

scheduled by the DEA because they have to go chemical by chemical in order to act on this matter. They have to deal with this on a chemical-by-chemical basis.

We need Congress to give the DEA authority to be more effective and get ahead of this problem. We know that these drugs are coming into this country from Europe. That's where they're coming from, these compounds. There are some in Europe right now. Our goal is to get out in front of this before they have a chance to be exported into the U.S.

Another comment I heard about 325 researchers, well, 325 researchers because that's all who have applied to do this type of research. DEA is not in the business of turning researchers away, so I want to be clear on these points.

There's so much more that can be said on this. But again, research will not be impeded in any way. There is a mechanism, there is a process in place to do research on these Schedule I drugs. It's well established. This has nothing to do with the medical marijuana debate. I heard that argued earlier, too. We're talking about synthetic marijuana and synthetic cocaine. This stuff is dangerous. And, in fact, some would argue worse than the real stuff, so let's get to it.

This is about public safety. This is about the health of our constituents. We know what's going on. In fact, somebody pointed out to me today that a store in Washington, D.C., a few blocks from the Capitol, somebody is selling this stuff. My State and over 30 other States have seen this problem. They know what's happening across this country. We need to do something about it. DEA is alarmed by this. Justice is on board. DEA is on board. Let's do something for the good of the American people. Please pass H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011. It's in the best interest of the American people, and the best interest of our children. We're doing the right thing.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Synthetic Drug Control Act adds specified synthetic versions of drugs of abuse to Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. These designer drugs generally mimic the effects of marijuana or of stimulants and can be unsafe, causing convulsions, anxiety attacks, dangerously elevated heart rates, and bizarre and dangerous behavior, among other conditions. Under current authority, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has difficulty taking action against these drugs because they fall outside existing statutory descriptions of Schedule I drugs. H.R. 1254 will enable DEA to take appropriate enforcement actions to get them off the street and away from our Nation's youth. I therefore believe it is critical that we deal with the threat these drugs pose.

I wish to note however that I have concerns with the basic underlying statute that would now apply to these listed substances through this legislation. In particular, I do not support the mandatory minimum sentencing provisions of the Controlled Substances Act for Schedule I drugs, provisions that under this legislation will apply to the listed synthetic drugs as they

apply to all Schedule I drugs. Mandatory minimum sentencing inappropriately applies a one size fits all approach, eliminating the ability of judges to exercise discretion in determining an appropriate sentence in light of individual circumstances. The sentencing judge is in the best position to determine a fair sentence, having considered all of the evidence and having heard from the parties and the defendant.

I also believe that the administrative process for scheduling controlled substances should be improved, so that the Attorney General, with the help of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, can make scheduling decisions without resorting to help from Congress. I do not know whether such improvement requires legislation or regulation. I do know, however, that it is rarely a good idea for Congress to make scientific determinations such as are required to make good scheduling decisions.

Additionally, I believe it is incumbent upon DEA to reevaluate the recordkeeping and other regulatory requirements it imposes upon scientists who use controlled substances for legitimate research. The agency should ensure that such research is not impeded or discouraged through unnecessarily onerous requirements.

I recognize that it is not a simple task to strike the right balance, to exercise enough control to discourage abuse but not so much as to discourage research that may lead to important therapeutic advances and treatments. I intend to send a letter to DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart asking for a report on the restrictions imposed upon researchers, particularly those in academia who work with amounts of scheduled substances too small to pose a serious risk of diversion. I would like to know what if any improvements can be effected to eliminate or modify those requirements whose costs in time and resources outweigh their potential benefits in hindering research scientists from becoming drug abusers. I hope the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee and others will join me on the letter.

Finally, however, while I remain concerned about aspects of the underlying statute, the question before us is whether these substances should be controlled as would be accomplished through passage of this legislation. I believe the answer is yes, because of the danger to public health posed by the listed synthetic drugs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1254, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 944, de novo;
S. 535, de novo;
H.R. 2360, de novo;
H.R. 2351, de novo;
H.R. 1560, de novo;
S. 683, de novo;
S. Con. Res. 32, de novo.

CALIFORNIA COASTAL NATIONAL MONUMENT CONSOLIDATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 944) to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

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.

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONU- MENT LEASE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (S. 535) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

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.

PROVIDING FOR OUR WORKFORCE AND ENERGY RESOURCES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2360) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to extend the

Constitution, laws, and jurisdiction of the United States to installations and devices attached to the seabed of the Outer Continental Shelf for the production and support of production of energy from sources other than oil and gas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

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.

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX FISH STOCKING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2351) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to continue stocking fish in certain lakes in the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

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.

ALLOWING YSLETA DEL SUR PUEBLO TRIBE TO DETERMINE MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 1560) to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe to determine blood quantum requirement for membership in that tribe.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

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.

BOX ELDER UTAH LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on

suspending the rules and passing the bill (S. 683) to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

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.

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 470, HOOVER POWER ALLOCATION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and concurring in the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 32) to authorize the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make technical corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 470, an Act to further allocate and expand the availability of hydroelectric power generated at Hoover Dam, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today we're here to talk about the need to extend unemployment insurance. The numbers are staggering. If we do not act by the end of this month, in January well over a million people will lose their unemployment insurance, by mid-February the total will be well over 2 million, and by the end of next year, if we do

not act, over 6 million people. As I said, these numbers are staggering. But the people behind these numbers are overwhelming.

We're here today to talk about the numbers and also talk about the people who are involved. When we've had emergencies like this, we have never failed to act. Today, we face an emergency beyond any we've seen since the Great Depression, and it's absolutely vital as a result that we act.

I'm joined by some of my colleagues. I want to call on them. As I do so, I want to read stories. I'll start by reading just one story and then call on one or more of my colleagues.

Let me start by reading what came in from a person in Amherst, New Hampshire, Jackie: "Unemployment benefits helped me make ends meet while I was using my savings and 401(k) to keep up with everything. Now they are gone. My savings are long gone. My 401(k) is almost gone. I'm watching everything I worked so hard for my entire adult life slip away from me. I am 50. I will never recover from this."

I would now like to yield to the gentleman from Texas, if he would like to join me.

Mr. REYES. I want to thank my colleague for yielding and some time to speak on this very important issue here.

Mr. Speaker, recently, the Department of Labor reported that the national unemployment rate fell to 8.6 percent in November, its lowest point in nearly 3 years. Coincidentally, in El Paso in the 16th District of Texas, the unemployment rate has also declined. This is very good news and very positive news for not just our respective districts but for our country.

We have been told by economists that once our economy gets going and operating at full strength, it can literally drive the economies of the rest of the world. These positive signs make it evident that, in fact, our economy is moving forward and that we are on the road to recovery. However, as our economy continues to heal, we cannot afford to become complacent. Instead, we need to immediately pass legislation that will help create jobs and put more people back to work.

First, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that we must pass the American Jobs Act. My district, as well as the districts of my colleagues, in talking to them here, would greatly benefit from the President's Jobs Act. For instance, El Paso would receive over \$66 million to upgrade and modernize our schools to meet 21st-century needs. In addition, school districts in the El Paso region would receive funding to keep teachers from being laid off.

For example, our largest school district, the El Paso Independent School District, would receive an estimated \$45 million to keep teachers from being laid off and to perhaps hopefully continue to hire desperately needed teachers in our classrooms. These are smart investments on our part for the future