

This spring, Democrats attempted to add \$1.2 billion for veterans' health care on the \$82 billion Iraqi supplemental. And last September, Democrats sought to provide a \$2.5 billion increase over the Bush budget for veterans' health care. Over the last month, House Republicans have voted four times to block consideration of amendments offered by Democrats to add the needed funds for VA health care. It is time that we as a body unite to defend those brave Americans who risked their lives to defend our great nation. I urge all Members to support the Motion to Instruct.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the gentleman from Wisconsin's (Mr. OBEY's) Motion to Instruct Conferees on Veterans Health Care on H.R. 2361, the Interior Appropriations Bill. Our servicemen and women are making daily sacrifices for our Nation in far off lands. Many will return home scarred by combat wounds, many others scarred by the face of war. Having completed their service to our Nation overseas, these servicemen and women have earned more than a debt of gratitude from their Nation but a debt of care. In order to do this, we must properly fund the organization dedicated to their care, the Veterans Administration.

I am pleased that the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY, has offered a motion to highlight the inadequacy of the House passed appropriations measures for our Veterans. This motion instructs conferees to accept the Senate position on Veterans' medical care by adding a desperately needed \$1.5 billion to the Veterans Administration budget.

Guam recently welcomed home a company of the Guam Army National Guard following the unit's combat tour in Djibouti, Africa. Many other sons and daughters of Guam have served on active duty in units across the Armed Services. I have an obligation to do everything possible for these heroes in ensuring that Congress has made a commitment to their care equivalent to the commitment they made to the care of our Nation.

It is time for the rhetoric of supporting our Soldiers and our Veterans to be met by our actions. I urge my colleagues to support the motion to instruct.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). 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 offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

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

Mr. OBEY. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2985, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to

take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2985) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, disagree to the Senate amendments, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the right to object.

Mr. Speaker, I express this reservation in order to take a couple of moments to again express my disquiet about this legislative appropriation bill. I had originally intended to offer a motion to instruct conferees, but in the interest of time and comity, I will not do that. But I, under my reservation, want to make a number of points about funding contained in this bill.

This bill contains another large amount of taxpayers' dollars to pay for what is euphemistically referred to as the Capitol Visitors Center now being constructed on this end of the Capitol. In my view, that project has become a story of spectacular mismanagement and colossal government waste, and I feel obligated, as often as I have the opportunity, to object to the way this project has been handled and to object to what it is going to produce.

The cost of the Capitol Visitors Center, which was first estimated at \$95 million, has now ballooned to well over \$500 million, and there is no end in sight to the escalation in cost.

My second objection is that, for this money, we are getting a pitiful allocation of space to the major needs of the Congress and an outrageous, wasteful allocation of space to areas that I think represent far lower-grade needs. The current design of that Capitol Visitors Center, the House space under that project, provides for approximately 87,000 square feet of space, of which only 3,200 square feet is for hearing rooms where public business can be conducted. The major need of this Congress, if we are going to expand the size of this building, is to have rooms that are sufficiently large so that we can have conferences with the Senate and do our legislative business. Instead, the primary usable space in the House portion of this project is for, in essence, a media center or a propaganda center. It is to make the Congress comfortable with television. So we are going to have this elaborate, two-floor, ornate, state-of-the-art media center, communication center, propaganda center, whatever you want to call it, but we will have tiny rooms for conference committees and very little additional usable space. In short, what I think we will have in the end is an opulent Taj Mahal, abundance of show space, but we will have a shortage of usable working space. I think that is regrettable given what the taxpayer is going to be asked to spend.

I would also say again that I find it incredible to hear the changing jus-

tifications for the new theater which is going to be in the visitors center. There is a huge 450-seat theater which is being built at a cost of many millions of dollars. When I asked why we need another room of that size, I was told, well, because it is a place where Members of Congress can bring large constituency groups. I do not know how many Members of Congress bring 450 people into a room in the Capitol, but if there is a Member who has ever tried to do that, I have never met him.

Secondly, we were then told, well, actually this will be good space for the House of Representatives to meet in when its existing House Chamber, the room that we are in now, is refurbished and reengineered and redecorated. The only problem with that, Mr. Speaker, is that we already have a room, the Ways and Means Committee room in the Longworth Building, which was built for that purpose, to serve as a backup House Chamber, and which was just redecorated at a cost of many, many dollars. It is beautiful. It ought to be sufficient. In addition to that, there is yet another Chamber being built for the House off-campus, which I cannot talk about because it is classified. So we are going to have two backup Chambers at a cost of an enormous amount.

□ 1300

And when we really dig into what this room is really supposed to be for, we discover that in the original budget justifications, what it was designated as, is being an additional theater for the Library of Congress.

So those are some of my objections to this bill, and I believe that this is the last chance that we have to get the leadership of this House and the Architect of the Capitol to at least change the way the space is being designed so that it is more usable, more efficient, and more useful to produce legislative products rather than propaganda press releases out of a media center.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). Is there objection the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. KINGSTON, Ms. GRANGER, and Messrs. DOOLITTLE, LAHOOD, OBEY, HOYER, and MORAN of Virginia.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on three motions to suspend the rules and on a motion to instruct conferees previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3200, a motion to suspend, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3283, a motion to suspend, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2361, a motion to instruct, by the yeas and nays; and

H.R. 2977, a motion to suspend, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3200.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3200, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 420]
YEAS—424

Abercrombie	Capito	English (PA)
Ackerman	Capps	Eshoo
Aderholt	Capuano	Etheridge
Akin	Cardin	Evans
Alexander	Cardoza	Everett
Allen	Carnahan	Farr
Andrews	Carson	Fattah
Baca	Carter	Ferguson
Bachus	Case	Finer
Baird	Chabot	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Baker	Chandler	Flake
Baldwin	Chocola	Foley
Barrett (SC)	Clay	Forbes
Barrow	Cleaver	Ford
Bartlett (MD)	Clyburn	Fortenberry
Barton (TX)	Coble	Fossella
Bass	Cole (OK)	Foxx
Bean	Conaway	Frank (MA)
Beauprez	Conyers	Franks (AZ)
Becerra	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Berkley	Costa	Gallely
Berman	Costello	Garrett (NJ)
Berry	Crenshaw	Gerlach
Biggart	Crowley	Gilchrest
Bilirakis	Cubin	Maloney
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Gingrey
Bishop (NY)	Culberson	Gohmert
Bishop (UT)	Cummings	Gonzalez
Blackburn	Cunningham	Goode
Blumenauer	Davis (AL)	Goodlatte
Blunt	Davis (CA)	Gordon
Boehlert	Davis (FL)	Granger
Boehner	Davis (IL)	Graves
Bonilla	Davis (KY)	Green (WI)
Bonner	Davis (TN)	Green, Al
Bono	Davis, Jo Ann	Green, Gene
Boozman	Davis, Tom	Grijalva
Boren	Deal (GA)	Gutierrez
Boswell	DeFazio	Gutknecht
Boucher	DeGette	Hall
Boustany	Delahunt	Harman
Boyd	DeLauro	Harris
Bradley (NH)	Dent	Hart
Brady (PA)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hastings (FL)
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hastings (WA)
Brown (OH)	Dicks	Hayes
Brown (SC)	Dingell	Hayworth
Brown, Corrine	Doggett	Hefley
Brown-Waite,	Doolittle	Hensarling
Ginny	Doyle	Herger
Burgess	Drake	Herseth
Burton (IN)	Dreier	Higgins
Butterfield	Duncan	Hinchee
Buyer	Edwards	Hinojosa
Calvert	Ehlers	Hobson
Camp	Emanuel	Hoekstra
Cannon	Emerson	Holden
Cantor	Engel	Holt

Honda	Meehan	Sánchez, Linda
Hooley	Meek (FL)	T.
Hostettler	Meeks (NY)	T.
Hoyer	Melancon	T.
Hulshof	Menendez	T.
Hunter	Mica	T.
Hyde	Michaud	T.
Inglis (SC)	Millender-	T.
Inslee	McDonald	T.
Israel	Miller (FL)	T.
Issa	Miller (MI)	T.
Istook	Miller (NC)	T.
Jackson (IL)	Miller, Gary	T.
Jackson-Lee	Miller, George	T.
(TX)	Mollohan	T.
Jefferson	Moore (KS)	T.
Jenkins	Moore (WI)	T.
Jindal	Moran (KS)	T.
Johnson (CT)	Murphy	T.
Johnson (IL)	Murtha	T.
Johnson, E. B.	Musgrave	T.
Johnson, Sam	Myrick	T.
Jones (NC)	Nadler	T.
Jones (OH)	Napolitano	T.
Kanjorski	Neal (MA)	T.
Kaptur	Neugebauer	T.
Keller	Ney	T.
Kelly	Northup	T.
Kennedy (MN)	Norwood	T.
Kennedy (RI)	Nunes	T.
Kildee	Nussle	T.
Kilpatrick (MI)	Oberstar	T.
Kind	Obey	T.
King (IA)	Olver	T.
King (NY)	Ortiz	T.
Kingston	Osborne	T.
Kirk	Ottner	T.
Kline	Owens	T.
Knollenberg	Oxley	T.
Kolbe	Pallone	T.
Kucinich	Pascrell	T.
Kuhl (NY)	Pastor	T.
LaHood	Paul	T.
Langevin	Pearce	T.
Lantos	Pelosi	T.
Larsen (WA)	Pence	T.
Larson (CT)	Peterson (MN)	T.
Latham	Peterson (PA)	T.
LaTourette	Petri	T.
Leach	Pickering	T.
Lee	Pitts	T.
Levin	Platts	T.
Lewis (CA)	Poe	T.
Lewis (GA)	Pombo	T.
Lewis (KY)	Pomeroy	T.
Linder	Porter	T.
Lipinski	Price (GA)	T.
LoBiondo	Price (NC)	T.
Lofgren, Zoe	Pryce (OH)	T.
Lowe	Putnam	T.
Lucas	Radanovich	T.
Lungren, Daniel	Rahall	T.
E.	Ramstad	T.
Lynch	Rangel	T.
Mack	Regula	T.
Maloney	Rehberg	T.
Manzullo	Reichert	T.
Marchant	Renzi	T.
Markey	Reyes	T.
Marshall	Reynolds	T.
Matheson	Rogers (AL)	T.
Matsui	Rogers (KY)	T.
McCarthy	Rogers (MI)	T.
McCaul (TX)	Rohrabacher	T.
McCormack (MN)	Ros-Lehtinen	T.
McCotter	Ross	T.
McCoy	Rothman	T.
McDermott	Roybal-Allard	T.
McGovern	Royce	T.
McHenry	Ruppersberger	T.
McHugh	Rush	T.
McIntyre	Ryan (OH)	T.
McKeon	Ryan (WI)	T.
McKinney	Ryun (KS)	T.
McMorris	Sabo	T.
McNulty	Salazar	T.

NOT VOTING—9

Castle	DeLay	Moran (VA)
Cox	Feeney	Payne
Cramer	Gibbons	Weldon (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LIN-DER) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1324

Mr. COSTELLO changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES TRADE RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3283, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3283, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 240, nays 186, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 421]
YEAS—240

Aderholt	Diaz-Balart, M.	Johnson (CT)
Akin	Doolittle	Johnson (IL)
Alexander	Drake	Johnson, Sam
Bachus	Dreier	Jones (NC)
Baker	Duncan	Keller
Barrett (SC)	Ehlers	Kelly
Barrow	Emerson	Kennedy (MN)
Barton (TX)	Engel	Kind
Bass	English (PA)	King (IA)
Beauprez	Etheridge	King (NY)
Berry	Everett	Kingston
Biggart	Ferguson	Kline
Bilirakis	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Knollenberg
Bishop (UT)	Foley	Kuhl (NY)
Blackburn	Forbes	LaHood
Blunt	Fortenberry	Latham
Boehlert	Fossella	LaTourette
Boehner	Foxx	Leach
Bonilla	Franks (AZ)	Lewis (CA)
Bonner	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (KY)
Bono	Gallely	Linder
Boozman	Garrett (NJ)	LoBiondo
Boren	Gerlach	Lucas
Boswell	Gilchrest	Lungren, Daniel
Boustany	Gillmor	E.
Bradley (NH)	Gingrey	Mack
Brady (TX)	Gohmert	Manzullo
Brown (SC)	Goode	Marchant
Brown-Waite,	Goodlatte	Matheson
Ginny	Gordon	McCaul (TX)
Burgess	Granger	McCotter
Burton (IN)	Graves	McCoy
Buyer	Green (WI)	McHenry
Calvert	Gutknecht	McHugh
Camp	Hall	McIntyre
Cannon	Harman	McKeon
Cantor	Harris	McMorris
Capito	Hart	Mica
Carter	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Castle	Hayes	Miller (MI)
Chabot	Hayworth	Miller, Gary
Chocola	Hefley	Moran (KS)
Coble	Hensarling	Murphy
Cole (OK)	Herger	Musgrave
Conaway	Herseth	Myrick
Crenshaw	Hobson	Neugebauer
Cubin	Hoekstra	Ney
Cuellar	Hostettler	Northup
Culberson	Hulshof	Norwood
Cunningham	Hunter	Nunes
Davis (KY)	Hyde	Nussle
Davis, Jo Ann	Inglis (SC)	Osborne
Davis, Tom	Inslee	Ottner
Deal (GA)	Issa	Oxley
DeLay	Istook	Pearce
Dent	Jenkins	Pence
Diaz-Balart, L.	Jindal	Peterson (PA)