

*Thank you, Mr. Speaker.*

*Here we are – in the People's House – charged with the responsibility of taking taxpayers' money, and making sure it's spent properly with proper oversight, and yet we are about to vote on a bill that is set to topline numbers that have not been subject to debate in this chamber.*

*Let's revisit how we got here.*

*Our friends on the other side of the aisle said they were going to do a budget, and then they didn't do a budget. They couldn't produce the votes. So then, they decided, Mr. Speaker, that they were going to do a caps agreement.*

*And they proposed a caps agreement, and only because of a self-executing rule did they deem the numbers to which the appropriators should write the bills. No debate. None at all. Just pull the numbers out of the air, put them in a self-executing rule, and that's what we'll write to.*

*Mr. Speaker, this bill is going nowhere. It is a waste of time for the House of Representatives to have been spending time on a bill that's absolutely going nowhere.*

*And my motion sends this bill back to the committee, where hopefully we can come to some form of agreement on a caps number.*

*Now, we've got a lot to worry about. At the end of this year, if we don't have agreement, we are going to trigger a sequester that nobody wants. It would be devastating to our country.*

*But, instead of spending our time, Mr. speaker, on working out an agreement among ourselves that the people expect us to do – it's our job – here we are spending our time, late night votes on amendments, and then finally to move a bill across the floor of the house that is going nowhere.*

*We are all frustrated by it.*

*Last year, Mr. Speaker, I spent the better part of a year with a number of my colleagues on this side, and that side, and some from the Senate, on a process reform package – and we got close to the finish line.*

*We didn't make all the changes that everybody wanted. We didn't have the votes for that – and remember, the threshold for passage was five Republicans and five Democrats out of 16 people. That's a pretty high threshold in this chamber. We got our five Republicans to agree, and I have got to commend guys like John Yarmuth and Derek Kilmer on the other side because they were a “yes”.*

*They recognized how important changing this process was to this institution. But four Democrats voted present – present – on a package that would fundamentally change for the better the budget and appropriations process that we use in the House of Representatives, in the People's House. The people deserve better, Mr. Speaker. So it is my intent to refer this bill back to committee.*

*Now, it doesn't stop there with just topline numbers.*

*Besides the failure to write a budget, to have a debate on a caps deal, to put forth workable legislation, Democrats have also neglected the humanitarian and security crisis at our border.*

*Today marks 50 days since the Administration's request came for supplemental funds on our border. You can't deny the issues down there.*

*144,000 apprehensions on our southwest border last month. 4,500 people a day that we are apprehending. We've tried 17 times to bring up legislation to address the humanitarian crisis on our border, and 17 times we've been denied. Food and shelter for migrant families and unaccompanied children, funding urgent medical care and transportation, paying the growing overtime cost for DHS men and women on the front lines.*

*So, Mr. Speaker, my point is pretty simple. It's not cute. It's not a gotcha moment. It's not an underlying policy issue that's hard to explain. It's simply this: let's send this bill back to the appropriators, and let's work collectively to get a caps deal – so that we can save our country from us.*

*And I yield back the balance of my time.*