

again: Why is it and how is it that my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle can get wildly enthusiastic about taxpayers being forced to guarantee loans to foreign corporations, foreign governments, or domestic special interests and yet not be willing to guarantee the full faith and credit of the United States simply by allowing the Treasury Secretary to continue to borrow to meet our interest and principal payments if we should ever reach a point where the debt limit has been reached?

It is the debate over the debt limit that tends to roil markets. We are going to meet our debt obligations, but that debate that is required to review the policies that are driving our debt is what roils those markets.

This calms that debate. This assures everyone who makes loans to the Federal Government that their loans are secure. This keeps our interest costs down, and it guarantees the credit of the United States that is necessary to meet all of our other obligations.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, as I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, this is an amazing debate. The gentleman from California talks about guaranteeing. So you guarantee payments to foreign debt holders. You won't guarantee payments to our veterans or to kids with school lunches. You won't guarantee payments to people who are doing medical research. You won't guarantee that.

So here is the problem: you are proceeding on a very partisan basis on a bill that is going nowhere.

You say we need to raise the debt ceiling. We will, and we are going to do it long before there is any consideration of the details about which you speak.

□ 1545

You talk about the need to control spending. We are going to pass a debt ceiling. The disturbing thing is you come here on a partisan basis when there is a crying need for bipartisanship. The only way the debt ceiling can be raised is bipartisan, and you come here today strictly partisan.

That is a bad omen because, in addition to the debt ceiling, there is the continuing resolution. We have also the Medicare premium issue that looms in a few days. We have a highway bill that looms in a few days. The only way they are going to be resolved is on a bipartisan basis. You come here with a bill that won't get, I think, a single Democratic vote, and you know it, and yet your leadership sanctions you to do this.

What does that mean for the future? It is deeply troubling. This is demagoguery. It is an effort maybe to gain a few more Republican votes, but this is too important for that. It is not policy, as I said before. It is a ploy. When

it comes to issues like this, it should be beyond that kind of gamesmanship.

In this sense, it is kind of sad you are doing this. It raises questions as to where your leadership is going to take this institution in the future, when already on your side the public has such deep disbelief in what you are doing. It is too late to ask you to pull back. I urged that to your leadership some time ago. I guess we are going to go forth. It is a frightful mistake to be doing it this way.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Congress still has a great deal of work to do to rein in spending. While conversations to reduce Federal spending continue, we must also continue to pay down our existing debt. The Default Prevention Act before us today provides a responsible way to deal with our debt crisis and protect the full faith and credit of the United States.

As we all know, if the U.S. defaulted on a debt payment, it would do serious harm to the economy and to the hard-working Americans who make this country great. This bill ensures that, even if the debt limit is reached, the U.S. Treasury would not default on our existing obligations to pay down the debt.

Again, this legislation does not increase the debt limit. Instead, it actually prevents Treasury from issuing new debt to pay for any new spending unless Congress passes a law to increase the debt limit, a conversation for another day.

This bill, guaranteeing our debt, makes it possible to pay all the bills that the minority claims to want paid. This bill takes the important step of ensuring that Social Security benefits are paid in full and on time. This legislation is a commonsense measure that will protect our Nation's credit and integrity.

Once again, I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I stand in opposition to H.R. 692, the so-called Default Prevention Act.

Raising the national debt limit is a basic responsibility of government which ensures America will be able to pay its bills. If we do not raise the debt limit, our nation will default for the first time in its history. Americans' retirement savings will plunge, and interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards, and car payments will skyrocket.

That is why the American people and the American economy need a clean debt limit extension bill that meets all of our financial obligations, not just a few of them. Sadly, the Majority party's Default Prevention Act does not meet this basic standard.

Their bill would guarantee payments above the debt limit to bond holders in China and other foreign countries, without consideration for meeting our obligations to the American people, including troops, veterans, and small businesses. That is irresponsible and wrong.

Taking care of our veterans, troops, and small businesses should be our priority, not guaranteeing payments to China and our other bond holders. This legislation is the Majority's cynical attempt to pass a debt limit bill and say the House is being responsible. The truth is it is not an honest attempt to address the debt limit. The Majority's bill is a sham. Our nation will be in default if we miss any payment for any reason. And the Majority knows the bill will not become law, because the President will veto it if it reaches his desk.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this pointless Default Prevention Act, and-pass a clean debt limit extension bill that fulfills our obligations to the American people, avoids economic catastrophe, and truly honors the full faith and credit of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 480, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3116) to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program, 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:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. REPORT ON DATA SECURITY PROCEDURES OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.**

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a review of the data security procedures

of the Bureau of the Census, including such procedures that have been implemented since the data breaches of systems of the Office of Personnel Management were announced in 2015.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the review required by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify all information systems of the Bureau of the Census that contain sensitive information;

(B) described any actions carried out by the Secretary of Commerce or the Director of the Bureau of the Census to secure sensitive information that have been implemented since the data breaches of systems of the Office of Personnel Management were announced in 2015;

(C) identify any known data breaches of information systems of the Bureau of the Census that contain sensitive information; and

(D) identify whether the Bureau of the Census stores any information that, if combined with other such information, would comprise classified information.

Mr. CHAFFETZ (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit for the RECORD a letter from John Thompson, Director of the Census Bureau, to Chairman MCCAUL, myself, and others, indicating the Bureau will comply with FISMA when developing the report required by H.R. 3116 and will continue to work with the Secretary of Homeland Security and others to secure the Bureau's network.

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

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE, ECONOMICS AND STA-  
TISTICS ADMINISTRATION, U.S.  
CENSUS BUREAU,

Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This correspondence is regarding the U.S. Census Bureau's compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and the provisions of Senate Amendment (S. Admt.) 2710 to H.R. 3116. The Census Bureau is compliant at this time with the requirements of FISMA, and is working with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide information on the data security procedures required by S. Admt. 2710.

We have implemented a formal risk management program in accordance with the Na-

tional Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-37r1. All of the FISMA reportable systems supporting the Census Bureau are continually assessed per this guidance and all have a current Authorization to Operate. In addition, the Census Bureau is currently behind a Managed Trusted Internet Protocol Service (MTIPS) provider and is protected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Einstein 1 and 2, which looks at network flow information and network intrusion detection. The Census Bureau is engaged with DHS and MTIPS provider to move behind Einstein 3 Accelerated (E3A) as soon as the DHS and our MTIPS say they are ready. This will give us the added cybersecurity analysis, situational awareness and security response capabilities for DHS to augment our efforts.

The Census Bureau also is actively engaged with the Department of Commerce to implement Phase 2C of the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) program by the end of calendar year 2016. This will provide us the capability to identify cybersecurity risks more efficiently and prioritize the risks based on potential impacts. The initial meeting with DHS and the service provider took place on October 15, 2015. The Census Bureau reports regularly on this and other aspects of its cybersecurity program to the Department of Commerce, Office of Management and Budget, and DHS.

Please know that the security of our respondents' information is paramount at the Census Bureau. We take seriously our responsibility to honor privacy and protect confidentiality. We will continue to work with the Department of Commerce and DHS to implement effective data security procedures and ensure compliance with FISMA requirements.

Thank you.

JOHN H. THOMPSON,  
Director.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY  
AND RESULTS REAUTHORIZA-  
TION ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 10.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 480 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 10.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results, or SOAR, Reauthorization Act.

The SOAR Reauthorization Act continues the three-sector approach to education within the District of Columbia. This approach gives equal funding to D.C. Public Schools, D.C. Public Charter Schools, and the Opportunity Scholarship Program, often referred to as the OSP.

The OSP gives scholarships to children in low-income families to attend a private school so that those children can experience a quality education. The average OSP family makes less than \$22,000 per year. These scholarships allow families to place their children in learning-rich environments.

District of Columbia Public Schools rank at the top in spending per student, but are near the bottom in academic performance. The Opportunity Scholarship Program gives these students the education they deserve so they can pursue the American Dream.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 10 works not only to provide scholarships to students who need them the most, but also to improve the current state of public school and public charter school education. This bill authorizes equal funding for D.C. Public Schools and for D.C. Public Charter Schools in addition to the Opportunity scholarships.

My friends across the aisle claim that the SOAR Act takes money away from public education. However, that is quite the opposite. The SOAR Act increases funding for public education in the District of Columbia.

In fact, since the three-sector approach has been in effect, D.C. Public Schools and D.C. Public Charter Schools have received a combined \$435 million in Federal funding for school improvement.

Mr. Chairman, the District of Columbia schools would not have received these funds had it not been for the OSP and this three-sector approach. Now we are debating reauthorizing this approach and giving \$20 million annually to each sector for 5 years, \$300 million across 5 years for D.C. education.

It is hard to imagine how anyone who advocates for public education would oppose such an approach that has poured millions of dollars into the D.C. public education system, particularly since the OSP is getting a great return on its investment and is producing results. The OSP produces \$2.62 in benefits for every dollar spent on the program, according to a study conducted by one of the program's evaluators.