conflict in Ukraine began, Russian aggression there remains almost a daily regular occurrence. The fighting has taken over 8,000 Ukrainian lives, and that number is growing as Russia continues to provide weapons and support to separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Last year, along with Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL and several other members of the Foreign Affairs Committee—there were eight of us, as I recall, including the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), who is the author of this resolution before us today—we traveled to Ukraine to see the situation on the ground. We traveled to Kyiv and we traveled to Dnepropetrovsk in the east, and we spoke with local officials. We spoke with representatives from civil society, women's groups, lawyers' groups, local government, different minority groups, a broad range of individuals—leaders of the Tatar community, leaders of the Jewish community there, and even former supporters of President Yanukovich, among many, many others.

We heard that same message from everyone, namely, that they were committed to building a peaceful, united Ukraine that is free to determine its own future, and that they want to do it without outside interference.

Now there is a new effort to bring peace to this war-torn region under the so-called Minsk agreements. These specify a number of measures that must be implemented by all sides, one of which is to hold local elections by the end of this year. The Ukrainian Government has scheduled these for October 25, which is this Sunday.

Unfortunately, they cannot be held in the areas controlled by Russian-led separatists because intimidation and manipulation make free and fair elections impossible in these regions. But they will take place in the rest of the country where independent observers will ensure that they meet international standards, and this is to be welcomed.

Their hoped-for success will be a real-world demonstration that Ukraine is continuing to implement the democratic reforms that Ukrainian people are determined to bring peace into their country with.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan resolution and reaffirm that America's commitment to Ukraine's independence and to the right of the Ukrainian people to determine their own future is strong and it is enduring.

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

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

I rise in support of this measure.

First of all, I want to thank Mr. CICILLINE for drafting this resolution. With its passage, we will again be signaling that the United States stands