

Mr. Speaker, the priorities represented in this bill are misplaced. It spends \$310 billion, over half of our discretionary budget. This is \$4.5 billion more than the President requested and \$21 billion above the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2000.

We are spending too much in this bill on too many unproven technologies, duplicative systems, and, in some cases, congressional add-ons that our military leaders don't want. We are spending enough on things like environmental remediation of past actions. For example, the estimated pricetag for clean-up of the unexploded ordnance that contaminates millions of acres of land and internal waterways is over \$100 billion. The funding in this bill for environmental restoration is a mere \$1.3 billion, less than half a percent of the total.

We don't need three brand-new advanced fighter jets. We will have military air superiority over all potential adversaries for years to come with our current planes. We will spend over \$300 billion over the next 10 to 20 years on the Air Force's F-22, the Navy's F-18 E/F, and the Joint Strike Fighter. We are doing this rather than made the hard decisions we need to in order to make proving for our national defense more cost-effective.

It is also troubling that the hate crimes provision was not included in this bill. The Senate added it to its defense authorization and we in the House voted in a bipartisan fashion in favor of a motion to instruct conferees to include it in the conference report. This does not reflect the will of the Congress.

For years we made commitments to military retirees that they and their families were entitled to lifetime health care. I am pleased that we have made good on that promise in this bill by providing lifetime health care for military retirees and their eligible family members, as well as pharmacy access to all Medicare-eligible military retirees. But this could have been accomplished within the context of a better bill.

Because of the many failures of the bill, I was forced to vote against it. America has the best-trained, best equipped and best-prepared military forces in the world. Our forces are ready to defend America's interests wherever they are threatened. That will continue only if we're careful about the investments we make.

We need to seek peace from all the threats of the new century. This bill spends too much on the wrong things and not enough on cleaning up from our past activities and preparing to transition to fight tomorrow's wars. This is the key not only to security abroad, but to livability at

Misplaced priorities in the National Defense Authorization Act

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home--to make our men and women in uniform and all our families safe, healthy and economically secure.