

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, the bill on the Floor today is not the bill we should be debating. Rather than extending surface transportation law for the ninth time, we should vote on the Senate-passed, bipartisan MAP-21 bill, which has been introduced in the House as H.R. 14.

This debate is yet another example of the Republican Majority's absolute refusal to compromise—even with Senators in their own party. They have spent six weeks arguing internally about this legislation. They have refused to work across the aisle. And this week they have waited until Thursday, two days before the surface transportation law expires, to hold a vote on this issue.

This is not a time for games. We should be voting today on legislation to invest in critical infrastructure projects and support 1.8 million jobs nationwide. We should send legislation to the President to ensure a strong construction season for an industry facing 17.1 percent unemployment. Instead, the Republican Leadership insists on further delay.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MINNESOTA: A REFUGEE RE- SETTLEMENT AND JOB TRAIN- ING SUCCESS STORY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, over the past four decades, tens of thousands of refugees who have fled lands of conflict, persecution, or turmoil have traveled to Minnesota to find a new home and start a new life. Often, these families or individuals, young and old, arrive in Minnesota without possessions, without language skills, and without certainty about their futures. Minnesota has welcomed refugees from Laos, Vietnam, Russia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Liberia, Somalia, Burma, Bosnia, and dozens of other countries who are now our friends, neighbors, and co-workers. There are thousands of success stories, but starting a new life in Minnesota requires support, assistance, and a willing partner.

The St. Paul-based International Institute of Minnesota, IIM, is one of America's premier refugee resettlement agencies. Since 1975, IIM has sponsored and resettled more than 22,000 refugees. Their resettlement work, along with the extensive education and train-

ing programs they provide for new Minnesotans, has resulted in refugees transitioning from conflict and uncertainty to stability and economic self-sufficiency. IIM's work is both valuable and essential to the contributions refugees continue to make, as they become New Americans, to Minnesota's economy and the strengths they bring to our communities.

One of IIM's innovative and successful job training programs is the Medical Careers Pathway for New Americans, a sectoral-based training model within the healthcare industry. IIM developed the program that defines a pathway to employment and economic independence for newcomers in Minnesota. It has evolved over the years to meet both the needs of low-income New Americans and the demand from the industry for a well trained and qualified healthcare workforce. The program includes three areas of training—Nursing Assistant Training, NAR; College Readiness Classes, CR; and Medical Career Advancement, MCA.

This established career pathway helps participants move from entry to advanced positions in healthcare by helping them navigate complex higher education systems so that their long-term goal of career advancement and economic independence are attained. Critical language, academic support services and life skills tools are provided, including strategies for balancing work, family and the stress of living in poverty. The pathway recently added a FastTRAC Initiative with St. Paul College and Roseville Adult Basic Education to increase passing rates for students in the Anatomy and Physiology course.

The program has graduated and certified nearly 1,800 nursing assistants. Eighty-five percent of these certified graduates have been employed. Two-thirds of these IIM clients were unemployed when they entered the training program. Because of their dedication to their work and caring for the elderly, eighty-eight percent of graduates are still employed at one year, helping several longterm care business partners stabilize their workforce. The Director of Nursing from St. Anthony Park Home recently said, "I do not know what we would do without this training program."

The Pathway program has helped nearly 400 New Americans advance from entry-level positions in healthcare to nursing and other professional jobs within the industry. These program graduates are providing quality healthcare to hospital patients and long-term care residents, some of whom require bilingual caregivers, while easing the expected healthcare labor shortage in Minnesota.

The IIM is a model for refugee resettlement in the U.S., but the innovation and success of their Pathway program should also be considered a refugee job training model deserving of expansion, as well as replication across the country. I want to commend IIM for their valuable work and urge state and federal partners working on refugee resettlement and job training to continue to support IIM's success.

HONORING KAREN POPPEN

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Karen Poppen, retiring Superintendent of Keyes Union School District, and to thank her for her leadership and dedication to the academic advancement of the Central Valley.

Karen was born and raised in Merced, California, where she graduated from Merced High School and Merced College. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English at Whitworth College, now Whitworth University, in Spokane, Washington. After that, she began her career teaching English at Merced High School, where she taught from 1971 through 1974.

Karen retired from teaching in 1974 to raise her two sons. During this time, she volunteered at Catherine Everett and Enslin Elementary Schools in the Modesto City School District and in the Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District.

In 1988, she returned to teaching and taught at Yucaipa Middle School and Park View Middle School until December of 1993. During this time, she received her master's degree and administrative credential. In January 1994, she became principal of Yucaipa Adult School and principal of Calimesa Elementary School in July of 1995.

In 2001, she was moved to the District Office as Director of Data Analysis, Grants, and Public Relations.

A year later, Karen moved to Beaumont Unified School District as Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services, where she worked for almost five years. In addition, she was an adjunct professor for CSU San Bernardino for five years. On July 1, 2007, Karen became Superintendent of Keyes Union School District and currently serves as a member of the Keyes Municipal Advisory Council.

Karen married Daryl Poppen on July 1, 1972, and this summer they will celebrate their 40th anniversary.

After retirement, Karen and her husband plan to do some short-term mission work overseas with Operation Mobilization, a worldwide ministry and relief organization working in 110 countries.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Karen Poppen, Superintendent for Keyes Union School District, for her numerous years of selfless service to the education of our community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, the Republican budget is yet another missed opportunity to confront America's challenges in a balanced and responsible way. A budget is a statement of values. This budget makes it crystal clear that Republicans value tax cuts for the wealthy and special interests, even at the expense of America's middle class, our children, the elderly, and even our economic recovery. The values supported by several other budgets—the Democratic budget, the Progressive budget, and the Black Caucus budget—would restore fairness to our broken tax system, invest in rebuilding and renewing America, and maintain America's commitment to providing for our most vulnerable citizens. The bipartisan budget offered by Reps. COOPER and LATOURETTE fell short of the balanced approach required to address America's challenges that was contained in the Simpson-Bowles proposal.

The Republican budget cuts taxes by an additional \$4.6 trillion over the next decade and extends the Bush tax cuts, totaling \$10 trillion, the vast majority of which benefits the top one percent of Americans. Republicans are not serious about deficit reduction in their call to pay for this tax cut by eliminating tax expenditures and loopholes that they refuse to identify. Would they eliminate the mortgage interest deduction for middle class families? Or the employer-provided health care deduction? Independent analysts have determined it is necessary to cut the mortgage interest deduction, the health care deduction, and most other expenditures in order to pay for their \$10 trillion tax cut.

Instead of making hard choices, Republicans choose to shift the burden even further onto low and middle-income families, seniors, and the next generation.

The Republican budget would cut Medicaid services for disabled individuals, children, and low-income families and seniors by \$810 billion over the next decade. It would also cut \$122.5 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, that lifted 3.9 million Americans, including 1.7 million children, out of poverty in 2010. This would mean 1,771 fewer jobs and 189 million fewer meals for hungry families in Oregon alone.

For decades, Medicare has guaranteed quality and affordable health care to seniors. The Republican budget ends the Medicare guarantee and would force seniors to choose to either pay thousands more dollars for their existing Medicare plan, or to buy plans with meager benefits that will ultimately put their health at risk.

Independent analyses show that infrastructure investment is one of the best ways to put people to work and to strengthen the econ-

omy, while giving families transportation options and making our communities more livable. The Republican budget would cut transportation funding by a staggering 46 percent, including for projects that have already begun, putting thousands of people out of work and stifling the fragile economic recovery. This budget is another missed opportunity to put people to work, to strengthen the economy, and to rebuild and rebuild America.

In contrast, the budgets offered by Democrats, the Progressive Caucus, and the Black Caucus take a responsible and balanced approach to putting America's finances back on a sustainable path. These budgets address the infrastructure deficit and expand access to education and job training to build a stronger America and to prepare the next generation to be the innovators that will lead us through the 21st century. These budgets restore tax fairness by asking the most well off to pay a little more. Recognizing the need to bring our troops home, eliminate wasteful weapons programs, and right-size our military, these budgets will help reduce the defense budget in a responsible way that maintains the world's strongest military and supports our troops without threatening our economic security.

I am saddened that Republicans produced a political document that continues their belief that massive tax cuts for those who need them the least will move America forward, even while they slash funding for transportation and infrastructure investment, nutrition assistance, Pell grants, and health care. The American people have rejected this unbalanced and unfair approach and so do I.

EMISSARIES OF MEMPHIS MUSIC

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee 7th Congressional District is full of great land, great people, and great music. From the annual Fiddler's Convention in Clarksville to the Horseshoe Riverbend Festival in Clifton, this area of the country is known for its "noted" legacy. I rise today in celebration of another great tribute to our distinct sound, the Emissaries of Memphis Music.

In its fourth year, the Emissaries of Memphis Music honors those who grow the creative and musical culture of Memphis. From Estelle Axton at Stax Records, to the women being honored this year by the Memphis and Shelby County Music Commission, the function that women play in our musical legacy cannot be overlooked. Through writing, producing, recording, performing, or leading, women have long dedicated their time, talents, and treasures to expanding excellence in the music industry.

Their accomplishments differ from woman to woman, but their influence on and dedication to their craft remains steady. I rise to congratulate Ann Peebles, Wendy Moten, Anita Ward, Alexis Grace, Bethany Paige, Bev Johnson, Anita Makris, and Anne Pitts on their being named the 2012 Emissaries of Memphis Music. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebration of the unique contributions each of these women offers to the great musical heritage of Tennessee.

HONORING KIRK ROHLE

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kirk Rohle, a student at Hampden-Sydney College who displayed extraordinary courage on January 25, 2012 when he re-entered his burning house to rescue his childhood friend, Ben Rogers.

Kirk and Ben grew up across the street from one another in Mechanicsville, Virginia, played Little League together, graduated from Hanover High School, and are currently both hard-working student-athletes at Hampden-Sydney.

While Kirk has achieved much in the classroom and on the football field at Hampden-Sydney, today I rise to commend him for his bravery and loyalty as he attempted to save his best friend's life.

Kirk's actions that day represent the kind of selflessness and loyalty that we all aspire to have, and the courage found in true heroes.

As Kirk rejoins Ben and the rest of his classmates at Hampden-Sydney, and continues to recover from serious injuries sustained on that day, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring Kirk Rohle for his display of selflessness, loyalty, and true heroism, and in wishing him a speedy recovery.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
EXTENSION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4281. This three-month transportation authorization extension does nothing to address the long-term needs of America's crumbling infrastructure.

The National Governors Association is arguing against this unnecessary, shortsighted approach, saying: "a string of short-term extensions will only increase uncertainty for state and local governments and the private sector." Likewise, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said earlier this week: "Frankly, there is no length of extension adequate for the construction industry, its workers, and the business community in general."

Earlier this month, the Senate passed a two-year transportation authorization with an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 74–22. This Senate bill will save or create over two million jobs, including 28,100 jobs in Minnesota according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. If the Republican House leadership brought this legislation to the floor today it would pass with bipartisan support and reach the President's desk for signature prior to the expiration of the current authorization on Saturday.

However, the Republican majority is rejecting this bipartisan opportunity, which is guaranteed to authorize federal transportation programs at current levels for two years. Republican leaders refuse to even bring the Senate bill to the floor for a vote. Instead, they continue wasting time in negotiations with extreme Tea Party Members in their own caucus in an

effort to bring a hyper-partisan, job-destroying transportation bill to the floor. The Republican transportation bill, H.R. 7, would cut funding for 45 states, including over \$313 million in cuts to Minnesota, and eliminate over 500,000 jobs nationwide. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, a former Republican Congressman from Illinois, told Politico that H.R. 7 “is the most partisan transportation bill that I have ever seen.” He added, “It’s the worst transportation bill I’ve ever seen during 35 years of public service.”

I agree with Secretary LaHood. Minnesota’s economy and workers would be significantly harmed by H.R. 7. The construction industry in my state suffered the most significant job losses of any sector during the recent recession. Construction jobs are again being added in Minnesota but, as of March, only one quarter of the 46,000 construction jobs lost in the recession have been recovered. This Republican transportation bill would reverse the positive momentum for Minnesota’s economy and throw thousands of workers back on the bench.

These devastating economic consequences are unacceptable and completely avoidable. I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 7 and this short-term extension so the House can instead vote on the bipartisan Senate reauthorization to put Americans to work rebuilding our nation’s infrastructure.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Republican Budget proposal.

More tax breaks for the wealthy and ending the Medicare guarantee for our nation’s seniors are the wrong policies for America, particularly as millions are still suffering the effects of our worst financial crisis since the Great Depression and as we are struggling to restore economic growth.

As Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I also want to highlight the effect this budget would have on our Federal workers—the backbone of our government.

They support our troops in the battlefield and provide care to our veterans. They protect our borders, safeguard our food supply, and ensure that our seniors get their Social Security checks.

In return, the majority has rewarded these middle-class Americans with an unprecedented assault on their compensation and benefits, including proposals to extend their current two-year pay freeze, to arbitrarily eliminate positions, and to slash their retirement benefits.

Federal workers have already done more than their share to help address our nation’s fiscal woes.

They have contributed \$60 billion to deficit reduction as a result of the existing two-year pay freeze, and they are contributing an additional \$15 billion in higher pension contributions to help fund the unemployment insurance extension.

But House Republicans aren’t finished.

The Republican budget directs the Oversight Committee to take an additional \$80 billion out of the pockets of these middle-class workers in the form of additional cuts to their pay and pensions.

That would more than double what they have already given to date.

These continued efforts to end Medicare, to cut our social safety net, and to slash the pay and benefits of middle-class federal workers are simply shameful, especially when this budget would use these savings to give unprecedented tax breaks to the millionaires and billionaires.

I oppose the Ryan budget and will oppose all bills that would take money out of the pockets of middle-class Americans before asking the wealthiest among us to contribute their fair share.

TRANSPORTATION ORIENTED JOBS INITIATIVE

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Representative LIPINSKI, I am introducing legislation to stimulate the financing of passenger rail development from revenues generated from transportation oriented development.

The National High Performance Passenger Rail Transportation Oriented Development Act aims to capture some of the increasing value of commercial development around station areas, which in turn would help finance rail corridor infrastructure and operational expenses. Besides providing a funding stream for intercity and passenger operations, the initiative places emphasis on intermodal connectors to create vibrant communities along the corridor. The legislation aims to begin a major public private partnership initiative that will revitalize America’s rail infrastructure to create a true third passenger transportation option to highways and aviation while at the same time creating intermodal access communities.

Under the proposal, the U.S. Department of Transportation will retain a Planning Developer who will establish guidelines for transportation oriented development programs, including special assessment districts or similar mechanisms to capture revenues from increasing commercial value. Rail corridor development funds will be established at the regional level to capture increasing real estate values. A stream of those revenues will be directed to support rail passenger operations.

The proposal permits qualified projects to apply for federal incentives to finance construction and produce jobs. These incentives will include direct access to existing Federal Railroad Administration and Federal Transit Administration programs, including a high priority for federal transportation grant applications. The initiative will be staffed by existing employees and remain revenue neutral in that all program activities, including the work of the

Planning Developer, will be repaid once the high performance rail service and commercial development is implemented and generating revenues.

I hope that this bill will open a discussion on the possibilities and potential promise of passenger rail development in the U.S.

MR. ROBERT DILLMAN, PRESIDENT EAST STROUDSBURG UNIVERSITY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Dillman, who will be retiring as President of East Stroudsburg University on June 30, 2012, after sixteen years of serving the university and our region. East Stroudsburg University is one of the fourteen state universities that compose the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. It offers 7,387 students a world class education. President Dillman came to East Stroudsburg University after several years of experience in higher education and undoubtedly left his mark. President Dillman, a native of Brooklyn, NY, demonstrated extraordinary leadership at East Stroudsburg University. By recognizing the importance of science and technology, he positioned the university as a key economic development force in Northeastern Pennsylvania. During his tenure, East Stroudsburg University became the first university in the United States to offer an undergraduate degree in computer security. The university also established its award-winning Business Accelerator Program, which joined the Ben Franklin Business Incubator Network and the University City Science Center’s Port of Technology. In addition, President Dillman led the expansion of the Division of Research and Economic Development, which serves as a vital educational resource for technology-based entrepreneurs. Furthermore, he spearheaded the establishment of the university’s world-class Science and Technology Center, which houses the departments of computer security and biotechnology, accommodates other sciences with classrooms, equipment, and labs, and is home to a state-of-the-art planetarium and a soon-to-come natural sciences museum.

President Dillman made substantive changes to the campus environment at East Stroudsburg by giving numerous faculty, staff, students, and community members the opportunity to take the world-renowned professional development workshop titled Seven Habits for Highly Effective People, which he brought to the university. As a result, university administrators are better equipped to effectively reach out to students, while the students themselves are more prepared to enter the professional world upon graduation.

Mr. Speaker, today, President Robert Dillman stands as important bearer of change to Northeastern Pennsylvania and the nation. I commend him for his years of committed service to East Stroudsburg University, his state, and country.

ASSESSING THE ROLE AND
IMPACT OF CHINA IN AFRICA**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights focused on U.S. policy regarding China's evolving role in Africa. China has become America's premier economic competitor in Africa, providing loans and making investments far beyond what the United States is currently prepared to provide.

China has been engaged with African governments since the 1950s and has always portrayed itself as a fellow developing nation that was interested in solidarity with its prospective development partners. In reality, the Chinese government always had plans to gain the support they hoped to create among the newly independent African governments. The stadiums, other buildings and roads constructed by the Chinese were intended to build support for China among the African bloc of developing nations in its competition with the then-Soviet Union. Later, the goal was building support for the People's Republic of China replacing Taiwan as the sole China in the United Nations.

Now they no longer have to compete with the Soviet Union, and they have their seat on the UN Security Council, from where they protect dictators such as Omar al-Bashir and Robert Mugabe. So what is their aim in their Africa policy?

Is China a development partner for Africa? In 2005, the China Development Bank created a \$1 billion Africa Trade and Investment Fund, but the trade and investment initiatives funded cannot take place without the significant involvement of Chinese suppliers. It is difficult to quantify Chinese development aid to Africa because they refuse to disclose how much aid and investment goes to specific countries, although we do know that Chinese investment in Africa is estimated to exceed \$10 billion. Because the loan details are not open to public scrutiny, it is feared that these loans may pose a danger to the debt sustainability of African governments.

Is China an economic competitor to African countries? Many believe that China is engaged in a short-term resource grab, which takes little account of local needs and concerns, whether developmental, environmental or with respect to issues like human rights. Coupled with Chinese manufacturing and trade efficiency, this approach suggests that African development gains are being challenged, if not undermined, by Chinese competitiveness.

China, which has increasingly attempted to lock up much of the supply of strategic minerals from African countries, is now the leading producer of what are known as rare earth elements or rare earth metals, which are used in various technological devices, such as superconductors, electronic polishers, refining catalysts and hybrid car components. As time goes on, these minerals will increase in importance in the 21st century economy. South Africa used to be the world's leading source for these minerals, but its production is dwarfed by what China produces, which now rep-

resents 95% of rare earth supplies. Chinese production often releases toxic wastes into the general water supply, and that would tend to discourage increased South African production absent what could be expensive environmental safeguards.

Is China the new colonizer of Africa? Some would say that label is an exaggeration. However, China exports small businesses and labor to Africa. There are an estimated 800 Chinese corporations doing business in Africa and 750,000 Chinese working or living for extended periods in African countries. When their original assignments are completed, these Chinese workers become entrepreneurs selling subsidized Chinese products to out-compete their African counterparts.

An increasing number of Africans are becoming skeptical of Chinese behavior in their countries. For example, the issue of Chinese business practices became an issue in the 2011 elections in Zambia. Some Zambians felt the Chinese were worse than the British colonialists in their behavior toward workers. Following the election there, incoming President Michael Sata said to Chinese investors: "We welcome your investment, but as we welcome your investment, your investment should benefit Zambians and not Chinese."

One of the most prevalent charges against China's involvement in Africa is that they don't support international conditionality on aid to African countries. Therefore, Chinese involvement is seen as undermining the concept of tied aid that is intended to promote good governance. Chinese officials counter that they prefer not to interfere in the internal affairs of African governments.

While much of the rest of the international community regarded Sudan as having committed genocide, or at least crimes against humanity in its Darfur region, China, a major economic partner with the government in Khartoum, refused at first to join in sanctions against Sudan. China abstained from the vote in September 2004 when the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 1564 condemning the mass killing of civilians in the Darfur region, even though the measure stopped short of imposing oil sanctions. China even threatened to veto any further move to impose sanctions. It took concerted international pressure prior to the 2008 Beijing Olympics to force China to move closer to the international position on pressing Sudan to end its human rights abuses.

In a 2006 background report entitled, "China's Influence in Africa: Implications for the United States," the Heritage Foundation stated that China has provided weapons that have prolonged African conflicts or entrenched dictatorships. In 2003, several Hong Kong firms were accused of smuggling illegal arms including Chinese-made AK-47s, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers into Liberia and neighboring Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, where rebels and mercenaries were involved in civil wars.

In 2004, the report continued, China sold Zimbabwe fighter aircraft and military vehicles for \$200 million despite the U.S. and EU arms embargo against Zimbabwe. China also provided a military-strength radio-jamming device, which the Harare government used to block broadcasts of anti-government reports from independent media outlets during the 2005 parliamentary election campaign.

So what really are China's goals for its African engagement?

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chair, next week is Passover, when the youngest child at the Seder table asks four questions, the answers to which explain the meaning of the holiday.

In keeping with the tradition of asking questions to understand the importance of key events, I'd like to suggest four questions to ask Republicans so that they can explain the reasoning behind their budget resolution.

Why does your budget resolution protect and indeed increase the wealth of the already-wealthy at the expense of everyone else? The Bible says, "He who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and he who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty." (Proverbs 22:16). Income disparity is at near-historic levels in our Nation. Why then, does the Republican budget provide an average additional tax break of \$150,000 for millionaires and refuse to eliminate subsidies to highly profitable Big Oil companies, while asking seniors, children, the poor and middle-class families to sacrifice more and more?

Why does your budget resolution take away the Medicare guarantee? The Bible tells us, "You shall give due honor and respect to the elderly." (Leviticus 19:32). The average senior lives on \$19,000, one in three retirees depends on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income, and 1 in 3 seniors will need help paying for long-term care. Why, then, does the Republican budget double already high out-of-pocket spending for seniors, threaten Social Security, and cut Medicaid by \$810 billion over the next decade?

Why does your budget resolution increase defense spending while cutting investments in our children and families? The Bible tells us, "A just balance and scales are the Lord's." (Proverbs 16:11). The U.S. defense budget is higher than the next 17 nations in the world combined and has increased in real terms for each of the past 13 years. Why, then, does the Republican budget renege on a balanced approach to deficit reduction—increasing defense spending and asking education, job training and creation, medical research and other domestic programs to bear the entire burden?

Why does your budget resolution take away food from the poor? The Bible tells us, "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:17-18). Nearly 50 million Americans lack adequate food and 22 percent of America's children live in poverty. Why, then, does the Republican budget cut and cap the food assistance needed so that children, families and seniors can't get enough to eat?

150TH ANNIVERSARY OR SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE GREAT LOCOMOTIVE CHASE

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 150th anniversary or sesquicentennial of the Great Locomotive Chase.

At 6 a.m. on April 12, 1862, a group of Union Raiders under the leadership of James Andrews captured the General locomotive in Big Shanty, now Kennesaw, Georgia. As the Andrews Raiders made their move, the passengers and crew of the General ate breakfast at the Lacy Hotel. The Union spies planned to travel north to Chattanooga, Tennessee, in an effort to cause damage to the Western & Atlantic Railroad by destroying telegraph wires and railroad track along the route. This section of rail served as a major supply line for the Confederate forces.

During the breakfast stop, Confederate Conductor William Fuller saw the General depart northward without him, then he, Jeff Cain, and Anthony Murphy set off in pursuit of the locomotive on foot. Shortly the men borrowed a platform car and continued pursuit. Eventually the conductor and his men would board three separate steam locomotives due to the railroad tracks sabotaged by the Andrews Raiders. These locomotives included the Yonah, William R. Smith, and lastly the Texas.

The chase ended two miles north of Ringgold, Georgia, as the Union Raiders ran low on fuel leaving the General and heading for the woods. The Raiders were captured by Confederate forces and jailed. Eight of the Raiders including Andrews and Sergeant John Scott, were hanged. Nineteen of the Union participants were awarded the Medal of Honor, several posthumously. Eventually this adventure became known as the Great Locomotive Chase and has become the subject of legend including a Walt Disney movie during the 1950s.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 150th anniversary or sesquicentennial of the Great Locomotive Chase and to wish the citizens of Northwest Georgia an educational and productive commemorative event.

TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Since the end of World War II, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of enormous strategic and economic benefit to both countries. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) to ensure that the United States would continue its robust engagement with Taiwan in the areas

of commerce, culture, and security cooperation. With President Carter's signature on April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became the Law of the Land and served as the statutory basis for U.S.-Taiwan relations going forward.

After 33 years, the TRA still stands as a model of congressional leadership in the history of our foreign relation, and, together with the 1982 "Six Assurances," it remains the cornerstone of a very mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan. Through three decades marked by momentous social, economic, and political transformations, Taiwan has remained a trusted ally of the United States that now shares with us the ideals of freedom, democracy and self-determination. The foresight of the TRA's drafters in providing that "the United States will make available to Taiwan such defense articles and defense services . . . to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability," and affirming "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan" as explicit objectives of the United States, has contributed in large measure to make Taiwan what it is today—a vibrant, open society governed by democratic institutions.

Though the people of Taiwan now enjoy fundamental human rights and civil liberties, they continue to live day after day under the ominous shadow cast by over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has aimed at them. The PRC persists in claiming Taiwan as a 'renegade province,' refusing to renounce the use of force to prevent formal de jure independence, even codifying its right to military action via passage of the so-called "Anti-Secession Law" on March 14, 2005. The United States Congress strongly condemned the "Anti-Secession Law" in House Concurrent Resolution 98, passed on March 16, 2005.

The TRA affirmed that the United States' decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China was based on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be determined by peaceful means. Furthermore, it stipulates that it is the policy of the United States "to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means . . . a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States." The unambiguous and principled stance contained in these provisions has been instrumental to the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait for more than thirty years, in spite of the growing military threat posed by the PRC.

I therefore invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 33rd anniversary of the TRA, to further underline our unwavering commitment to the TRA and our support for the strong and deepening relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

THE JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STARTUPS ACT, H.R. 3606

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3606. While this legislation in-

cludes some useful provisions, it also eliminates crucial investor protections, which would expose the investments of American families and seniors to financial fraud.

H.R. 3606 attempts to create jobs by making it easier for America's entrepreneurs to raise startup and growth capital. Unfortunately, this important goal is overshadowed by provisions in the bill that remove necessary safeguards for everyday investors. This legislation undermines the credibility of research on companies by eliminating conflict-of-interest restrictions. It allows unregulated websites to peddle stocks to ordinary investors without any meaningful oversight or liability, which could give rise to fraud and money laundering. Moreover, H.R. 3606 would allow large banking institutions with hundreds of billions of dollars in assets to de-register and escape SEC regulations that ensure corporate transparency, integrity, and accountability.

When this bill first came before the House for consideration I supported it. It was my hope that the Senate would modify H.R. 3606 to address the concerns raised by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), consumer advocates and independent economists. As the New York Times recently put it, passage of H.R. 3606 could result in more sales of "worthless securities by bucket-shop brokerage firms." SEC Chairwoman Mary Schapiro wrote a letter to the U.S. Senate arguing that without appropriate protections, investors "will lose confidence in our markets and capital formation will ultimately be made more difficult and expensive." Senate amendments to restore vital consumer investor protections did not receive the necessary votes to be included in the bill before us today. As currently written, H.R. 3606 poses too great a threat to the stability of markets and the security of American's pension funds, education savings and retirement accounts to earn my support.

The United States and its people are still struggling to recover from the near-collapse of the country's financial sector. That crisis was the result of failed oversight and aggressive and irresponsible de-regulation during the George W. Bush Administration. In the four years since President Obama took office, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has increased from 7,949 to 13,197 due in large part to his bold and determined efforts to restore transparency and sensible regulation to Wall Street. Congress should not put this remarkable rally at risk by passing H.R. 3606 and making it more difficult for regulators to detect and prosecute financial fraud.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the H.R. 3606.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 112) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2013 and setting

forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2014 through 2022:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, over the last two days, we have debated very different visions and choices for addressing the budgetary challenges facing our Nation. We do not have a difference on the question of whether or not we should reduce our long-term deficits and the debt. We must. We have a difference over how to do it.

Unfortunately, the Republican plan makes all the wrong choices. It abandons the economic recovery and ends the Medicare guarantee to seniors, while providing a whopping average tax break of almost \$400,000 for people making over \$1 million a year. This Republican plan will weaken economic growth. It rewards corporations that ship American jobs overseas, while slashing investments in education, in science and research, and infrastructure that help America grow our economy right here at home. In short, it is a path to greater prosperity, if you're already wealthy. But it leaves seniors, working Americans, and future generations behind.

During the course of this debate, we will have the opportunity to consider several alternatives to the Republican budget, offered by Democrats. Every single one of these alternatives is far superior to the Republican plan, because they embody a more sensible, fair approach to our fiscal challenges.

To be clear, the only Democratic alternative that I fully and wholly support is the one I will offer. I have concerns with certain aspects of the other Democratic plans. I believe some of them rely too heavily on raising revenues and spend more than I think is necessary, and some of them make cuts to defense that I believe are too deep. Nevertheless, they provide important alternative approaches to reducing the deficit.

Another proposal was offered by Mr. COOPER and Mr. LATOURETTE. I commend these Members for offering an alternative budget. However, claims that their proposal embodied

the recommendations of the Simpson-Bowles Commission are simply untrue. Most importantly, their proposal calls for significantly less revenue than Simpson-Bowles. It does this by changing the baseline used as the starting point for the revenue increase. The Simpson-Bowles baseline assumed the revenue generated by allowing the top tax rate to rise to 39 percent—as it is scheduled to do under current law. The Cooper-LaTourette proposal failed to account for that revenue. The difference is substantial—approximately \$1 trillion in revenue. I believe in truth-in-advertising, and Cooper-LaTourette is very different from Simpson-Bowles. It moves the goal posts. As a result, the Cooper-LaTourette proposal has a significantly higher ratio of spending cuts to revenue increases compared to the deficit reduction in the Simpson-Bowles package. The Cooper-LaTourette plan also differs from Simpson-Bowles in other respects, such as by making deeper cuts in spending for discretionary programs. And it cuts nondefense discretionary funding by \$350 billion more than required by the Budget Control Act over ten years—which is also inconsistent with Simpson-Bowles.

I continue to believe the original Simpson-Bowles proposal offers an important framework for achieving a bipartisan deficit reduction plan. I would also point out that both the President's budget and the Democratic alternative I have offered share many of the same principles as Simpson-Bowles. Indeed, Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles said the following about the President's budget:

In the framework he announced in April and what he submitted to the Select Committee in September, the President embraced many of the goals and principles outlined by the Fiscal Commission and incorporated some of the policies we proposed. We are pleased that the President's latest budget continues to focus on deficit reduction and are also encouraged to see real, specific policies for limiting tax expenditures, slowing health care cost growth, and reducing spending throughout the government.

While they went on to urge the President to go further, they recognized that his budget was a step in the right direction. The Democratic alternative budget mirrors the overall framework of the President's budget, and actually reduces the deficit more than the President's plan.

RECOGNIZING HMONG HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 30, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important role of the Hmong community in Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District.

This month marks 36 years since the first Hmong family arrived in Marathon County, Wisconsin and, currently, the Hmong account for a major percentage of our area's population. For the past 8 years, our local community has come together annually for Hmong Heritage Month, during which we celebrate the contributions of this important group and educate our residents about Hmong history and culture.

During the Vietnam War, the Hmong stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S. troops in the fight against Communism. Today, we stand shoulder to shoulder with the Hmong in our schools, our churches, and our businesses.

The Hmong have an old saying, "To be with a family is to be happy. To be without a family is to be lost." I truly believe the Hmong are a vital part of our American family, and their contributions to our society make us stronger.

I am proud to represent this community in the United States Congress and I wish them well as we celebrate Hmong Heritage Month.